

## 1760

### March meeting the 5, 1760

Voted, at a legal Town meeting in Methuen, on March the 5, 1760, and chose Ebenezer Barker moderator for that meeting.

The Town voted and chose Richard Whittier their Town Clerk for the year ensuing and  
sworn to that office.

The particulars mentioned in a warrant for a Town meeting in Methuen, on March the 5,  
in the year 1760, are as followeth.

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

Secondly. To act what the Town shall then think proper concerning  
Mr. Sargent's salary.

Thirdly. To act what may then be thought best concerning the Parsonage  
land in the Town.

Fourthly. To act what the Town shall then think necessary and convenient  
in order for repairing the highways.

Fifthly. In answer to a petition of several of the inhabitants of this Town, to  
see if the Town will revoke the vote that was past at our last Town meeting  
directing the school to be kept at the house of John Hibbard, and order the  
same to be kept at the house of Samuel Clark.

Sixthly. To act what shall then be necessary concerning the schools, for the  
year ensuing.

Seventhly. To choose a committee to reckon with Ebenezer Barker, former  
Town Treasurer.

Eighthly. To see if the Town will give liberty for swine to go at large the  
year ensuing.

Ninthly. To see if the Town will abate the poll tax of such soldiers belonging  
to this Town, as were ordered to abide at Louisburg through the present  
winter,  
and order the same to be paid out of the Town.

Tenthly. To consider and allow such private way or ways as shall be laid out and returned into said meeting, and to alter or exchange any such ways that have formerly been laid out as the Town shall think proper.

## **March meeting the 5, 1760.**

### **Selectmen.**

Voted and chose Ebenezer Barker, Richard Swan, and Samuel Hazeltine Selectmen for the ensuing year, and sworn to their office.

### **Constable.**

Voted, at a legal annual Town meeting in Methuen, March the 5, 1760, and chose Henry Bodwell Jun. Constable for the west part of this Town, and at the same meeting the Town  
voted and chose Benjamin Hall Constable for the east part of this Town.

Voted, at a legal annual Town meeting in Methuen, on March the 5, 1760, and chose Stephen Barker Town Treasurer for the year ensuing, and sworn to that office.

### **Henry Bodwell refused to be sworn.**

Henry Bodwell Jun. being warned to take the oath of constable, appeared at time and place,  
and refused to be sworn to that office.

### **168. Tithingmen.**

At legal annual Town meeting in Methuen, on March the 5, 1760, Jonathan Currier and  
William Russ 'were chosen' Tithingmen and sworn to their office.

At the same meeting the Town voted and chose John Eaton and Joseph How field drivers for the year ensuing, and sworn to their office.

### **Surveyors of highways.**

Voted, at a legal annual Town meeting, Methuen, on March the 5, 1760, and chose

|                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| Asie Swan           | John Hibberd                                       |
| Richard Messer Jun. | Samuel Palmer } Surveyors of highways for the year |
| Evan Jones          | Abel Huse and                                      |
| James How Jun.      | ensuing and all sworn to their office.             |
|                     | John Marston                                       |

Voted and chose James Mallon surveyor of highways for the year ensuing.

**Surveyors of lumber.**

Voted, at legal annual Town meeting in Methuen, March the 5, 1760, and chose Jacob Whittier, John Barker and John Cross Surveyors of lumber, and sworn to their office. James Wilson was chosen surveyor of lumber, but refuses to be sworn for the year ensuing.

**Hogreeves.**

Voted, at legal annual Town meeting in Methuen, on March the 5, 1760, and chose Nathaniel Ladd, John Bowley and John Austin, hogreeves for the year ensuing and sworn to their office.

**Fenceviewers.**

Voted, at a legal annual Town meeting in Methuen, on March the 5, 1760, and chose Aaron Gage and John Marston Fenceviewers for the year ensuing, and sworn to their office.

**Sealer of weights.**

Voted, at legal annual Town meeting in Methuen, on March the 5, 1760 and chose Daniel Cross Sealer of weights and measures for the year ensuing.

**Mr. Sargent's Salary.**

Voted, at legal annual Town meeting in Methuen, March 5, 1760, to raise fifty three pounds for the Rev. Mr. Christopher Sargent's salary for the present year.

**Highways.**

Voted, at legal annual Town meeting in Methuen, on March the 5, 1760, to raise fifty pounds lawful money, for to mend the highways the year ensuing.

**A committee for the Parsonage.**

Voted, at legal annual Town meeting in Methuen, March the 5, 1760, and chose Capt. Daniel Bodwell, James Ingalls, and John Marston, a committee to take care of

Parsonage land in the Town, and to renew bounds with the owners of the land who adjoin to said Parsonage.

**A committee for London bridge.**

Voted, at legal annual Town meeting in Methuen, on March the 5, 1760 and chose Caleb Hall, Aaron Gage and Benjamin Hall a committee for the repairing London bridge, so called, or to be assistant with the surveyors in the same work.

**A committee to reckon with the Treasurer.**

At a legal Annual Town meeting in Methuen, on March the 5, 1760, the Town then voted and chose Capt. Daniel Bodwell and William Russ, for to reckon with Ebenezer Barker former Town Treasurer, and to make return at the fall meeting.

At a legal annual Town meeting in Methuen, on March the 5, 1760, voted that the poll tax of such soldiers belonging to this Town, as were ordered to abide at Louisburg through the present winter, be abated and paid out of the Town Treasury.

**Swine.**

At the same meeting, the Town voted that swine should go at large the year ensuing.

**169. Petition**

A humble petition of us the Subscribers, to the Selectmen of Methuen.

Our humble petition to you, is, that you would be pleased to lay out a two rod road, beginning at a road that leads from Clark's to Haverhill, running over Hawk's meadow brook as the path runs to the road that leads to Carleton's.

February 6, 1760

The petitioners.

Samuel Huse

James How

John How

James How Jun.

Aaron Gage

James Silver

Ebenezer Carleton.

**Laid out.**

In answer to the above petition, we have laid out said road two rods wide, beginning at the road that leads to Clark's, so over Hawk's brook at the wading place, and near as the

path is now trod, till it comes to the road that leads from Ebenezer Carleton's near  
James  
Ford's house.

Richard Whittier  
Samuel Hazeltine      } Selectmen of Methuen.

It being put to vote to see if the Town would allow of the above said road, the Town  
voted  
in the affirmative.

The above meeting is adjourned from the fifth day of March 1760, to the first  
Monday in  
April following at one o'clock in the afternoon.

### **James Ordway Constable**

On the adjournment, the Town accepted of James Ordway, for the constable for the  
west  
part of this Town, he being hired by Henry Bodwell Jun. and sworn to that office for  
the  
year 1760.

### **James Silver Constable.**

At an annual Town meeting in Methuen, on adjournment from the fifth day of March  
1760, to the seventh day of April 1760, the Town voted and accepted of James Silver  
for  
the constable for the east part of this Town, he being hired by Benjamin Hall, and  
sworn  
to that office for the year 1760.

### **Parsonage land committee**

The Town voted on adjournment, that the committee that was chosen, March the 5,  
namely, Capt. Daniel Bodwell, James Ingalls and John Marston, are empowered to  
search for records  
of the Parsonage land in the west part of Haverhill upon the Town's cost.

### **Surveyor of lumber.**

At annual Town meeting on adjournment, the Town voted and chose Benjamin  
Herrick Jun. surveyor of lumber for to fill up a vacancy, and sworn to that office for  
the year ensuing. The end of the above meeting.

The particular mentioned in a warrant, bearing date the second day of May, 1760, directed  
to James Ordway, constable of Methuen, by Ebenezer Barker, Richard Swan and  
Samuel Hazeltine selectmen of the same Town. To act what the Town shall then  
think proper for  
their defence against a presentment made against the said Town for not being  
provided with  
a grammar school master.

At a legal Town meeting in Methuen, on May the 19 day, 1760, the Town voted and chose  
Capt. Daniel Bodwell to go to the Court of quarter Sessions, for the County of Essex  
to be holden at Salem, in behalf of the Town, to answer a presentment made against  
the Town, for  
not being provided with a grammar school master the year past.

And the Town voted at the same time, that Capt. Bodwell should receive his reward  
for his trouble out of the Town Treasury and expenses.

**The particulars mentioned in a warrant for a Town meeting on July the thirty  
first, 1760.**

First. To receive the list of jurors to be laid before the Town by the selectmen,  
and to proceed thereon.

Secondly. To see what the Town will do concerning the French family which  
is  
to be removed from the Town of Amesbury to this Town.

At a legal Town meeting in Methuen on the 31 day of July 1760, the Town voted and chose Samuel Hazeltine moderator for that meeting.

**List of jurors**

At the same meeting, the Town voted and made a new list of jurors.

**French family.**

And at the same meeting, the Town voted not to fetch the French family from Amesbury.

**The particulars for a Town meeting.**

The particulars mentioned in a warning for a Town meeting on Monday the fifth day of January 1760, at eleven of the clock in the forenoon, then and there to act upon the following particulars, viz.

First. To act what the Town shall think proper concerning schools.

Secondly. To bring in and allow Town debts.

Thirdly. To receive the report of the committee that was chosen to reckon with

Ebenezer Barker, late Town Treasurer, and to act the Town's pleasure thereon.

Fourthly, to agree upon and grant such sum of money to be raised as the Town shall think proper to defray Town charges.

Fifthly. To act what the Town shall think best relating to the Parsonage land belonging to this Town.

171. At a legal Town meeting in Methuen, on January the fifth day, 1761, voted and chose Capt. Daniel Bodwell moderator.

#### **A committee to reckon.**

At the same meeting, the Town voted and chose Capt. Daniel Bodwell and Dea. Ebenezer

Barker to reckon with Stephen Barker present Treasurer, and to bring in their report at the adjournment of this meeting.

#### **School kept.**

Voted at the same meeting that the school should be kept at the places where they have

been kept for these two years past, or near thereabout, in the judgment of the selectmen.

The above meeting is adjourned to Monday, 19 day of January, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon, 1761.

#### **January the 19, 1761 Capt. Bodwell**

At a legal Town meeting in Methuen, on adjournment, the Town voted that Capt. Daniel Bodwell should have one pound, four shillings for going to Salem for to get off the fine

that was made against the Town for want of a grammar school.

**Ebenezer Barker.**

The Town voted at the same meeting on adjournment, that Dea. Ebenezer Barker should have twenty four pounds and two shillings for the money which he paid for the fine that was made against the Town for want of a grammar school, and for his time and expenses.

**Benjamin Hall.**

On adjournment, the Town voted that Benjamin Hall should have twenty four shillings lawful money for his work at London bridge.

**Mr. Sargent.**

On adjournment, the Town voted that Mr. Christopher Sargent should have six shillings for his trouble in getting the deed of the Parsonage land acknowledged and on record.

**Capt. Bodwell**

On adjournment, the Town voted that Capt. Daniel Bodwell should have four shillings and four pence, lawful money which he paid for getting a copy out of Haverhill proprietors book of records, concerning the Parsonage land.

On adjournment, the Town voted to raise twenty seven pounds, lawful money, for to defray Town charges. The account of Caleb Hall's work at London Bridge, being put to vote at his desire, and it was voted in the negative.

172.

**Aaron Gage.**

January the 19, 1761. On adjournment, the Town voted to Aaron Gage one pound seven shillings and four pence, lawful money, for his work done at London bridge.

**Caleb Hall.**

At the same meeting on adjournment, the Town voted that Caleb Hall should have twenty five shillings and two pence half penny, lawful money, for plank to cover London bridge.

**A reckoning with Ebenezer Barker.**

We the subscribers, being a committee chosen to reckon with Ebenezer Barker, former Treasurer, have done it, and find in his hands, seventeen pounds five shillings and ten pence lawful money, exclusive of Benjamin Stevens' highway rate due to the Town, and we reckoned to him the constable rate, and the orders for him to pay for the year 1755, fourteen shillings of it for entering cautions, which should be got in.

January the 19, 1761, on adjournment, the Town voted and accepted of the above reckoning, and voted it should be recorded.

Daniel Bodwell } Committee  
William Russ

Recorded, January 22, 1761, by me Richard Whittier Town Clerk.

We, the subscribers, being chosen a committee to reckon with Capt. Stephen Barker Town Treasurer, we have proceeded, and have reckoned what he was to receive from the constables, for the years 1756-1757-1758 and 1759, both by rates and notes, and also

eleven pounds and nineteen shillings, which he received, that was allowed by the Province

to the Town, for providing for the French; and also four pounds, three shillings and two

pence which he received from the sheriff of the County of Essex, bestowed on this Town towards the support of the school, making in whole ninety seven pounds, eleven shillings

and one penny; and we find his orders to pay out of the Town's money amount to one hundred and eight pounds, ten shillings and five pence, which is ten pounds, nineteen shillings and four pence more than what he had orders to receive as aforesaid.

Methuen, January 19, 1761

Daniel Bodwell  
Ebenezer Barker } Committee

We find there is due to the Town from the Province 12-13-0.

January the 19, 1761, on adjournment, the Town accepted of above reckoning and voted  
that it should be recorded.

Recorded, January 22, 1761, by me Richard Whittier, Town Clerk

173.

### **March meeting.**

The particulars for a March meeting in Methuen, on the 4 day of March 1761,

First. To choose a moderator for such meeting.

Secondly. To choose Town officers for the year ensuing.

Thirdly. To act what the Town shall proper concerning Mr. Sargent's salary.

Fourthly. To act what the Town shall think best in order for repairing the highways.

Fifthly. To see if the Town will give liberty for swine to go at large the year ensuing.

Sixthly. To see if the Town will exchange or alter the private or particular way that is laid out near the dwelling house of William Cross Jun. to a more convenient place; and also to see if the Town will exchange or alter the way that was laid by the selectmen of Haverhill, January 15, 1722,3, to some place more convenient; which way leads from the house of John Davis, along by the house of Daniel Cross towards Spicket Falls, and establish the same way as a private or particular way for this Town.

Seventhly. To see what the Town will allow Caleb Hall for what he did towards rebuilding the bridge called London bridge.

### **First.**

At a legal annual Town meeting in Methuen, on March the 4, 1761, the Town voted and chose Capt. Daniel Bodwell the moderator for that meeting.

### **Secondly.**

At the same meeting, the Town voted and chose Richard Whittier Town Clerk for the year ensuing.

### **Selectmen.**

At the same annual meeting, the Town voted and chose Capt. William Russ, Capt. Stephen Barker and James Ingalls Selectmen for the year ensuing. Russ and Ingalls were sworn.

Barker sworn.

At the same annual meeting, the Town voted and chose Nathaniel Pettengill Constable for the west part of this Town and sworn.

At the same annual meeting, the Town voted and chose Ens. Benjamin Hall and John Mansur Wardens and sworn.

### **Tithingmen.**

At the same annual meeting, the Town voted and chose Aaron Gage and Caleb Hall Tithingmen for the year ensuing and sworn.

### **Surveyors of lumber.**

Voted and chose at the same meeting John Barker, John Cross and Nathaniel Herrick Jun. Surveyors of lumber for the year ensuing and sworn.

174. At a legal annual Town meeting in Methuen, on March the 4 day, 1761, the Town voted and chose

On adjournment

|                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| John Marston       |  |
| William Cross Jun. | Samuel Palmer                                |
| James Wilson       | Francis Richardson } Surveyors of highways   |
| John Tippets Jun.  | William Morse } for the year ensuing and     |
| Samuel Hazeltine   | Jonathan Barker } all sworn to their office. |
| Enoch Merrill      | Nathan Perley                                |

### **Hogreeves.**

At the same meeting, James Ford, William Emerson and Thomas Cross were chosen Hogreeves for the year ensuing, and sworn to that office.

### **Fenceviewers.**

At the same meeting, the Town voted and chose Thomas Richardson and Moses Sargent  
Fence viewers for the year ensuing and sworn.

### **Sealer of weights & measures.**

At the same meeting, the Town voted and chose Daniel Cross Sealer of weights and measures  
for the year ensuing and sworn.

At the same meeting, the Town voted and chose Joseph How and John Harris Field drivers  
for the year ensuing. Joseph How was sworn.

### **Deer reeves.**

At the same meeting, the Town voted and chose John Mansur and Dea. James How Deer reeves for the year ensuing. James How was sworn.

**Swine.**

Voted at the same meeting that swine should go at large the year ensuing.

At the same annual Town meeting in Methuen, on March the 4, 1761, the Town voted and chose Samuel Palmer and Nathaniel Ladd to take care of the fish courses in this Town, and see that they have free course, and also that no man shall fish with any dip net, or any other way below the mill dam on Denoson's brook betwixt that and Merrimack river.

**175. Mr. Sargent's Salary.**

At the same legal annual meeting in Methuen, on March the fourth day, in the year 1761, the Town voted to raise forty nine pounds and fourteen shillings for Mr. Sargent's salary the year ensuing, lawful money.

**Money voted.**

Voted to raise forty pounds for repairing the highways.

**Highways.**

At the same annual meeting, the Town voted that the selectmen should proportion every man's work to the value of forty pounds for repairing the highways, and commit a list of the same to the surveyors for the year ensuing.

**A road exchanged.**

At the same annual meeting, the Town voted that the road should be exchanged from where it was laid out in the year 1739,40, to the corner of William Cross' fence, into the country road that leads to William Cross', and so on to Swan's ferry, so called.

**Road**

At the same annual meeting in this Town, voted that the Selectmen should go and mark out  
the road betwixt John Davis' and Timothy Lovejoy's, and make return at the adjournment  
of the above meeting.

**Caleb Hall.**

At the same annual meeting, it being put to vote to see if the Town would act on the seventh particular, relating to Caleb Hall's work at London bridge, and it was voted in the negative.

On adjournment from March the 4, 1761, to March 18 of the same instant.

**Field driver**

On adjournment, the Town voted and chose George Davis field driver for the year ensuing,  
and sworn for the year ensuing.

**John Bailey.**

On adjournment of the above meeting, the Town voted and chose John Bailey Jun.  
Sealer  
of leather for the year ensuing and sworn.

**Town Treasurer.**

On adjournment of the above meeting, the Town voted and chose Samuel Bodwell  
Town Treasurer for the year ensuing, and sworn to that office.

**James Messer**

On adjournment of the above meeting, the Town voted and chose James Messer,  
constable,  
and he refused the office in the meeting, and at the same meeting, said Messer was released  
by a vote of the Town.

On adjournment of the above meeting, the Town voted & chose James Silver constable of the east part of Town, and sworn to his office.

On adjournment from March the 4, 1761, to March the 18 of the same instant.

**176. Timothy Lovejoy.**

On adjournment, the Town voted that Timothy Lovejoy should move his fence ten feet to the north, for more convenient passing, and provided that said Lovejoy mend one third of the way on his own cost.

**Joshua Emerson.**

Voted, on adjournment to dismiss Joshua Emerson from being constable for his lifetime.

**Particulars of a warrant.**

The particular mentioned in a warrant for a Town meeting relating to Caleb Hall's work done at London bridge, so called. The Town assembled on May the 25, 1761.

At legal Town meeting in Methuen, on May 25, 1761, voted that the Town votes which have been passed relating to Caleb Hall's allowance for his work done at the bridge called London bridge, be reconsidered and revoked.

**A committee to reckon with Caleb Hall.**

At a legal Town meeting in Methuen, on May the 25, 1761, voted and chose Messrs John Sargent, John Bodwell and John Marston a committee in behalf of the Town, to settle accounts with Caleb Hall relating to his demand on the Town for his work done at the bridge called London Bridge, and for the timber which he provided for rebuilding said bridge.

**The particulars of a warrant.**

First. To see what the Town will do relating to the school.

Secondly. To see whether the Town will allow the account brought in against the Town by the selectmen by the selectmen of Andover for taking care of Joshua Barker, when sick of small pox at Andover.

3ly. To bring in, and allow Town debts.

4ly. To see what sum of money the 'Town' will raise to defray Town charges.

At a legal Town meeting in Methuen, on Monday the 21 of September, in the year 1761,  
the Town voted and chose Dea. Ebenezer Barker moderator for that meeting.

177. At a legal Town meeting in Methuen, on Monday, September the 21, 1761, voted and chose Mr. John Bodwell to appear at the Court of General Sessions of the peace for the County of Essex, to be holden at Newbury in said county, on the last Tuesday of September instant, in behalf of the said Town, to make answer to the petition or complaint of the select-men of the Town of Andover, relating to the account they have brought against the Town of Methuen, for providing nurses and necessaries for Joshua Barker when he was sick of the small pox.

At the same legal Town meeting, on Monday, September the 21, 1761, the Town voted that the school should be kept at five places in said Town. That is to say, at the school house, at Richard Whittier's, George Hastings', Ebenezer Hibberd's and John Barker's or near thereabouts as the people can provide a place.

### **Town debts.**

At the same meeting in Methuen September 21, 1761, voted to allow Capt. Daniel Bodwell six shillings for plank for Spicket bridge.

At the same meeting, voted to allow Capt. Stephen- six shillings for providing a copy of the caution which the Town of Andover entered against Joshua Barker.

Voted to John Sargent and John Bodwell, they being a committee to settle with Caleb Hall for repairing London bridge, three pounds, twelve shillings and sixpence lawful money.

### **Money raised.**

At a legal Town meeting in Methuen, on Monday, September the 21, 1761, voted to raise

eighty pounds lawful money to defray Town charges.

**The particulars for a legal Town meeting in Methuen, on Monday, November the 9, 1761,  
are as followeth, viz.**

First. To choose a man or men to defend the Town from paying the charge brought against the Town by the selectmen of Andover for taking care of Joshua Barker when sick of the small pox at Andover..

Secondly. To see what the Town will do concerning building the bridge over Spicket river near the house of Abel Huse.

At a legal Town meeting, the Town met and chose Capt. William Russ moderator for the above meeting, and acted on the two articles.

First, it being put to vote, to see if the Town would choose a man or men to go against the Town of Andover relating to Joshua Barker, and voted in the affirmative.

**178. John Bodwell**

At a legal Town meeting in Methuen, on Monday, November the 9, 1761, voted and chose

Mr. John Bodwell to appear at the Court of General Sessions of the peace for the County of Essex, to be holden at Salem, on the last Tuesday in December, in said County, in behalf of said Town, to make answer to the petition or complaint of the selectmen of the Town of Andover, relating to the account they have brought against the Town of Methuen, for providing nurses and necessaries for Joshua Barker when sick of the small pox, and at other Courts that is needful.

**Bodwell, Stevens & Capt. Barker a committee.**

At the same meeting, the Town voted to choose a committee to build the remaining part of the bridge near Abel Huse's, over Spicket river, proceeded and chose Daniel Bodwell Jun., Benjamin Stevens and Capt. Stephen Barker a committee for to build the remaining part of the bridge over Spicket river near Abel Huse's.

**1762**

**Methuen, February the 8, 1762. The particulars of a warrant for a Town meeting are as followeth viz.**

First. Choose a committee to reckon with Capt. Stephen Barker, former Town Treasurer.

Secondly. To bring in and allow Town debts.

At a legal Town meeting in Methuen, on Monday, February the 8, 1762, the Town voted & chose Capt. Daniel Bodwell moderator for that meeting & proceeded on the particulars.

First. Voted and chose Capt. Daniel Bodwell and Dea. Ebenezer Barker a committee for to reckon with Capt. Stephen Barker former Town Treasurer.

### **Richard Swan**

Voted, at the above meeting to allow Richard Swan twelve shillings lawful money for taking the valuation.

### **Town debts.**

Voted, at the above meeting, and allowed Samuel Hazeltine one pound lawful money for taking the valuation.

### **Ebenezer Barker.**

Voted, at the above meeting and allowed Ebenezer Barker two pounds, four shillings for taking the valuation.

### **John Bodwell's account.**

Voted, at the above meeting and allowed John Bodwell seven pounds, one shilling and seven pence, lawful money, he being chosen by the Town to go to Court against Andover, on a case relating to Joshua Barker.

### **Capt. Barker's account.**

Voted, at the above meeting, and allowed Capt. Stephen Barker one pound, ten shillings and eight pence lawful money for work done at the Spicket bridge.

At a legal Town meeting in Methuen, on Monday, February the 8, 1762, it being put to vote to see if the Town would allow the account of Daniel Bodwell, Jun. for work done at Spicket bridge, and it was voted in the negative.

**Negative vote.**

At the same meeting, it was put to vote to see if the Town would allow Benjamin Stevens' account for his work done at Spicket bridge, and it was voted in the negative.

**Positive vote.**

The Town voted at the above meeting that Benjamin Stevens should have one shilling and eight pence, lawful money, per day, for his work done at Spicket bridge.

**Positive vote.**

The Town voted at the above meeting that Daniel Bodwell Jun. should have one shilling and eight pence, lawful money, per day, for his work done at Spicket bridge.

**Cost that arose by Joshua Barker.**

At the above meeting, the Town voted to allow the prime cost, and cost of Court, which arose by reason of Joshua Barker, which is eight pounds, three shillings and nine pence lawful money, and further voted that the selectmen of Methuen should give the selectmen of the Town of Andover, an order upon the Town Treasurer of the Town of Methuen for the above said money.

**March meeting on Wednesday 1762.**

The particulars mentioned in a warrant for an annual meeting in March, the third, 1762, are as followeth viz.

First. To choose a moderator and other Town officers as the law directs.

2ly. To act what the 'Town' shall think proper concerning the Rev. Mr. Sargent's salary for the year ensuing.

3ly. To see what the Town will do relating to the school.

4ly. To act what the Town shall think proper for repairing the highways.

5ly. In answer to a petition of several of the inhabitants of this Town, to see if the Town will vote a Parish shall be set off at the westerly part of said Town, beginning at the mouth of Spicket river, and running up said river to the mouth of Bloody brook, and running up said brook to the first bridge

on said brook, near the house of Joshua Bodwell, then running a straight line

to the Province line, where the road that leads from Swan's mill to the house

of Mr. Joseph Wright crosses said Province line , at the west of said line.

6ly. To see whether the Town will grant Joshua Emerson an open road from his

house to the Town road which is about twenty poles.

7ly. To see whether the Town will give leave for swine to go at large the year ensuing.

8ly. To see whether the Town will abate George Davis for his son John's poll being

rated in the year 1760.

**180.** At a legal annual Town meeting in Methuen, on March the 3, 1762, the Town met, and proceeded on the particulars above mentioned.

### **Moderator.**

First. Voted and chose Dea. Ebenezer Barker moderator for that meeting and proceeded to the other Town officers as the law directs.

### **Town Clerk.**

Voted and chose Richard Whittier Town Clerk for the year ensuing and sworn to that office.

### **Selectmen.**

Voted, at the above meeting and chose Capt. William Russ, Lieut. John Sargent and Jonathan Swan selectmen for the year ensuing, and all sworn to their office.

**Constable for the west.**

At the above meeting, the Town voted and chose Daniel M. Cleary constable for the west part of the Town, and sworn to his office.

**Treasurer.**

At the same annual meeting the Town voted and chose Samuel Bodwell Town Treasurer for the year ensuing and sworn.

**Constable for the east.**

At the above meeting, the Town voted and chose Nathaniel Herrick constable for the east part of this Town, and sworn to his office.

**Wardens.**

At the same annual meeting, the Town voted and chose John Marston warden for the year ensuing and sworn.

At the same annual meeting the Town voted and chose James Ordway warden for the year ensuing and sworn.

**Tithingmen.**

At the same annual meeting, the Town voted and chose John Tippets Jun., John Barker and Samuel Messer Tithingmen for the year ensuing and sworn.

At the same annual meeting, the Town voted and chose

|                                  |                           |                    |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|
| Benjamin Herrick Jun.            | John Davis on adjournment | Surveyors of       |
| James Wilson                     | Jacob Whittier            | highways for the   |
| Evan Jones chosen on adjournment | Moses Morse               | } year ensuing and |
| Moses Pingry                     | Joseph Perkins            | all sworn to their |
| John Mansur Jun.                 |                           | respective         |
| offices.                         |                           |                    |

At the same annual meeting the Town voted and chose James Carleton and Ebenezer Herrick surveyors of lumber for the year ensuing and sworn.

**Hogreeves.**

At the same annual meeting the Town voted and chose Ebenezer Carleton, Jonathan Griffin Jun. and James Long, hogreeves, and all sworn.

**Fenceviewers.**

At the same meeting, the Town voted and chose William Webber and Francis Swan Fence viewers for the year ensuing and sworn.

**Sealer of weights & measures.**

At the same meeting, the Town voted and chose Daniel Cross Sealer of weights and measures for the year ensuing and sworn.

**Deer reeves.**

At the same annual meeting, the Town voted and chose James How Jun. and John Mansur,  
Deer keepers for the year ensuing and sworn.

**Adjourned.**

Proceeded so far and adjourned to the 22 of this instant March, on Monday at eleven o'clock  
in this forenoon.

181. Legal annual Town meeting on adjournment from the third of March 1762, to the 22 of the same instant.

**Sealer of leather.**

At a legal annual Town meeting in Methuen, March 22, 1762, on adjournment, the Town voted and chose John Bailey Jun. Sealer of leather and sworn.

**Mr. Sargent's salary, 1762.**

On adjournment, the Town voted to raise fifty three pounds, lawful money, for the Rev. Mr. Christopher Sargent's salary for the year ensuing.

### **The School.**

The Town voted on adjournment, that the selectmen should order the affair of the school  
the year ensuing.

At a legal Town meeting in Methuen, on adjournment, the Town voted to raise forty pounds  
for repairing the highways for the year ensuing.

### **Selectmen to proportion.**

Voted on adjournment that the selectmen should proportion the surveyors by days  
works as  
it was voted last year 1761.

### **The negative vote for a Parish.**

At a legal annual Town meeting in Methuen, on adjournment from March the 3 1762,  
to  
March the 22 of the same instant, it being put to vote to see whether the Town will  
give  
their consent that a Parish should be set off, on the westerly part of this Town, as it  
was requested by a number of the inhabitants of this Town, and passed in the  
negative.

The sixth article was dismissed.

### **Swine.**

On adjournment, the Town voted that swine should go at large the year ensuing.

On adjournment, it being put to vote to see if the Town would abate George Davis for  
his son John's poll tax being rated in the year 1760, passed in the negative.

### **Surveyor of lumber.**

Voted and chose Jonathan Parker surveyor of lumber and sworn.

Voted, on adjournment, and chose Timothy Parker and Samuel Palmer for to take  
care  
& clear the fish courses in any brook in this Town, that may be stopped by any mill  
dam  
or gate or any other encumbrances, and also voted that no man or boy should catch  
any

fish below the mill dam, on Denison's brook, between that & Merrimack river on  
pain  
of twenty shillings.

182. **March 22, 1762**

**A legal meeting.**

The particulars of a warrant for a legal Town meeting in March on Monday the 22,  
1762,  
warned by Nathaniel Herrick, at two o'clock in the afternoon are as followeth viz.

First. To choose a moderator for said meeting.

2ly. To see what the Town will act respecting a suit commenced against the  
Town by Benjamin Stevens, by levying a writ against Mr. Richard Swan  
for work done at Spicket bridge.

3ly. To hear the report of a committee chosen to reckon with Capt. Stephen  
Barker, late Treasurer.

4ly. In answer to a petition of seven of the inhabitants of said Town, to see if  
the  
Town will allow Spicket river to be the divisional line between the  
constables  
of said Town respecting their lists.

5ly. To see if the Town shall think proper to alter the annual Town meeting  
from  
the first Wednesday in March to some time later in said month as they  
shall  
think proper.

6ly. To see if the Town shall think proper, to choose one or more persons for  
to  
cull hoops and staves.

At a legal Town meeting in Methuen, on March the 22, 1762, the Town voted and  
chose  
Dea. Ebenezer Barker moderator for that meeting.

**Jonathan Swan.**

At a legal Town meeting in Methuen, March 22, 1762, voted and chose Mr. Jonathan  
Swan

to appear at the Inferior Court of Common Pleas, in behalf of the Town, to answer to Benjamin Stevens, of Methuen aforesaid, joiner, in a plea of a case by said Stevens commenced to be heard and tried at said Court to defend the Town, or to make up and settle the matter with the plaintiff as he shall think proper.

#### **4<sup>th</sup> article.**

It being put to vote to see if the Town would alter the line for the constables' lists, to go by the Spicket river, and passed in the negative.

#### **The report of a committee.**

**Methuen, February 16, 1762.** We being chosen a committee to reckon with Capt. Stephen Barker, late Town Treasurer, and after a careful examination, we find that his orders to pay out, where the Town is indebted, is one pound, sixteen shillings, six pence and two farthings more than his orders to receive from the constables, and what he received from others for the Town's use.

Daniel Bodwell  
Ebenezer Barker   } Committee

Voted, at a legal Town meeting, March the 22, 1762, voted that this reckoning be accepted,  
and that the selectmen should give an order to the present Treasurer to pay Capt. Stephen Barker 1-16-6-2 in full for the balance as above mentioned.

#### **The annual meeting altered.**

At a legal Town meeting in Methuen, on March the 22, 1762, the Town voted that the annual meeting should be on the second Wednesday of March for the future.

#### **Cullers of staves.**

At the same meeting, the Town voted and chose Asa Messer, Hezekiah Austin and James Mallon cullers of hoops and staves. Messer and Austin were sworn.

183. At a legal Town meeting November the 23, 1762, the Town voted and chose Ebenezer Barker moderator for that meeting.

At the above meeting, the Town voted to raise fifty three pounds to defray Town charges for the year ensuing.

## **March meeting.**

The particulars of a warrant for a legal annual Town meeting on March the 9, 1763, exhibited to Nathaniel Herrick constable, by Capt. William Russ, Lieut. John Sargent and Jonathan Swan selectmen, are as followeth.

- First. To choose a moderator for said meeting.
- Secondly. To choose Town officers for the year ensuing.
- Thirdly. To see what the Town will act respecting the Rev. Mr. Christopher Sargent's salary, altering the time of payment.
- Fourthly. To see what the Town will do relating to the school.
- Fifthly. To see what sum or sums of money the Town will raise to repair the highways the year ensuing.
- Sixthly. To see what the Town will act concerning swine going at large the year ensuing.
- Seventhly. To see what the Town will act respecting the case of Nathaniel Pettengill Jun. late constable, he meeting with difficulty in collecting the rates of several persons in his list, or otherwise as he shall represent the case in said meeting.
- Eighthly. To see what the Town will act relating to the French man and woman at Mr. Richard Swan's.

## **Moderator.**

At a legal annual Town meeting in Methuen, on March the 9, 1763, the Town voted and chose Ebenezer Barker moderator for that meeting.

## **Town Clerk, 1763.**

The Town voted and chose Richard Whittier, Town Clerk, for the year ensuing.

## **Selectmen.**

On adjournment from the ninth of March 1763, to the 22 of the same instant, the Town voted and chose Richard Whittier, John Sargent and John Marston, Selectmen for the year ensuing.

**Constables for the east and west.**

At a legal annual Town meeting in Methuen, March the 9, 1763, the Town voted and chose Hezekiah Austin constable for the east part of this Town, and sworn to his office.

At the same annual meeting the Town voted and chose Jacob Whittier constable for the west part of Methuen, and sworn to his office.

**Wardens.**

On adjournment of the above meeting, the Town voted and chose Josiah Osgood, warden for the year ensuing and sworn.

At the above meeting, the Town voted and chose Aaron Gage warden for the year ensuing and sworn.

**184. Treasurer.**

At a legal annual Town meeting in Methuen March the 9, 1763, the Town voted and chose James Ingalls Town Treasurer for the year ensuing.

At the above annual meeting, the Town voted and chose Timothy Barker and Jonathan Currier Tithingmen for the year ensuing and sworn.

**Surveyors of highways.**

At the above annual meeting, the Town voted and chose

|                  |  |                                 |
|------------------|--|---------------------------------|
| James Jones      | Caleb Swan   |                                 |
| John How         | Benjamin Stevens                                   | } Surveyors of the highways and |
| all              |  |                                 |
| Perley Ayer      | Timothy Harris                                     | sworn to their office.          |
| Samuel Messer    | Samuel Clark                                       |                                 |
| Benjamin Marston | Joseph Morse was chosen on adjournment surveyor of |                                 |
| highways.        |  |                                 |

**Sealer of weights and measures.**

At the above meeting, the Town voted and chose Samuel Cole Sealer of weights and measures for the year ensuing.

**Sealer of leather.**

At the above annual meeting, the Town voted and chose John Bailey Sealer of leather and sworn.

**Tithingman.**

At the above annual meeting, the Town voted and chose George Davis Tithingman for the year ensuing and sworn to his office.

**Surveyors of leather.**

At the above annual meeting, the Town voted and chose Dea. Francis Swan and John Barker surveyors of lumber for the year ensuing and sworn.

**Field drivers.**

At the above meeting, the Town voted and chose Thomas Richardson and Nathan Perley  
Field drivers for the year ensuing and sworn.

**Fence viewers.**

At the above annual meeting the Town voted and chose James How Jun. and John Tippets Jun. Fence viewers for the year ensuing and sworn.

**Deer reeves.**

At the above meeting, the Town voted and chose John Parker and Moses Morse deer reeves for the year ensuing and sworn.

**Hogreeves.**

At the above meeting, the Town voted and chose John How and Jonathan Stevens  
hog  
reeves for the year ensuing and sworn.

**Fish course.**

At the above meeting, the Town voted and chose on adjournment, Samuel Palmer and

Nathaniel Ladd should take care that the fish courses in this Town be cleared so that the fish may pass; and sworn. Referring to the last year's vote.

On adjournment from the ninth day of March 1763, to the 22 of the same instant, the Town voted to raise sixty pounds for the Rev. Mr. Christopher Sargent's salary for the year ensuing. And also voted to be paid in the following manner, viz.

That the Rev. Mr. Christopher Sargent, our present minister, shall be paid for his salary from the last day of March instant, to the first day of January next, forty five pounds, and after that time, to begin his year's salary with the first day of January annually.

**185. School.**

At a legal annual Town meeting in Methuen, on adjournment from the ninth of March 1763, to the 22 of the same instant; the Town voted that the selectmen should order the school in the several parts of the Town, as they shall think proper, and order the time of keeping in the said places according to what money said parties paid.

At the same annual meeting, the Town voted on adjournment to raise fifty one pounds for to repair the highways the year ensuing. Adjournment.

**Swine.**

On adjournment, the Town voted that swine should go at large the year ensuing.

The seventh article in the warrant was voted in the negative.

At the same annual meeting on adjournment, the Town voted six pounds, thirteen shillings and four pence, for the support of the French man and woman the year ensuing.

**John Huse**

On adjournment, the Town voted to release the fine of John Huse for his refusing to serve constable for the year ensuing 1763.

**Town meeting May the 19, 1763.**

The particulars of a legal Town meeting in Methuen, on May the 19, 1763, are as followeth.

The Town voted and chose Capt. Daniel Bodwell moderator for that meeting.

First, to see what the Town would do respecting Spicket bridge being flowed by Col. James Fry's dam for the Iron works.

At a legal Town meeting in Methuen, on May the 19, 1763, the Town voted that Col. James Fry and the other owners of the Iron works should raise the Spicket bridge twelve inches from the highest part of said bridge, and also raise the causey upon a level from said bridge to the upland from each end of said bridge.

**The particulars of a legal Town meeting in Methuen, on Friday the 8 day of July, in the year 1763, are as followeth viz.**

First. To choose a moderator.

Secondly. To see if the Town will discontinue the road or way that was laid out from Dr. Stephen Huse's land to the meeting house or place of public worship in said Town of Methuen, upwards of twenty years last past.

At the above meeting in Methuen, the Town voted and chose Capt. Daniel Bodwell moderator for that meeting.

At a legal Town meeting in Methuen, on Friday, the eighth of July, 1763, it being put to vote to see if the Town would discontinue the way or road that was laid out from Dr. Stephen Huse's land to the meeting house in the year 1736, and the Town voted not to discontinue said way or road so laid out.

**186. The particulars of a legal Town meeting in Methuen, on October the 20, 1763, are as followeth viz.**

First. To choose a moderator for said meeting.

2ly. To bring in & allow Town debts.

3ly. To see what money the Town will raise to defray Town charges.

4ly. To see if the Town will reconsider the vote which was passed at out  
last annual meeting relating to the French now at Mr. Richard Swan's.

Fifthly To see if the Town will choose a committee to reckon with Mr.  
Samuel Bodwell former Treasurer, and with Mr. James Ingalls the present  
Treasurer.

Sixthly To see if the Town will choose one or more good and lawful men to  
survey the wheat which is raised in this Town as the law directs.

**Proceeded on the above articles as followeth, viz.**

First. At the above meeting, the Town voted and chose Lieut. John Sargent  
moderator for  
said meeting.

Secondly. The Town voted to Henry Bodwell Jun. Eleven shillings for plank for to  
cover Spicket Bridge.

At a legal Town meeting in Methuen on October the 20, in the year 1763, the Town  
voted  
to Samuel Bodwell eleven shillings for plank to cover Spicket bridge.

At the above meeting, the Town voted to Dea. Francis Swan six shillings for plank to  
cover  
Sow rook bridge.

At the above meeting the Town voted to James Ingalls four shillings for a table for  
the use  
of the Town.

Thirdly. At the above legal Town meeting in Methuen, on October 20, 1763, the  
Town voted  
to raise fifty three pounds for to defray Town charges the year ensuing.

At the above legal Town meeting, the Town voted to reconsider the vote that was  
passed at  
our last annual meeting relating to the French now at Mr. Richard Swan's.

Voted and chose Capt. William Russ, Richard Whittier and Jonathan Swan a  
committee to reckon with Mr. Samuel Bodwell former Treasurer, and with Mr. James  
Ingalls the present Treasurer, and to make report at the annual meeting.

At the above meeting, the Town voted and chose James Ingalls surveyor of wheat for the present year.

187. **1764**

**March 14, 1764.**

The particulars of a legal annual Town meeting in Methuen, on March the 14, 1764, are as followeth.

First. To choose a moderator for said meeting.

Secondly. To choose Town officers for the year ensuing as the law directs.

Thirdly. To act what the Town shall think proper concerning Mr. Sargent's salary,  
for the year ensuing.

Fourthly. To act what the Town shall think best in order for repairing the highways.

Fifthly. To see if the Town will give liberty for swine to go at large the year ensuing.

Sixthly. To see if the Town will accept of the report of the committee which was chosen  
to reckon with Mr. Samuel Bodwell, former Treasurer, and with Mr. James Ingalls, the  
present Treasurer.

Seventhly. To see if the Town will grant the petition of several of the inhabitants  
of this Town for building a pew in the northwesterly part of the meeting house  
on  
their own cost.

Eighthly. To see if the Town will release the minister rate of Daniel M. Cleary,  
Daniel M. Cleary Jun. & James Long.

9ly. To allow or confirm any way or road that may be laid out by the selectmen  
& brought into said meeting for confirmation.

10ly. To see what the Town will do concerning schools the year ensuing.

The Town voted and chose Ebenezer Barker Esq. Moderator for said meeting and then proceeded to Town officers.

**Town Clerk Secondly.**

The Town voted and chose Richard Whittier Town Clerk for the year ensuing & sworn.

**Selectmen.**

The Town voted and chose Joseph Stevens, Samuel Bodwell and James Jones selectmen for the year ensuing and all sworn to their office.

**Constable How.**

At a legal annual Town meeting in Methuen, March the 14, 1764, the Town voted and chose John How constable for the east part of this Town and sworn to his office.

**Constable.**

At the above meeting the Town voted and chose John Huse constable for the west part of this Town for the year ensuing and sworn.

**Treasurer.**

At the above meeting the Town voted and chose James Ingalls Treasurer for the year ensuing, and sworn.

|                 |               |                                    |
|-----------------|---------------|------------------------------------|
| Stephen Webster | John Bodwell  |                                    |
| John Marston    | Moses Sargent | } <b>Surveyors of the highways</b> |
| and all         |               |                                    |
| Nathan Perley   | Josiah Osgood | sworn except John Bodwell.         |
| Nathaniel Ladd  | John Austin.  |                                    |

188.

**Wardens.**

At a legal annual Town meeting in Methuen, on March the 14, 1764, the Town voted and chose Caleb Hall and James How Jun. wardens for the year ensuing, and sworn.

**Tithingmen.**

At the above meeting, the Town voted and chose George Davis, Nehemiah Barker

and Samuel Messer Tithingmen and sworn.

**Sealer of weights.**

At the above meeting, the Town voted and chose John Sargent Sealer of weights and measures for the year ensuing and sworn.

**Sealer of leather.**

At the above meeting, the Town voted and chose Richard Currier Sealer of leather for the year ensuing and sworn.

**Surveyors of lumber.**

At the above meeting, the Town voted and chose John Marston, John Barker, James Wilson and Jonathan Parker surveyors of lumber and all sworn.

**Field drivers.**

At the above meeting, the Town voted and chose Abiel How and Joseph Griffin Field drivers for the year ensuing and sworn.

**Fence viewers.**

At the above meeting, the Town voted and chose Aaron Gage and Joseph Perkins Fence viewers for the year ensuing and sworn.

**Deer reeves.**

At the above meeting, the Town voted and chose James Messer and David Parker deer reeves for the year ensuing and sworn.

**Hogreeves.**

At the above meeting, the Town voted and chose John Mansur Jun., John Webber and Reuben Emerson hogreeves for the year ensuing and sworn.

**Surveyor of wheat.**

At the above meeting, the Town voted and chose James Ingalls surveyor of wheat for the year ensuing and sworn.

**Swine.**

At the above meeting, the Town voted that the swine should go at large this year ensuing.

At the above meeting, the Town voted and chose Samuel Palmer and Zebediah Barker Jun.

for to take care and clear the fish course in Denison's brook, so called, and likewise voted that there should be no fish caught below the mill dam agreeable to the vote passed some years ago.

### **Mr. Sargent's salary.**

At a legal Town meeting in Methuen, on March the 14, 1764, the Town voted to raise fifty two pounds, four shillings for Mr. Sargent's salary, our present minister, including the fifteen pound part of the sixty pounds voted to be raised for the same use at the a Annual Town meeting in March 1763.

### **Highways**

At the above meeting, the Town voted to raise forty pounds for repairing the highways in this Town to be proportioned on the inhabitants in the same manner as it was ordered to be proportioned by a vote passed at the annual Town meeting in March 1761.

### **189. Reckoning with the Treasurers.**

We, being a committee to reckon with Mr. Samuel Bodwell late Town Treasurer for the year 1762, and after a careful examination, we find that there is a balance due to the Town from him, of one pound, sixteen shillings and three pence, lawful money.

Methuen February 23, 1764

William Russ  
Richard Whittier } Committee.  
Jonathan Swan

We, being a committee to reckon with Mr. James Ingalls, present Treasurer, and we find that there is for the year 1762, fourteen pounds, four shillings and eleven pence that he is to receive of the constables more than he hath orders to pay out: and for the year 1763, his order is twelve pounds, one shilling and nine pence to receive of the constables more than he is ordered to pay out.

Methuen, March the 12, 1764.

William Russ  
Richard Whittier } Committee.  
Jonathan Swan.

At a legal annual Town meeting in Methuen, on March the 14, 1764, the Town voted that

the above reckoning should be recorded. And recorded April the 20, 1764, per me,

Richard Whittier, Town Clerk.

**Seventhly. Pew granted.**

The seventh article was to see if the Town would grant the petition of Daniel Messer, Benjamin Marston, Moses Sargent, Ichabod Perkins, Abiel Messer, Nathaniel Messer, Jun. and Stephen Webster Jun. the privilege of building a pew in the northwesterly part of the meeting house, and the Town voted in the affirmative.

The eighth article was to see if the Town would release the minister rates of Daniel M. Cleary, Daniel M. Cleary Jun., and James Long. It being put to vote, and the Town voted in the negative.

**The particulars of a legal Town meeting on May the 22, 1764, are as followeth  
viz.**

First. To choose a moderator.

Secondly. To choose two surveyors of highways to fill up the vacancies occasioned by the refusal of two persons who were chosen to that office at our annual Town meeting in March last.

The Town voted and chose Ebenezer Barker Esq. Moderator for said meeting.

At the above meeting, the Town voted and chose James Jones and John Huse surveyors of highways for the present year and sworn.

**A reckoning with the Treasurer.**

Methuen, September the 6, 1765. We being a committee to reckon with Mr. James Ingalls, present Treasurer, and from March 1764 to this day, and we find in his hands forty five pounds and seven pence.

William Russ  
Richard Whittier } Committee.  
Jonathan Swan

At a legal Town meeting in Methuen, on September the 16, 1765 the Town voted that the above reckoning should be recorded. And recorded September the 20, 1765 per me,

Richard Whittier, Town Clerk.

**190. The particulars of a Town meeting on November the 20, 1764, are as followeth.**

- First. To choose a moderator.
- 2ly. To allow Town debts.
- 3ly. To see what money the Town will raise to defray Town charges.
- 4ly. To see if the Town will send for the money which was allowed to the Town by the Quarter Sessions.
- 5ly. To see if the Town will release the land again which the Town bought of John Tippets Jun. his paying the interest for the time past.

The warrant was granted to John Huse, constable, by Joseph Stevens, Samuel Bodwell and James Jones, selectmen of Methuen.

Proceeded on the above meeting.

At a legal Town meeting in Methuen, November the 20, 1764, the Town voted and chose Captain Daniel Bodwell moderator for said meeting.

There were no debts brought in to allow at the above meeting.

At a legal Town meeting in Methuen, on adjournment November 20, 1764, the Town voted to raise sixty pounds to defray Town charges the present year.

At the above Town meeting, the Town voted that James Ingalls, the present Town Treasurer, should receive the money that was ordered to the Town of Methuen by Quarter Sessions, for the maintaining the School in said Town.

The fifth article was voted in the negative.

At the above meeting on adjournment, the Town voted that the Selectmen should settle with the constables for removing Elizabeth Stevens from Methuen, through the Towns to Wilton.

In answer to a petition of Nathaniel Pettengill Jun. and John Pettengill, represented to us that there was necessary a way laid out from each of their houses to the road which is but about ten rods to the road that leads from Caleb Hall's to Pelham, running north from each of their houses, beginning at Nathaniel Pettengill's line at a damson tree marked on the easterly side

of the road two rods wide and beginning at a swamp white oak pole marked on John Pettengill's the west side of said road two rods wide, running through Benjamin Greenleaf's land north to said road that leads to Pelham.

Laid out by us the subscribers, February the 28, 1765.

|                  |           |
|------------------|-----------|
| Joseph Stevens   | Selectmen |
| Samuel Bodwell } | of        |
| James Jones      | Methuen   |

At a legal annual Town meeting in Methuen, on March, the 13, 1765, the above road was voted to be recorded provided that the said Nathaniel and John Pettengill pay for said road recorded.

March the 14, 1765.

Per me Richard Whittier Town Clerk.

191. **1765**  
&  
192. **March meeting 1765.**

The particulars of a warrant for a legal annual Town meeting on March the 13, 1765, delivered to John How, constable, by Joseph Stevens, Samuel Bodwell and James Jones, Selectmen of Methuen, are as followeth.

First. To choose a moderator for said meeting.

Secondly. To choose Town Officers for the year ensuing as the law directs.

Thirdly. To see what money the Town will raise for Mr. Sargent's salary the present year.

Fourthly. To see if the Town will give liberty for swine to go at large the year ensuing.

Fifthly. To see how much money the Town will raise for repairing the highways  
the year ensuing.

Sixthly. To see if the Town will allow roads that were marked out to be put upon record.

Seventhly. To see if the Town will abate Dea. James How and all others that want to be abated of their poll tax for the year past and so long as they shall

‘plead’ inability to pay said tax.

**1ly. Moderator**

At a legal annual Town meeting in Methuen, on March the 13, 1765, the Town voted and chose Ebenezer Barker Esq. Moderator for said meeting, and proceeded to Town officers.

**Town Clerk.**

At the above annual meeting, the Town voted and chose Richard Whittier Town Clerk for the year ensuing and sworn.

**Constable.**

Voted, at the above annual meeting and chose James Messer constable for the east part of this Town and sworn.

**Constable.**

Voted at the above annual meeting and chose John Davis constable for the west part of this Town and sworn.

**Selectmen.**

Voted, at the above annual meeting and chose Ebenezer Barker Esq., Capt. William Russ, and Lieut. Samuel Hazeltine, Selectmen for the year ensuing, and sworn.

Voted, at the above annual meeting, and chose Ens. Henry Bodwell Jun. and Jonathan Currier wardens for the year ensuing and sworn.

**Town Treasurer.**

Voted, at the above meeting and chose James Ingalls Town Treasurer for the year ensuing and sworn.

**Tithingmen.**

Voted, and chose at the above annual meeting George Davis, John Mansur Jun. and Richard Messer Jun. tithingmen for the year ensuing and sworn.

Voted, at the above annual meeting and chose

|                      |                  |                         |
|----------------------|------------------|-------------------------|
| Dea. Stephen Webster | Benjamin Marston |                         |
| John Marston         | Samuel Cole      | <b>Surveyors of the</b> |
| <b>highways</b>      |                  |                         |
| Ebenezer Carleton    | Isaac Austin     | } and all sworn to      |
| John Huse            | Richard Currier  | their offices.          |
| Zebediah Barker Jun. | Jonathan Parker  |                         |

**192.** Thirdly. To see if the Town will discontinue the road that was laid out from Dr. Huse's corner to the meeting house, laid out by the sessions, and confirmed on fifteenth of August on adjournment, otherwise the Town must have two roads to pay for.

At a legal annual Town meeting in Methuen, on March the 13, 1765, the Town voted to discontinue the way that was laid out as mentioned in the third article in the warrant for calling this meeting and for the reasons therein mentioned.

#### **Surveyors of lumber.**

At a legal annual meeting in Methuen, on March the 13, 1765, the Town voted and chose John Marston, James Wilson, John Barker and Jonathan Parker surveyors of lumber and sworn.

#### **Field drivers.**

At the above annual meeting, the Town voted and chose Reuben Emerson and Joseph Griffin field drivers and sworn.

#### **Deer reeves.**

Voted, at the above meeting, and chose Nehemiah Barker and Abiel How deer reeves and sworn.

#### **Hogreeves.**

Voted and chose Moses Bailey, John Webber and Peter Harris hogreeves and sworn.

#### **Weights and Leather.**

Voted and chose Lieut. John Sargent, Sealer of weights and measures and sworn.

Voted and chose Richard Currier Sealer of leather and sworn.

### **Wheat**

Voted and chose Jonathan Swan Surveyor of wheat and sworn.

### **Fence viewers.**

The Town voted and chose Aaron Gage and Moses Pingry fence viewers and sworn.

### **Perkins released.**

The Town voted to release Joseph Perkins from serving constable the present year.

### **Mr. Sargent's Salary.**

At a legal annual Town meeting in March the 13, 1765, the Town voted to raise fifty seven pounds for Mr. Christopher Sargent's salary the present year.

### **Highways.**

Voted, at a legal annual Town meeting in Methuen, on March the 13, 1765, to raise forty pounds to repair the highways, the year ensuing, and to be paid in the manner it was the last year.

The eighth article was voted in the negative.

The Town voted that the swine should go at large the year ensuing.

193. In answer to a petition to us presented by a number of the inhabitants of said Town of Methuen,  
We have removed or laid out a particular or private road viz.

Beginning at the country road that leads from Haverhill to Dracut country road that leads from Haverhill to Dracut on land of Caleb Richardson and land of Timothy and Zebediah Barker Jun. one rod wide on each of their land to the end thereof, thence on land of Parker Richardson, on the west of his rye field as the fence now stands, thence to a pine bush marked, on land of the heirs of Joseph Barker deceased, so on the west of three pine trees marked on land of said heirs, and running straight the same course to land of John Sargent, and so running straight the same course to land of Zebediah Barker Jun., and so on the line between said Barker and said Sargent, to the end of said Barker's land, thence on land of said Sargent, to Enoch Merrill's house, and thence on said Merrill's land to the end of his land, and thence on land of Abel

Merrill and said Sargent's land, to the south corner of Sargent's fence, as it now stands, thence on land of Abel Merrill as the road is now trodden, by the east end of his house, to the road that leads from Spicket falls, to James Bodwell's, being allowed two rods wide through all these lands.

Removed or marked by us the subscribers, Joseph Stevens } Selectmen  
February 28, 1765. Samuel Bodwell of Methuen.

The above return was read in the annual Town meeting in Methuen, March the 13, 1765,  
and voted to be recorded. And recorded March the 26, 1765, per me

Richard Whittier, Town Clerk.

## Ichabod Perkins.

Ichabod Perkins was appointed by the Selectmen to serve hogreeve in the room of John Webber, who was chosen at our last annual meeting, March the 13, 1765, & sworn.

**Particulars of a legal Town meeting in Methuen, on September the 16, 1765, are as followeth viz.**

First. To choose a moderator for said meeting.

2ly. To choose a selectmen to fill up a vacancy occasioned by the death of Samuel Hazeltine.

3ly. To receive the report of the committee that was chosen at our annual Town meeting in

March last, to reckon with the Town Treasurer, and to act the Town's pleasure thereon.

4ly. To bring in and allow Town debts.

5ly. To vote such sum of money to be raised to defray Town charges, as the Town shall

think proper.

6ly. To see if the Town will make an alteration in the division of the Town respecting the constable's line.

7ly. To act what the Town shall think best relating to the school.

**At a legal Town meeting in Methuen, on September 16, 1765,** the Town voted and chose Ebenezer Barker Esq. Moderator for said meeting.

Secondly. The Town voted and chose Jonathan Swan selectman in the room of  
Samuel  
Hazeltine deceased.

Thirdly. The Town voted that the report of the committee to reckon with the present  
treasurer.

Fourthly. At the above legal Town meeting, the 'Town' voted to raise thirty pounds  
to defray  
Town charges the present year.

Fifthly. At the above meeting, the Town voted that Spicket river should be a  
divisional line for  
the constables to gather their rates for the future.

Sixthly. The sixth article was not acted on.

**194. The particulars of a legal Town meeting in Methuen, on June the 27, 1765, are as followeth.**

First. To choose a moderator for said meeting.

Secondly. To choose a committee to reckon with the Treasurer of this Town,  
and give such committee their instructions.

Thirdly. To choose a man or men, to make application to the Honorable,  
the Justices of his majesty's Court of General Sessions of the peace for the  
said County of Essex, on the Town's behalf, praying, that the highways in  
this Town, which are of unnecessary breadth, may be altered.

Fourthly. To see if it appears to the Town that the way which was laid out in  
June,  
1714, which leads from Haverhill to Dracut, or that part of the same way  
which is  
now included within this Town, be of unnecessary breadth, for the common  
good,  
and if so, to discontinue or alter the said way, as the Town shall think  
reasonable  
and convenient.

Proceeded on the above particulars, at a legal Town meeting in Methuen, in June the 27,  
1765;

First. The Town voted and chose Ebenezer Barker moderator for said meeting.

Secondly. The Town voted and chose Mr. Jonathan Swan to apply to the Court of General Sessions of the peace, for the County of Essex, at Salem, on the ninth day of July next,  
praying that the highway that leads from Swan's ferry to James Jones' in this Town, which  
is of unnecessary breadth, may be altered, only those persons concerned to pay the cost of  
such applications.

The question was put at the above meeting, whether the way that was laid out by the Selectmen of Haverhill, in the year 1714, and leads from Haverhill to Dracut, or that part of the same way which is within this Town, be of unnecessary breadth, passed in the affirmative.

Voted at the above legal Town meeting on June 27, 1765, that the said way shall be diminished to three rods breadth.

### **Committee June 27, 1765.**

The Town voted and chose Capt. William Russ, Richard Whittier and Jonathan Swan a committee to reckon with the Treasurer of this, and make report at the fall meeting.

### **The particulars of a legal Town meeting in Methuen, on Friday, the 31 day of January 1766, are as followeth viz.**

First. To choose a moderator for said meeting.

Secondly. To act what the Town shall then think proper relating to the repairing the meeting house, by building & disposing of pews therein or otherwise as the Town shall think best.

### **Moderator.**

At a legal Town meeting in Methuen, on Friday the 31 day of January, 1766, the Town voted  
and chose Ebenezer Barker Esq. Moderator for the above said meeting.

Secondly. The Town voted to repair the meeting house by building pews therein, and disposing the same to defray the charges of such repairing.

Voted and chose Francis Swan, Richard Whittier, John Marston, Benjamin Hall and John Huse

a committee to repair the meeting house in this Town and to dispose suitable places on the lower floor by the walls of said house to build pews therein, at a vendue [vendue is French for auction] to the highest bidder. To defray the charges of such repairing.

195. **The particulars of a warrant for legal annual Town meeting in Methuen, on March the 12, 1766, delivered to John Davis constable, by Ebenezer Barker Esq., Capt. William Russ, and Mr. Jonathan Swan, being the selectmen, are as followeth viz.**

First. To choose a moderator for said meeting.

Secondly. To choose Town officers for the year ensuing.

Thirdly. To act what the Town shall think proper relating to Mr. Sargent's salary.

Fourthly. To act what the Town shall think necessary and proper in order for repairing the highways.

Fifthly. To see if the Town will give liberty for swine to go at large this year ensuing.

Sixthly. To see if the Town will cause the burying place in this Town to be decently enclosed with fence.

Seventhly. To see if the Town will freely grant any sum of money to be bestowed for the relief and support of Zebediah Barker and his 'family' now residing in this Town.

Eighthly. In answer to a petition of William Mallon and nine others of the inhabitants of this Town, to see if the Town will reconsider the vote of the Town on January 31, 1766, in voting away a part of the meeting house for the repairing the rest, and to see if the Town will set off those that have separated from Mr. Sargent's ministry, that they may build a meeting house and settle a minister to their consciences, and if not, that the Town will set off a Parish at the west end of the Town. And next, that the Town would consider that road that goeth from Francis Richardson's to Daniel M. Cleary's, and mend and open or throw it up.

Ninthly. At the request of Enoch Merrill, to see if the Town will discontinue a private way or Town road which laid along on the ridge between the land of said Enoch Merrill and land of Abel Merrill.

Tenthly. To act what the Town shall think proper relating to the money for which Timothy Lovejoy and John Tippets Jun. now stand obliged to the Town for the support  
of Mary Rodrick

**START HERE**

**At a legal annual Town meeting on March the 12, 1766, the Town proceeded, on the above particulars viz.**

First. The Town voted and chose Ebenezer Barker Esq. Moderator for said meeting. At the above meeting, the Town voted and chose Richard Whittier Town Clerk and sworn.

Secondly proceeded to Town officers.

At the above meeting, the Town voted and chose Francis Swan, Jonathan Swan and John Sargent selectmen, and all sworn.

**Constable**

At the above legal annual Town meeting, the Town voted and chose John Tippets Jun. constable for the east part of Town and sworn.

**Ladd refused.**

At a legal annual Town meeting in Methuen, on March the 12, 1766, the Town voted and chose Nathaniel Ladd constable for the west part of said Town, said Ladd being summoned and warned to take his oath, the oath being tendered, said Ladd refused to take the oath.

**Wardens.**

At the above meeting, the Town voted and chose John How and John Pettengill wardens for the year ensuing and both sworn.

**Treasurer.**

Voted and chose James Ingalls Town Treasurer and sworn to his office.

### **Tithingmen.**

At the above Town meeting the Town voted and chose Benjamin Marston and John Barker tithingmen and sworn.

196. At a legal annual Town meeting in Methuen, on March the 12, 1766, the Town voted and chose

|                   |                |                         |
|-------------------|----------------|-------------------------|
| John Marston      | William Morse  |                         |
| Stephen Webster   | John Harris    | <b>Surveyors of the</b> |
| Ebenezer Carleton | John Parker }  | <b>highways</b> and all |
| Benjamin Hall     | Samuel Palmer  | sworn to their office.  |
| Richard Currier   | David Burbank. |                         |

### **Surveyors or lumber.**

At the above annual meeting, the Town voted and chose John Marston, James Wilson,  
John Barker and Jonathan Parker surveyors of lumber and sworn.

### **Surveyor of wheat.**

At the above meeting, the Town voted and chose Jonathan Swan surveyor of wheat  
for  
the year ensuing and sworn.

### **Weights and measures.**

At the above meeting, the Town voted and chose Lieut. John Sargent, sealer of  
weights  
and measures for the year ensuing and sworn.

### **Surveyor of leather.**

At the above meeting, the Town voted and chose Richard Currier sealer of leather for  
the  
year ensuing and sworn.

### **Fence viewers.**

At the above meeting, the Town voted and chose James How Jun. and Ichabod  
Perkins  
fence viewers for the year ensuing and sworn.

### **Deer reeves.**

At the above meeting, the 'Town' voted and chose Nehemiah Barker and Abiel How  
deer  
reeves for the year ensuing and sworn.

**Hogreeves.**

At the above meeting, the Town voted and chose Samuel Cole and Peter Harris  
hogreeves  
for the year ensuing.

At the above meeting, the Town voted and chose James Jones to see to the due  
observation  
of the act to prevent the destruction of salmon & other fish in Merrimack river and  
sworn.

Voted, at the above meeting that swine should go at large the year ensuing.

**Mr. Sargent's Salary.**

At a legal annual Town meeting in Methuen on March the 12, 1766, voted that there  
should  
be raised for the Rev. Mr. Christopher Sargent's salary the present year, the sum of  
fifty three pounds, seven shillings and four pence, lawful money.

**Burying place.**

Voted, at the above meeting and chose Hezekiah Austin, John Huse and James  
Mallon a committee to fence the burying place with a decent fence, and to draw their  
pay out of the treasury.

**Highways.**

At the above meeting, the Town voted to raise fifty pounds for repairing the highways  
the  
year ensuing.

**Zebediah Barker.**

Voted, at the above meeting, and granted for the support of Zebediah Barker and his  
wife,  
eight pounds, to be drawn out of the Town Treasury at such times, and applied in  
such manner  
as the selectmen shall direct.

**Field drivers.**

At the above meeting, the Town voted and chose Joseph How and John Swan field drivers.

John Swan sworn.

196. At a legal annual Town meeting in Methuen, on March the 12, 1766, the question was put whether the Town would act any thing in consequence of the first part of the eight article mentioned in the warrant for calling said meeting and again whether the Town would act any thing in consequence of the second part of the said article, and further, whether the Town would act any thing in consequence of the third article, and the question likewise put whether the Town would act any thing in consequence of the last part of the said article, and all severally passed in the negative.

197. At an annual Town meeting, it being put to vote, to see whether 'the Town' would discontinue the way or Town road, which was laid along on the ridge between the land of said Enoch Merrill and land of Abel Merrill, and passed in the affirmative. At the above meeting, the tenth article was voted in the negative.

The particulars of a legal Town meeting in Methuen, on April the 9, 1766, are as followeth viz.

First. To choose a moderator for said meeting.

Secondly. To choose a constable and other Town officers occasioned by the refusal  
of some officers chosen last annual meeting.

Thirdly. In answer to a petition of John Bodwell and ten others of the inhabitants of  
this Town, to see if the Town will vote to poll off such persons with their inheritance, whose names shall be given in on said meeting.

Warned by John Davis. Constable of the Town of  
Methuen.

At a legal Town meeting in Methuen, on April the 9, 1766, the Town voted and chose Capt. William Russ moderator for said meeting.

Secondly. The Town voted and chose Samuel Clark constable for the west part of the Town, said Clark hiring Moses Barker to serve in his stead.

At the above meeting, the Town voted to accept of the said Moses Barker for their constable in the room of said Samuel. Said Barker was sworn to his office.

The petition of John Bodwell and others.

To the Selectmen of the Town of Methuen. Gentlemen,

Your humble petitioners pray

That you would forthwith call a Town meeting, to see if the Town will vote to poll off such persons with their inheritance whose names shall be given in on said day.

Methuen, March the 19, 1766.

|                  |                   |
|------------------|-------------------|
| Petitioners.     | John Wilson       |
| John Bodwell     | James Long        |
| William Webber   | Eliphalet Bodwell |
| James Mallon     | Caleb Richardson  |
| Jonathan Barker  | James Wilson      |
| Ebenezer Hibbard | Peter Harris.     |

198. At a legal Town meeting in Methuen, on Wednesday, the 9 day of April, 1766, the question was put to see if it be the mind of the Town to vote that these persons with their inheritance, whose names are given in agreeably to the warrant, should be polled off by the Court, & it passed in the affirmative.

Names of the persons who were brought in to the meeting:

|                      |                                     |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| John Bodwell         | Abel Merrill                        |
| Joseph Pettengill    | John Webber                         |
| Samuel Palmer        | Benjamin Webber                     |
| Zebediah Barker Jr.  | William Mallon                      |
| Abel Morrill         | Peter Harris                        |
| Ebenezer Hibberd     | Parker Richardson                   |
| James Mallon         | John Bowley                         |
| Benjamin Herrick Jr. | James Wilson                        |
| Eliphalet Bodwell    | Peter Harris                        |
| James Long           | Nathaniel Ladd                      |
| Enoch Merrill        | John Pettengill                     |
| John Austin          | Nathaniel Pettengill Jr.            |
| Jonathan Barker      | John Wilson                         |
| Widow Mary Cross     | Nathaniel Pettengill 3 <sup>d</sup> |
| Ebenezer Hibberd Jr. | Francis Richardson                  |
| Nathaniel Hibberd    | John Barker                         |
| Timothy Barker       | David Whittier                      |
| Edward Long          | William Whittier                    |
| William Webber       | Abner Morrill                       |
| Caleb Richardson     | Abel Morrill                        |
| John Hibberd         | James Bodwell                       |
| Samuel Cross         | Joseph Hibberd                      |
| William Cross Jun.   | Thomas Mitchel                      |

|                      |                    |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| Daniel Bodwell Jr.   | John Webber, Jun.  |
| Joseph Merrill       | Daniel Cross Jun.  |
| Joshua Bodwell       | Samuel Williams    |
| Nathaniel Pettengill | Hezekiah Austin    |
| David Barker         | John Hibberd, Jun. |
| Thomas Dow           | John Ford          |
| John Whittier, Jun.  | Thomas Richardson  |
| Ezekiel Morrill      | Daniel M. Cleary   |

**199. At a legal Town meeting in Methuen, on Tuesday, the 23 of September 1766.**  
The particulars of the above meeting are as followeth, viz.

First. To choose a moderator for said meeting.

Secondly. To see what sum of money the Town shall think proper to raise to defray Town charges.

Thirdly. To see what the Town will do in regard to the Town's being destitute of a pound,  
and see if the Town will vote to build one.

Fourthly. To bring in and allow Town debts.

Proceeded on the above meeting.

**First.**

At a legal Town meeting in Methuen, on Tuesday, the 23 of September 1766, the Town  
voted and chose Capt. Stephen Barker moderator for said meeting.

**Second, money.**

The Town voted to raise forty pounds to defray Town charges the present year.

**Thirdly, pound.**

The Town voted that John Tippets Jun. should build the pound, a good and sufficient  
pound  
of thirty feet square, by the fifteenth of April next, on the Town's cost.

**Fourthly.**

There being no debts brought in, there was nothing allowed.

**Petition.**

To the selectman of the Town of Methuen. Gentlemen, We, the subscribers desire that you would be pleased to view the way which leads from the house of Francis Richardson to the house of Daniel M. Cleary, and make such removals and alterations of said way, as shall appear to be necessary and convenient, and report the same to the Town, at the next annual meeting of the Town, for approbation, and establishment, and you will oblige your petitioners.

William Mallon

|                        |                  |                 |                   |
|------------------------|------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Methuen, Feb. 17, 1767 | Benjamin Stevens | James Mallon    | Thomas Dow        |
|                        | William Morse    | John Mansur Jr. | Nathaniel Ladd    |
|                        | James Ordway     | Edward Long     | Thomas Richardson |
|                        | Stephen Barker   | Peter Harris    | John Barker.      |

In answer to this petition, the alteration we made is as followeth viz. Beginning at a pine marked on land of Nathaniel Ladd, so running on Ladd's land, and James Mallon's land, to the southeast corner of Mallon's house, so running on Mallon's land to a small walnut marked, thence running northwesterly on Mallon's land, to a red oak bush marked so on to a red oak tree by Mansur's fence, so by said fence to a heap of stones, being a bound of Mallon & Mansur & Benjamin Gage of Bradford, so on to a poplar, thence to a heap of stones, by or near Haverhill, old line, then turning westerly across Peter Harris' land & running in the old cart way to Daniel M. Cleary's fence on the east of all the above mentioned bounds two rods wide on the south of the bound till it comes to Mallon's house & on the east of all the bounds.

|                 |              |
|-----------------|--------------|
| Laid out by us. | Francis Swan |
|                 | Jona. Swan   |
| selectmen.      | John Sargent |

This return was read at the annual meeting in March the 11, 1767, & it was put to vote, & the Town voted it should be recorded, and it was recorded March the 23, 1767, by me Richard Whittier, Town Clerk.

**200. The particulars of a warrant for a legal annual Town meeting in Methuen, on March the 11, 1767, delivered to John Tippets Jun. constable, by Dea. Francis Swan, Jonathan Swan**

**and Lieut. John Sargent, selectmen, are as followeth, viz.**

First. To choose a moderator for said meeting.

Secondly. To choose Town officers as the law directs.

Thirdly. To see what the Town shall act respecting the Rev. Mr. Christopher Sargent's salary for the year ensuing.

Fourthly. To see what sum of money the Town shall think proper to raise to repair the highways the year ensuing, in said Town, and what method the Town shall think proper to do the same.

Fifthly. To see if the Town will give liberty for swine to go at large the year ensuing.

Sixthly. To see what the Town will act respecting the school the year ensuing.

Seventhly. To see if the Town will accept of the two particulars or private ways laid out November 24, 1766, from, or near the house of David Whittier, Merrimack river, to the house of John Varnum so on as the trees are marked to Dracut line. The other of the said ways by the house of James Mallon as the trees are marked, to Daniel M. Cleary's fence, and to discontinue that part of the former way, for which this is laid out.

Eighthly. To see what the Town will act respecting the maintenance or support of Elizabeth Gage and her child.

Ninthly. To see whether the Town will bestow something for the relief of widow Elizabeth Barker, being in necessitous circumstances by sickness and old age.

Tenthly. To see what the Town will act in regard of the French family now residing in the Town, they requesting something for their removal to Canada.

### **March meeting.**

At a legal annual Town meeting in Methuen, on March the 11, 1767, the Town proceeded to act on the following particulars viz.

First. The Town voted and chose Ebenezer Barker Esq. moderator for said meeting.

Secondly. Proceeded to Town officers.

**Town Clerk.**

At a legal Town meeting in Methuen, on March the 11, 1767, the Town voted and chose

Richard Whittier Town Clerk for the year ensuing and sworn to his office.

**Selectmen.**

At a legal Town meeting in Methuen, on March the 11, 1767, the Town voted and chose

Capt. William Russ, Capt. Stephen Barker and Mr. Jonathan Swan Selectmen & sworn.

**Constable.**

At a legal annual Town meeting in Methuen, on March the 11, 1767, the Town voted and

chose Nathaniel Ladd constable, for the west part of the Town. He being warned to take the oath, appeared at time and place, refused to take the oath of constable when tendered.

At a legal annual Town meeting in Methuen on March the 11, 1767, the Town voted and chose George Hastings constable for east part of the Town. He being warned to appear, did not appear at time and place.

At the above annual meeting, the Town voted and chose Benjamin Marston warden and sworn.

On adjournment from March the 11, 1767, to March the 18 of the instant, the Town voted and chose William Morse warden, and sworn to his office.

201. At a legal annual Town meeting in Methuen, on March the 11, 1767, the Town voted and chose

|                |                    |                  |                         |
|----------------|--------------------|------------------|-------------------------|
| Jacob Messer   | Benjamin Hall      | John Varnum      | <b>Surveyors of the</b> |
| James Carleton | James Jones        | Samuel Palmer    | <b>highways and</b>     |
| Joseph How     | Francis Richardson | Benjamin Stevens | all sworn.              |

**Town Treasurer.**

At the above legal meeting, the Town voted and chose Samuel Cole Treasurer, for the year ensuing and sworn.

**Tithingmen.**

At the above legal Town meeting, the Town voted and chose James How Jun., Josiah Osgood, and Thomas Richardson, tithingmen and sworn.

**Surveyors of lumber.**

At the above meeting, the Town voted and chose John Marston, James Wilson and John Barker surveyors of lumber and sworn.

**Wheat.**

Voted at the above meeting and chose Jonathan Swan surveyor of wheat & sworn.

**Leather.**

Voted and chose Richard Currier sealer of leather and sworn.

**Weights & measures.**

Voted and chose Lieut. John Sargent sealer of weights and measures and sworn.

**Fence viewers.**

Voted at the above meeting and chose John Harris and John Mansur Jun. fence viewers and sworn.

**Deer reeves.**

Voted at the above meeting and chose Nehemiah Barker and Abiel How deer reeves and sworn.

**Hogreeves.**

Voted, at the above meeting, and chose John Swan, Timothy Harris and Reuben Emerson hogreeves.

**Fish act.**

Voted, at the above legal meeting and chose Nathan Perley and James Long to see to the due observation of the act to prevent the destruction of salmon and other fish in Merrimack river and sworn.

### **Field drivers.**

Voted at the above meeting, and 'chose' Jonathan Stevens and Stephen Webster Jun. field drivers for the year ensuing and sworn.

### **Mr. Sargent's salary.**

At a legal annual Town meeting in Methuen, on March the 11, 1767, the Town voted that there should be raised for the Rev. Mr. Christopher Sargent, our present minister, as his salary the present year, the sum of forty nine pounds and fourteen shillings lawful money.

### **Highways.**

At the above legal meeting, the Town voted to raise fifty pounds to repair the highway the year ensuing.

## **202. School.**

At a legal Town meeting in Methuen, on March the 11, 1767, it was voted that the selectmen should move the school into the several parts of said Town, where it will be most profitable for the inhabitants of said Town.

It being left to the selectmen by a vote of the Town, at the annual meeting on March the 11, 1767, to take under their consideration the case of Elizabeth Gage and her child, enter into process with John Smith of Boxford or Brodstreet, who is the supposed father of the child, for some support for said Elizabeth and her child.

By adjournment from March 11, 1767, to March 18, 1767, the Town voted and chose Nathaniel Messer Jun. constable for the east part of the Town of Methuen. Said Messer, being warned to take the oath of constable, refused to serve.

By adjournment from March the 11, 1767, to March the 18, 1767, the Town voted and chose Jonathan Parker, constable for the west part of the Town of Methuen. He being warned to be sworn did not appear.

To the Selectmen of the Town of Methuen. Gentlemen,

The petition of us the subscribers, showeth, that there is great need of a Town road or private way, from the house of Jonathan parker, along by the house of John Varnum, and so on to the bank of Merrimack river, and then said river to the sawmill belonging to David Whittier and others, and from thence to the road by said Whittier's house, or near the house of Jonathan Griffin. Your petitioners therefore pray that you would lay out a private or particular way, as above mentioned, and make report thereof to the Town ad the law directs, and you will oblige your humble petitioners.

Ezekiel Morrill

Abner Morrill

John Varnum

David Whittier

Jonathan Parker} Petitioners

Methuen, Nov. 22, 1767

### **Return of the river road.**

The answer to the above petition is as followeth, viz. Beginning at the bars near David Whittier by Dracut road, and on said road to Whittier's mill over the bridge, and so by Merrimack to near the house of Ezekiel Morrill, so by said river to near the upper end of Morrill's land, and then by marked trees to the house of John Varnum, then by said Varnum's house and barn, so on Varnum's land as the trees are marked, to Jonathan Parker's, so as the road goes to David Parker's on the Dracut line.

Laid out 24 of November, 1766, by us

Francis Swan Selectmen

Jonathan Swan } of

John Sargent Methuen.

### **Record.**

This above return was read at the annual meeting in Methuen, on March the 11, 1767, and it was put to vote, and the 'Town' voted it should be recorded, and it was recorded April 22, 1767, by me Richard Whittier, Town Clerk.

### **A vote respecting the highways.**

By adjournment from March 11, 1767, to March the 18, 1767, the Town voted that the selectmen shall make the rate for repairing the highways, and commit the same to the surveyors, and the surveyors respectively shall give seasonable notice, as the law directs, to the several persons names in their several lists, that they pay each one his respective proportion by labor in repairing the highways and return his list to the selectmen, with a full account of what each one hath paid at, or before the last day of September next, and all persons that shall be then delinquent, and have not paid his

full proportion of such tax, the selectmen shall add the sum so in arrear from each man his proportion of the next Town rate.

203. The particulars of a legal Town meeting in Methuen, on April the 10, 1767, are as followeth viz.

First. To choose a moderator for said meeting.

2ly. To choose constables, and other Town officers, if need be, to fill up vacancies occasioned by the refusal of several that were chosen to office, at the annual meeting  
in said Town, on Wednesday, the eighteenth day of March, instant, by adjournment.

3ly. To act what the Town shall think proper in order to settle accounts between the Town and the late Town Treasurer.

4ly. To see whether the 'Town' will allow the account of the committee that was chosen to fence the burying place, in the year 1766.

5ly. To see if the Town will vote to allow the constable some pay annually, for collecting of the taxes which this Town shall have raised in it.

Proceeded on the meeting.

First. The Town voted and chose Ebenezer Barker moderator for said meeting.

### **Constable.**

At a legal Town meeting in Methuen, on Friday April the 10, 1767, the Town voted and chose Aaron Gage constable for the east part of the Town, and sworn to that office.

At a legal Town meeting in Methuen, on Friday April the 10, 1767, the Town voted & chose Peter Harris constable for the west part of the Town, and sworn to his office.

At the above meeting, the Town voted and chose Thomas Austin Jun. surveyor of the highways and sworn.

### **Committee chosen.**

Voted at the above meeting and chose Josiah Osgood, John Huse, and Jonathan Swan a committee to reckon with James Ingalls late Town Treasurer, and proceeded to make report at the adjournment.

### **Report.**

We, the subscribers, being chosen a committee to reckon with Mr. James Ingalls, late Treasurer for the Town of Methuen, and have balanced all the accounts and there is due to him from the Town six shillings and ten pence, lawful money.

Methuen, April the 13, 1767.

Josiah Osgood

John Huse

} Committee.

Jonathan Swan

### **Recorded.**

On adjournment from the tenth of April 1767, to the 17 of April instant, the above report was read and voted to be recorded and recorded by me,

Richard Whittier, Town Clerk

### **Austin.**

At a legal Town meeting in Methuen, on Friday the 10 day of April 1767, the 'Town' voted  
& allowed Hezekiah Austin 0-16-4 lawful money for work done in fencing the burying place.

### **Mallon**

At a legal Town meeting in Methuen, on Friday the 10 day of April 1767, the Town voted and allowed James Mallon one pound, seven shillings and four pence, lawful money, for work done in fencing the burying place.

### **John Huse.**

At a legal Town meeting in Methuen, on Friday, the 10 day of April 1767, the Town voted and allowed John Huse five pounds, six shillings and eight pence, lawful money, for work done in fencing the burying place.

**204.** The particulars of a legal Town meeting in Methuen, on September the 23, 1767, are as followeth viz.

First. To choose a moderator for said meeting.

- 2ly. To bring in and allow Town debts.
- 3ly. To see what sum or sums of money the Town will raise to defray Town charges the present year.
- 4ly. To see if the Town will vote to make any opposition against the addition to  
ferriages over Merrimack river, now in motion by the ferryman on said river.

The meeting being opened, the Town voted and chose Ebenezer Barker moderator.

### **John Tippets.**

At a legal Town meeting in Methuen, on Wednesday, the 23 day of September, 1767,  
the  
Town voted and allowed John Tippets Jun. six shillings for plank to cover the bridge  
below Jacob Messer's.

### **John Huse.**

At a legal meeting in Methuen, on Wednesday the 23 of September 1767, the Town  
voted  
and allowed John Huse eleven shillings and three pence for plank to mend the bridge.

### **Money raised.**

At the above meeting, the Town voted to raise forty five pounds, lawful money, to  
defray  
Town charges the present year.

### **Vote against ferriage**

At a legal Town meeting in Methuen, on Wednesday the 23 day of September, 1767,  
Ebenezer Barker Esq. being moderator, the question was put whether it be the mind  
of the Town that the request of the ferrymen that the price for carrying passengers  
across Merrimack river, should  
be raised or augmented, be a reasonable request, and was unanimously voted in the  
negative.

### **Jonathan Swan**

At a legal Town meeting in Methuen, on Wednesday, the 23 day of September, A.D.  
1767, Ebenezer Barker Esq. being moderator, Mr. Jonathan Swan was chosen to  
appear in the  
Town's behalf before the Honorable, the Justices of his majesty's Court of General  
Sessions

of the Peace, for the County of Essex, to show cause why the request of the several ferrymen for carrying passengers across Merrimack river should not be granted.

At a legal meeting of the freeholders and other inhabitants of the Town of Methuen,  
on the  
23 of September, 1767, it wad voted that the memorial of the selectmen should be  
improved  
at the General Sessions for the Peace at Newburyport, in September instant in order to  
prevent greater pay for ferriage.

## A road through Jonathan Stevens' land.

At the request of Daniel Bodwell, Benjamin Stevens, and James Ordway to us, the subscribers  
to alter or change a certain piece of way beginning at the house of James Ordway on  
land of Jonathan Stevens, by the east side of several heaps of stones near the house of  
Benjamin Stevens. Said way is two rods wide.

Laid out by us, February 23, 1768      William Russ  
Methuen.      Jonathan Swan } Selectmen of

At a legal annual Town meeting in Methuen, on Wednesday the 9 day of March 1768,  
the  
Town voted that the above request should be recorded and was recorded, June the 22,  
1768.

205. The particulars for a Town meeting in Methuen, on the 17 day of June 1768, delivered by Ebenezer Barker, Capt. Stephen Barker and Aaron Gage, selectmen for said Town, to Benjamin Stevens, constable of Methuen, then and there to act what the Town shall think best, and most for the Town's security, respecting the Province rate and Town rates which were committed to Moses Barker, one of the constables of this Town for the year 1766.

The Town met at time and place.

First. The Town voted and chose James Ingalls moderator for said meeting. The question 'was put' to see whether the Town would act on the article mentioned in the warrant, and the Town unanimously voted in the negative.

## End of Book A

### Book B 1

#### March meeting

The particulars of a Warrant for a March meeting, warrant granted by Capt. William Russ, Capt. Stephen Barker and Jonathan Swan, Selectmen, and warned by Peter Harris.

Art. 1 To choose a moderator for said meeting

Art. 2 To choose Town Officers as the law directs

Art. 3 To act what the Town shall think proper concerning the Revised Mr. Sargent  
sallary  
for the year ensuing

Art. 4 to act what the Town shall think proper concerning a school or schools the year  
ensuing.

Art. 5 To consider what sum of money, may be necessary to raise to repair the  
Highways the year ensuing

Art. 6 To see if the Town will give liberty for swine to go at large the ensuing

Art. 7 To see if the Town will approve and establish such private or particular ways  
which have

been laid out by the Selectmen in this Town in the month of December last and  
shall be

report to the Town at said meeting, or such of said ways as shall appear  
reasonable to the

Town

Art. 8 At the request of Mr. Richard Swan to see what allowance the Town will make  
the said

Swan for the damage he sustained by the Town laying out of the private through  
his land.

By order of the Court of General Sessions of the peace in the year 1764.

Art. 9 At the request of Mr. John Huse, to see if the Town will discontinue the private  
way that

was laid out in the year 1736 between the land of Dr Stephen Huse and the land of  
Asie

Swan and Richard Swan, and so on through said Swans' land and the parsonage  
land to

another private way leading to the meeting house, and dispose of the said way so  
dis-

continued as the Town shall think proper

Art. 10 To see if the Town will accept of the alteration that the Selectmen have made in the

private way between the house of James Ordway and the house of Benjamin Stevens agreeable to the report of the Selectmen at this meeting

The above warrant was acted upon at a legal annual Town Meeting in Methuen on March 9<sup>th</sup> 1768 as followeth

### **First**

The Town voted and chose Capt. William Russ Moderator for the said meeting

### **Town Clerk**

At a legal annual Town meeting in Methuen on March ye 9<sup>th</sup> day 1768 the Town voted and chose Richard Whittier Town Clerk – sworn

### **Selectmen**

At the above annual meeting the Town voted and chose Capt. Stephen Barker, Ebenezer Barker Esq., & Aaron Gage Selectmen – all sworn

### **Constable**

At the above annual meeting the Town voted and chose James Ingalls Constable for the east part of the Town – sworn

At a legal annual Town meeting in Methuen on Wednesday ye 9<sup>th</sup> day of March 1768 the Town voted and chose John Harris Constable for the west part of the Town and he refused to serve in said meeting the fine being requested by the Moderator

At the above annual meeting the Town voted and chose Daniel Bodwell for Constable for the west part of the Town and he refused to be sworn then being warned

### **Treasurer**

At the above annual meeting the Town voted and chose Samuel Coal Town Treasurer for the year ensuing (sworn)

### **Warden**

At the above annual Town meeting the Town voted and chose Ichabod Perkins warden, and Nathaniel Pettingill Jr. was choose warden

### **Highways**

At a legal annual Town Meeting in Methuen on March ye 9<sup>th</sup> 1768 the Town voted and choose

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| Richard Whittier | James Jones                                    |
| James Carleton   | Francis Morrill                                |
| John Tippetts    | Ezekiel Richardson } Surveyors of the Highways |
| Jonathan Swan    | James Long                                     |
| Benjamin Stevens | David Burbank                                  |

all sworn

### **Tithingmen**

At the above meeting the Town voted and choose James How Jr, John Harris and John Davis Tydingmen (all sworn)

### **Surveyors of Lumber**

At the above Town Meeting the Town voted and chose John Marston, James Wilson and John Barker Surveyors of Lumber all sworn

### **Fence Viewers**

At the above Town meeting the Town voted and choose John Mansur Jr, Thom. Richardson fence viewers and sworn to office

### **Book B 2**

### **Sealer of Weights and Measures**

At the above meeting the Town voted and choose John Sargent Sealer of Weights and Measures and sworn

### **Sealer of Leather**

At the above meeting the Town voted and choose Richard Currier Sealer of Leather and sworn

**Deer Keeper** At the above meeting the Town voted and choose Mr Neimiah Barker and Abial How Deer Keepers (and sworn)

### **Fish**

At the above meeting the Town voted and choose James Mallen, Stephen Webster Jr field drivers for the year ensuing

### **Thirdly – Mr Sargent's salary**

At a legal annual Town meeting in Methuen on March ye 9<sup>th</sup> 1768, the Town voted that there should be raised for the Rev. Mr Sargent our present Minister as his salary the present year the sum of forty nine pounds and fourteen shillings lawful money

### **Book B 3**

#### **Fourthly – Schools**

At a legal annual Town meeting in Methuen on March ye 9<sup>th</sup> 1768 the Town then voted that the Selectmen should establish a school into the several parts of the Town according to ---

#### **Fifthly**

At the above meeting the Town voted to raise fifty five pounds to repair the Highways the present year

#### **Sixthly**

At the above meeting the Town voted that swine should go at large the present year

#### **Eighthly**

At a legal meeting in Methuen on March ye 9<sup>th</sup> 1768 the question being put to see whether the Town would allow Mr Swan anything for the damage done for a road that was laid out by order of Court through his land in the year 1764, and the Town voted in the negative.

#### **Ninthly**

At a legal Town meeting the question was put whether the Town would act on the ninth article and it passed in the negative

#### **Seventhly**

At the request of several of the inhabitants of the Town of Methuen for the laying of three particular or private ways in said Town. We the subscribers have viewed the land and laid out as followeth viz.

1<sup>st</sup> Beginning Dracut road by land belonging to the Heirs of Merrill Deceased at a pine tree marked, and so on by several marked trees to Dracutt Line to meet a way laid out by the Selectmen of Dracutt said way is laid out on the north side of several marked trees.

2ndly Beginning at the house of John Harris and so on the road is now trod till it comes to Dracut line

3rdly the other way that is from a grate (great) rock in Moses Morse's fence till it comes between John Harris' and Timothy Harris'

The above ways is laid out two rods wide

Laid out and recorded December 1707 by

William Russ } Selectmen  
Jonathan Swan of Methuen

Voted to be recorded and was recorded August 12<sup>th</sup> 1768

Richard Whittier Town Clerk

On adjournment from March 9<sup>th</sup> 1768 to March ye 27<sup>th</sup> the Town voted that the Surveyors of Highways should return their lists to the Selectmen by the first of October next that the Selectmen may add the Delinquents if any there be that have not worked out their proportion so jot down in their respective lists to the Town Rate

#### **Book B 4**

##### **Constable**

On adjournment from March ye 9<sup>th</sup> 1768 to March 22<sup>nd</sup> instant the Town voted and choose John Bodwell Constable for the west part of the Town and the Town voted and expected of Benjamin Stevens to serve constable instead of Bodwell's room Said Stevens was sworn to that office

##### **Warrant September 1768**

The particulars of a legal Town meeting on the twenty second day of September. A warrant given by Ebenezer Barker Esq. and Capt. Stephen Barker Selectmen to Benjamin Stevens Constable are as followeth. Viz.

Article 1 To choose a Moderator for said meeting

Article 2 To bring in and allow Town debts

Article 3 To act what the Town shall think proper concerning the schools

Article 4 To choose a committee to reckon with the Town Treasurer and give said committee their instructions

Article 5 To agree upon and grant such sums of money to be raised as the Town shall think necessary to defray Town charges.

**At a legal Town Meeting in Methuen on September ye 22<sup>nd</sup> 1768**

Art. 1      The Town voted and chose Capt. Stephen Barker for Moderator for said Meeting

Art. 2      At the above meeting the Town voted and choose Jonathan Swan, Lieut. John Sargent, and James Ingalls a committee to reckon with Samuel Coal the present Town Treasurer and to make a report at the next meeting

**Adjournment** On adjournment from September ye 22<sup>nd</sup> 1768 to October ye 23<sup>rd</sup> 1768 then met and voted to raise sixty five pounds to defray Town charges

**Report of Committee**

Methuen October 24<sup>th</sup> 1768

We the subscribers having examined the accounts ordered with Mr Samuel Coal Town Treasurer, and made a balance and find five pounds twelve shillings and four pence, which he is ordered to pay out more than he has orders to receive into the Treasurer. Dr Noyes order and Thomas Eaton's order was not reckoned in this amount.

At a legal meeting in Methuen

John Sargent }

Committee

22<sup>nd</sup> of September 1768

Jonathan Swan

The Town voted that the above reckoning be recorded and was recorded Nov