

# 1794

## March 1794

**Essex SS** To Mr. Benjamin Osgood Constable for the Town of Methuen within Said County

**Greeting.** In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts you are hereby required to notify & warn all the freeholders & other Inhabitants of Said Town qualified by law to votes in Town affairs, to meet at the Old Meeting House in Said Town on Wednesday the twelfth day of March next at ten O'clock in the forenoon, then & there to act on the following particulars

- 1<sup>st</sup> To Choose a Moderator for Said Meeting. –
- 2d To Choose Town officers for the year ensuing as the law directs
- 3d To see if the Town will vote to allow Constables or Collectors any sum of money for collecting taxes for the year ensuing & act thereon as the Town shall think proper. –
- 4<sup>th</sup> To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise for defraying Town charges the year ensuing.
- 5<sup>th</sup> To see what sum of money the Town will raise for schooling the year ensuing. –
- 6<sup>th</sup> To see what the Town will do with the money that was raised to build School houses. –
- 7<sup>th</sup> To see what sum of money the Town will raise for repairing highways & private ways in Said Town the year ensuing. –
- 8<sup>th</sup> To see if the Town will vote for swine to go at large the ensuing year. –
- 9<sup>th</sup> To Choose a Committee to reckon with the Town Treasurer..-
- 10<sup>th</sup> To see if the Town will accept a Town road laid out by the Selectmen thro land of Capt. Henry Bodwell, Ebenezer Savory & Joshua Swan lying on the west side Carltons hill, so called. –
- 11<sup>th</sup> To see if the Town will vote to Choose (chose) one agent or more to go to April Court next to be holden at Said parish to oppose the acceptance of the road laid out by the Honorable Court's Committee thro (through) land belonging to the first parish in Methuen & others, and act thereon as the Town shall think proper. –
- 12<sup>th</sup> To see if the Town will vote to allow a number of persons to work out their highway rates

which are committed to Constables to collect, & act thereon as the Town shall think proper. —

- 13<sup>th</sup> To see what the Town will do respecting supporting Solomon Asten's family and act thereon as the Town shall think proper.
- 14<sup>th</sup> To see what the Town will do respecting the line between Dracut and Methuen and act thereon as they shall think proper. —
- 15<sup>th</sup> To see if the Town will abate a number of person's rates, in Lt. William Page's former Constable list
- 16<sup>th</sup> To see if the Town will abate Nathan Parley's tax in Ensign Elijah Carlton's list. —
- 17<sup>th</sup> At the desire of William Farnum & others to see if the Town will vote their road the proportion of money that was raised to build school houses for Said Town. —
- 18<sup>th</sup> To being in & allow Town debts. —
- 19<sup>th</sup> To see what method the Town will take to procure ammunition & kettles for the Town's stock. —
- 20<sup>th</sup> At the desire of David M<sup>c</sup>Cleary to see if the Town will allow him further compensation for his collecting the taxes for the year 1791. —

Hereof fail not & make return of this warrant with your doings thereon to us the Subscribers at or before the time of Said meeting.

Given under our hands & seals at Methuen aforesaid the 27<sup>th</sup> day of February 7 – 1794

William Russ      Selectmen  
Joseph Griffin }      of  
Oliver Emerson      Methuen

**Methuen March 12<sup>th</sup> – 1794**

According to the within warrant I have warned all the freeholders & other Inhabitants of the Town of Methuen qualified by law to vote in Town affairs, to meet at the time & place above specified by posting up notifications as usual per me.

Benjamin Osgood } Constable for Methuen

**At a meeting of the Inhabitants of the Town of Methuen March 12 – 1794**

Voted & chose Mr William Russ **Moderator**

Chose John Huse **Clerk & Treasurer.** –

Voted & chose Stephen Barker Esquire, Mr. Wm. Russ & Lt. John Parker **Selectmen**

Voted & chose Mr. Elisha Parker, Col. Thos. Poor, Messrs Wm. Farnum, Jonathan Currier, John Ladd, Moses Farnum, George Herrick, Isaiah Bodwell, Abijah Cross, **Surveyors of Lumber**

**March 12, 1794 - Annual Meeting**

Voted and chose **Surveyors of Highways** Viz.

Peter Marsten, Lt. Nathaniel Messer, William Swan, Capt. John Davis, Amos Barker, William Gutterson, Edward Richardson, Elijah Mansur, Samuel Richardson, Richard Currier, Timothy Howe and Capt. Benjamin Town

Voted and chose **Hog Reefs** (Viz.) John Ladd, Dr. John Harris, Simeon Tyler, Joshua Swan, Henry Bodwell Junior

Voted and chose **Tything men** Samuel Huse, John Pettengill & John Whittier

Voted and chose **Sealer of Measures & Weights** Viz. John Sargeant

Voted and chose **Field Drivers** Viz. Wm. Swan

Voted and chose **Fish Wardens** James Frye, James Carlton, Deacon Elijah Sargeant & Simeon Tyler

Voted and chose **Sealer of Leather** Thomas Herrick

Voted to procure Constables as last year Viz. to the lowest bidder with giving surety – the Constable which was bid off by William Richardson at five pence, one farthing per pound. –

Voted and chose William Richardson **Constable for the east end & Samuel Richardson for the west end** of the Town, each to have five pence one farthing per pound for gathering

4<sup>th</sup> Voted to postpone to the adjournment. –

5<sup>th</sup> Voted to raise sixty pound for Schooling the ensuing year.

6<sup>th</sup> Voted that the 155 pounds assessed in the 1792 to build School houses be appropriated to the payment of Town debt

Voted to adjourn to next week on Thursday twelve O'clock at noon

**Adjournment Thursday March 20** met according to adjournment. –

Voted to postpone acting on the 4<sup>th</sup> article till the next adjournment

7<sup>th</sup> Voted to raise 180 pound to repair highways the year ensuing – wage as last year until the 1<sup>st</sup> of October after that to think as much

8<sup>th</sup> Voted swine go at large the year ensuing –

9<sup>th</sup> Voted to Choose (chose) a Committee of three to reckon with Treasurer (viz) William Russ,  
Peter Marstin & Capt. Caleb Swan.

Renewed the Jury Box.

10<sup>th</sup> Voted to accept of the road laid out by the Selectmen thro' land of Joshua Swan,  
Ebenezer Savory and Capt. Henry Bodwell March 10 – 1794 and to allow Said Swan six  
pounds, Said Savory the price of one good wall thro' his land, & to allow Capt. Bodwell  
the price of one good wall thro' his land & one pound six shillings for his land.

Return of Rd near Josh. Swan

**Return of the Road as follows**

We the Subscribers Selectmen of Methuen, at the request of a number of the Inhabitants of Said Town, have laid out a Town road as follows. Beginning at a stake and stones by the Town road near Joshua Swan's shop: thence south five degrees west, thirteen poles, on the eastward side of a stone wall, thro' Said Swan's land to a stake & stones, thence south one degree east, thro land of Ebenezer Savory, thirty two poles to a stake & stones by land of Capt. Henery Bodwell, thence south sixteen degrees east twenty one poles to a stake & stones, two rods westerly from a stone wall, thence running south eight degrees

east thirty two poles, to a walnut tree by the Town road. - The Said road laid out two rods wide on the easterwardly side of all the above mentioned bounds, till it comes to the last mentioned bound where it is two rods and a half on the eastwardly side of the same.

William Russ      Selectmen  
Joseph Griffin }      of  
Oliver Emerson      Methuen

**Methuen March 10<sup>th</sup> – 1794**

11<sup>th</sup>      Voted to send one agent (viz.) Capt. Ebenezer Carlton to Court, to oppose the acceptance of the road, as set forth in the article. –

Adjourned to Tuesday next one O'Clock

**Adjournment Tuesday March 25 met agreeably to adjournment. –**

Voted to accept of the report of the Committee, that reckoned with the Treasurer, which report is  
as follows. –

We the Subscribers being appointed a Committee to examine the accounts of Mr. John Huse Treasurer to examine the accounts of Mr. John Huse Treasurer for the Town of Methuen, have attended that service and find, that if all the orders which Said Treasurer has drawn on Constables, are answered, there will be then due to the Treasurer the sum of three hundred & ninety two

pounds eleven shillings & nine pence, from the several Constables & from sundry other persons according to the annexed list – out of which sum there is seven pounds, eight shillings, which appears to be a balance due to Said Huse.

**Report of the Committee that reckoned with the Treasurer March 24 – 1794**

**Due from the Constables**

**From**

Elijah Carlton	164:13:5 (Pounds-Shillings-Pence)
Benjamin Osgood	106:15:8
William Whittier Jr.	4:7:7

David McClary	0:8:7
William Page	2:0:8
Wm. Whittier Junior	0:15:5
Stephen Barker Esq.	
Former Treasurer	4:2:6
Francis Swan	
Former Treasurer	3:11:4

**Demands upon**

**From**

Isaac Thom	0:7:4
Lt. John Sargents	
Estate	0:2:8
Capt. Ebenezr. Carlton	0:10:8
Capt. John White	0:4:0
Moses Pingree	0:4:6

**Notes of hand on**

William Morse Jr.	0:3:10
Francis Swan Jr.	0:2:6
Joshua Bodwell	0:4:6
William Page	0:19:4
Stephen Barker Esq.	0:3:4
Benjamin Osgood	<u>2:12:9</u>
The balance due	392:11:9
To Mr Huse	<u>7:8:0</u> subtracted
Remains in the	385:3:9
Treasury	

**Notes of hand standing against the Town**

**To**

Samuel Walker	7:29:0
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Samuel Griffin	5:13:11
Caleb Sawyer	0:11:00
Capt. James Jones	4:6:5
Mrs. Page	24:0:0
Sally Wood	2:13:0
Samuel Walker	2:0:0
Dr. James Bricket	6:17:0

To the Town Treasurer of	
Dracut	<u>3:18:4</u>
Total	57:18:4

**Methuen March 24. – 1794**

William Russ	Selectmen
Joseph Griffin }	of
Oliver Emerson	Methuen

Voted to raise 100 pounds to defray Town charges the year ensuing

- 12<sup>th</sup> Voted that those persons belonging to the Town who are deficient in their highway work, whose lists are committed to the Constables to collect, have liberty work them out the year ensuing. –
- 13<sup>th</sup> Voted that the Selectmen proceed according as the law directs with respect to making Isaac Astin take care of his son Solomon & family. -
- 14<sup>th</sup> Voted to pass over this article.
- 15<sup>th</sup> Voted to leave the matter of abating sundry persons rates in William Pages list, to be settled by the Selectmen.
- 16<sup>th</sup> Voted to abate Nathan Pearly's rates Ensign Carlton's list.
- 17<sup>th</sup> Voted to pass over this article.
- 18<sup>th</sup> Voted to pass over this till the adjournment.
- 19<sup>th</sup> Voted to be left to the Selectmen.
- 20<sup>th</sup> Voted not to allow Mr. McCleary anything further for collecting taxes for the year 1791. Voted to adjourn to the first Monday in April next at four O'clock P.M.

**Adjournment April 7 met agreeably to adjournment and adjourned to the**

**second Thursday in May next two O'clock P.M. May 9 met agreeable to adjourned**  
and voted to allow the following accts viz.

**To**

Peter Maston for Reckoning with Treasurer in the year 1793	0:3:0
Thomas Herrick for ditto	0:3:0
John Huse for Att (At)ending Said Committee to the Committee that settled in the year 1794	0:6:0
William Russ, Capt. Swan & Peter Marsten each 3/0	0:9:0
John Huse for Att (At)ending ditto	0:6:0
Isaac Bodwell for work on Spicket Bridge	0:4:9
William Richardson for ditto & for timber & plank as by acct	5:1:6
To A? Ingals for sundry survey of road	0:10:0
Jonathan Swan for highway work	0:15:6
William Hibbard for 20 feet timber for a Bridge	0:4:6
Richard Hall for 40 feet Oak & 25 feet pine plant	0:5:8
Colonel Thomas Poor for plan for Bridge in ye year 1792	1:4:5

Voted that the Selectmen be empowered to procure the wall built through Mr. Savory's  
land on the Town cost

Voted to discontinue the road through land of Said Savory & Capt. Bodwell's land

Voted to appropriate ten pounds of the money raised for boarding to a woman piker.

**Essex SS** To Mr. Samuel Richardson one of the Constables for the Town of  
Methuen, within Said County

**Greeting:** - In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby  
required to notify & warn, the freeholders and other Inhabitants of Said  
Town, qualified by law to vote in Town affairs to meet at the Old Meeting  
house in Said Town on Monday the seventh day of April next at  
two O'clock afternoon then & there to act on the following particulars  
(viz.)

- 1<sup>st</sup> To Choose a Moderator for Said Meeting.-
- 2ly To see if the Town will take some method to repair the Bridges across Spicket river,  
which  
have been damaged by the late fresget (freeze) and act thereon as the Town shall think  
proper. -

Hereof, fail not & make return of this precept with your doings thereon to us the  
subscribers,  
at or before Said meeting.

Given under our hands and seal **the 27<sup>th</sup> day of March A.D. 1794**

Stephen Barker Selectmen  
William Russ } of  
John Parker Methuen

**Methuen April 7 – 1794** Pursuant to the above warrant I have notified the inhabitants of Methuen to meet at the time & place above specified by posting up notification as usual.

Samuel Richardson  
Constable for Methuen

**April 7 1794.** The Town met agreeably to the above notification. –

1<sup>st</sup> Chose Mr. William Russ **Moderator.**

2d Voted the Selectmen be a Committee to view the Bridges across Spicket river, that are damaged & judge what method is left to be taken; and liken oversee the repairing the same:  
Then dissolved.-

**At a meeting for the choice of State Officers April 7 – 1794**

The following votes were given in

**For Governor**

Honorable Samuel Adams 24 votes  
Honorable Samuel Philips 26 votes

**For Lt. Governor**

Honorable Samuel Adams 32 votes  
Honorable Samuel Philips 9 votes  
Honorable Edward Pulling 2 votes

**Senators**

Honorable Samuel Philips	24 votes
Honorable Azor Orne	34 votes
Honorable Stephen Choate	26 votes
Honorable Joseph Wingate	18 votes
Honorable Nathan Dame	29 votes
Honorable Daniel Thurston	8 votes
Doctor Thos. Kitridge	3 votes
Theophilus Bradbury	14 votes
Edward Pulling	16 votes
Jonathan Cogswell	2 votes

**Essex SS** To Mr. Samuel Richardson one of the Constables for the Town of Methuen within Said County

**Greeting** In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts you are hereby required to notify & warn the freeholders and other inhabitants of Said Town qualified by law to vote in Town affairs to meet at the Old Meeting House in Said Town

Thirsday (Thursday) the eight day of May next at two Oclock afternoon then & there to act on the following particulars viz.

1<sup>st</sup> To Choose a Moderator for Said Meeting

2ndly In answer to the petition of a number of the inhabitants of this Town to see if the Town will vote that there shall be sufficient stone ways made or kept open in the Spicket river below the falls for alewives to come up to Said falls, provided there should be a sufficient way or fish course made for Said alewives to go over Said falls & act thereon as the Town shall think proper

3rdly At the request of Jacob Hall to see if the Town will vote to allow him what he lost by sundry persons that was put into his class bill in the time of the late war

Hereof fail not & make due return of this precept with your doing thereon to use the Subscribers at or before Said meeting

Witness our hand & Seal **the 23d day of April 1794**

Stephen Barker Selectmen  
William Russ } of  
John Parker Methuen

**Methuen May 8 1794**

Pursuant to the within written warrant I have warned the inhabitants within described to meet at time & place within described by setting up notifications as usual

Samuel Richardson Constable

**May 8 1794 the Town met agreeable to the above notifications**

Voted & chose Stephen Barker Esquire **Moderator**

2<sup>nd</sup> Voted in the affirmative

3<sup>rd</sup> Voted to allow Jacob Hall the following person's tax in his class bill viz. Nathaniel Tyler, Nathaniel Tyler Junior & Edward Haw,

Then dissolved the Meeting.

**Essex SS** To William Richardson one of the Constable for the Town of Methuen  
within  
Said County

**Greeting** In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
You are hereby required to notify & warn the freeholders & other  
inhabitants of Said Town qualified by law to vote in Town affairs to meet at the Old  
Meeting House in Said Town on Monday the 26<sup>th</sup> of May Instant (1774) at three O  
Clock after noon then & there to act on the following particulars (particulars) viz.

## first To Choose a Moderator for Said Meeting

2<sup>nd</sup>ly In answer to the petition of William Richardson & others to see if the Town will vote to empower (empower) the Selectmen to employ (employ) some person to build a stone wall between Capt Bodwell Junior's pasture and the road which has been lately laid out across the foot of Carlton's hill and to give them instructions what price they may give per rod for building Said wall and act anything farther respecting Said road as the Town shall think proper hereof fail not & make return of this warrant with your doing thereon to us the Subscribers on or before Said meeting

## **Methuen the twelfth of May 1794**

Stephen Barker      Selectmen  
William Russ      }      of  
John Parker      Methuen

Agreeable to the within Warrant I have warned the inhabitants of the Town to meet at time  
&

place by posting up notification

Placed by P. B. T.  
**May 14 1794**

William Richardson, Constable

**Monday May 26 1794**

**The Town met according to the foregoing notification**

Voted & chose Mr. William Russ Moderator – Lt John Parker Clerk pro tem

2<sup>nd</sup> Voted in the affirmative then dissolved the Meeting –

**Essex SS** To Mr Samuel Richardson one of the Constables for the Town of Methuen within Said County

**Greeting** In the name of the Commonwealth you are hereby required to notify and warn the freeholders and other inhabitants of Said Town Qualified by law to vote in Town affairs, to meet at the Old Meeting House in Said Town on Tuesday the first day of July next at three O clock in the afternoon then and there to act on the following particulars. Viz.

First To Choose a moderator for Said meeting.

2ly In answer to the petition – Doct. Samuel Hildreth and others to see if Town will Choose (chose) a committee to examine and make any alteration that may be though convenient in the road that has been lately established by the Court of Sessions for Said County of Essex from Andover Bridge thro (through) part of Said Town to Newhampshire (New Hampshire) line; and lay their proceedings before the Town for their examination and decision and act thereon as the Town shall think proper.

Hereof fail not and make due return of this warrant with your doings thereon to us the Subscribers, at or before the time of said meeting.

Witness our hand and seal the twentieth day of June in the year of our Lord Seventeen hundred and ninety four.

Stephen Barker   } Selectmen  
John Parker       } of Methuen

According to the foregoing warrant I have notified and warned the inhabitants of the Town to meet at the time and place by posting up notifications as usual.

**Methuen July 1. 1794**

Samuel Richardson, Constable

**At the above meeting July 1 – 1794**

Voted and chose Stephen Barker Esquire **Moderator**

2ndly The 2<sup>nd</sup> article voted in the negative then dissolved the meeting.

**Essex SS** To Mr. William Richardson one of the Constables for the Town of Methuen

within said County **Greeting** In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts you are hereby required to notify and warn all the freeholders and other inhabitants of said Town qualified by law to vote in Town affairs to meet at the Old Meeting House in Said Town on Monday the seventh day of July instant at four O clock in the afternoon then and there to act on the following particulars Viz.

First To Choose (chose) a Moderator for Said Meeting

2ly To see if the Town will send an agent to the Court of General Sessions of the Peace to be held at Salem on the second Tuesday of July instant (1794) to shew (show) cause why the petition of Capt. John White (praying for a Jury to estimate the damages he has sustained by reason of the road laid out and established thro (through) his land to Andover Bridge) should not be granted and act thereon as the Town shall then think proper.

Hearof (hereof) fail not and make return of this warrant with your doings thereon to us the Subscribers at or before the time of Said meeting

Given under our hands and seal at Methuen aforesaid the fourth day of July seventeen hundred and ninety four

Stephen Barker	Selectmen
William Russ	} of
John Parker	Methuen

According to the foregoing warrant I have notified and warned the inhabitants of the Town to  
meet at time and place by posting up notification as usual

William Richardson – Constable

**July 7<sup>th</sup> 1794**

**July 7<sup>th</sup> 1794 meet agreeable to notification**

First Chose Mr William Russ **Moderator**

2ly Voted and Chose Stephen Barker Esquire agent to appear at the Court of General

Sessions of the Peace to be holden at Salem the Second Tuesday of July Instant (1794)  
to oppose Captain John White's having a Jury agreeable to his petition

Voted to Chose a committee of 5 to draw up instructions for Said agent & Choose (chose) on Said committee - Mr William Russ, Stephen Barker Esquire, Captain James Mellon, Mr Thomas Herrick and Mr John Sargent

Then dissolved the meeting

**Essex SS.** To Mr. William Richardson one of the Constables for the Town of Methuen within said County

**Greeting.** In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts you are hereby required to

notify and warn the freeholders & other inhabitants of Said Town qualified by

law to vote in Town affairs to meet at the Old Meeting House in Said Town

on Monday the first day of September next at three o'clock afternoon then  
and

theire (there) to act on the following particulars viz.

21. To see what method the Town will proceed in to take a plan of this Town agreeable to an order of the General Court of this commonwealth for that purpose and act thereon as the Town shall then think proper

Hereof fail not and make return of this precept with your doings thereon to us the Subscribers at or before the time of said meeting.

Given under our hands & seal the twenty second day of August A.D. 1794

Stephen Barker      } Selectmen  
John Parker        } of Methuen

Essex SS. Sept. 1<sup>st</sup> 1794

Pursuant to the above instrument I have notified the freeholders & other inhabitants of this Town to meet at the time and place above mentioned by posting up notifications as usual

## William Richardson – Constable

## **September 1<sup>st</sup> 1794 Meet according to notification**

First Chose Stephen Barker Esquire **Moderator** for Said Meeting and adjourned to the first Wensday (Wednesday) in October at 3 O clock in the afternoon

**October 1<sup>st</sup> Meet (met) according to the adjournment and adjourned to the first Monday  
in October Instant at half after one O clock**

**October 6<sup>th</sup> meet according to adjournment**

Voted that the Selectmen be a committee to procure a plan of the Town agreeable to the act of court then dissolved the meeting

**Essex SS** To Mr Samuel Richardson one of the Constables for the Town of Methuen within Said county **Greeting** In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts you are hereby required to notify and warn the freeholders and other inhabitants of said Town qualified by law to vote in Town affairs to meet at the Old Meeting House in Said Town on Monday the twenty second day of September Instant at one O clock in the afternoon then and there to act on the following particulars viz.

First To Choose a Moderator for Said Town Meeting  
2ly To see if the Town will vote to give the Soldiers that are to be detached from the several companies in this Town any compensation more than what is allowed them by Government provided they shall be called into actual service and act thereon as they shall then think proper.

Hereof fail not and make due return of this precept with your doings thereon to the Subscribers at or before the time of said meeting.

Dated at Methuen the eighteenth day of September A.D. 1794

Stephen Barker Selectmen  
William Russ } of  
John Parker Methuen

**Essex SS Sept. 22 1794**

By virtue of the above precept I have notified the Inhabitants of this Town to meet at the time  
& place above mentioned by posting up notification as usual.

Samuel Richardson - Constable for  
Methuen

## September 22 1794

1ly Voted and chose Stephen Barker Esquire **Moderator**

2ly Voted that the Soldiers ordered to be detached from the militia in this Town be entitled to receive  
out of the Town treasury (providing they shall be called into actual service) a sum with  
what they shall receive from government to make in the whole a sum equal 2 pounds 8  
shillings per month

Voted that the soldiers detached shall receive out of the Town treasury when they march  
four dollars per man advance pay then dissolved.

**Essex SS** To Mr. Samuel Richardson one of the constables for the Town of Methuen  
within said County

**Greeting** In the name of the commonwealth of Massachusetts you are hereby  
required to  
notify and warn the freeholders & other Inhabitants of said Town qualified  
by law to vote in Town affairs to meet at the Old Meeting House in said  
Town on Wensday (Wednesday) the first day of October next two O clock  
in the afternoon then and there to act on the following particulars viz.

First To choose a moderator for said meeting

2ly To see if the Town will send an agent to the Court of General Session of the Peace to be  
holden  
at Newburyport on the first Tuesday of October next to show cause why the petition of  
Amos  
Barker (praying for a jury to make some alteration in the way that has been laid out by  
the court  
committee thro his land and to estimate and certify the damages done to his Estate by  
reason of  
said road) should not be granted

3ly To see if the said Town will send an agent to the Court of General Session of the Peace to  
be holden at Newburyport on the first Tuesday of October next to show cause why the  
petitions of John White (praying for a Jury to estimate and certify the damages done to  
his Estate by reason of the road that has been laid out by the court's committee thro his  
land) should not be granted

4ly To see what directions the Town will give the Selectmen respecting their giving security to the several persons thro whose land the late county road has been laid out in said Town for their damages as estimated by the court's committee and act thereon as the Town shall then think proper.

5ly To bring in and allow Town debts

Hereof fail not and make due return of this warrant with your doings thereon to us the Subscribers at or before the time of said meeting

**Dated at Methuen September 25<sup>th</sup> 1794**

Stephen Barker      } Selectmen  
John Parker        } of Methuen

Pursuant to the above warrant I have notified the Inhabitants of said Town to meet at the time and place by posting up notifications as usual

time and place by posting up notifications as usual

**October 1 1794**

**At a meeting of the inhabitants of the Town of Methuen October 1 1794**

First Voted and choos (choose) Stephen Barker Esquire **Moderator**

2ly Adjourned said meeting to the first Monday of October Instant (1794) at one O Clock in the afternoon

**October 6 (1794)** the Town meet & voted to pass over the 2<sup>nd</sup> article

Voted to pass over 3d article likewise

Voted to pass over 4 article voted that the Selectmen be a committee to estimate the value of the timber for a cosway (causeway) near Samuel Richardson house and to allow Said Richardson what they shall judge right, then dissolved

**Essex SS** To Samuel Richardson one of the constables for the Town of Methuen  
within  
**Greeting** Said county  
In the name of the commonwealth of Massachusetts  
You are hereby required to notify and warn the freeholders and other  
Inhabitants

qualified by the constitution to vote for a representative to the General Court of this commonwealth to meet at the Old Meeting House in Said Town on Monday the third day of November next at two to give in their votes for one representative to the Congress of the United States for the Fourth Middlesex District in this Commonwealth.

Hereof fail not & make return of this warrant & your doings there at or before Said meeting

Stephen Barker Selectmen  
William Russ } of  
John Parker Methuen

Pursuant to the above warrant, I have notified the Inhabitants of said Town legally qualified to vote to meet at the time & place above specified, for the purpose mentioned by posting up notifications as usual

**Methuen November 3d – 1794**

Samuel Richardson - Constable for Methuen

At the above warned meeting votes fro the following persons were brought in viz.

For Baily Bartlet Esquire	18 votes
For Theophilus Bradbury Esquire	7
For Joseph Wingate Esquire	3
Stephen Cross Esquire	1

**Essex SS** To Samuel Richardson one of the constables for the Town of Methuen within said

County

**Greeting -** You are hereby required to notify and warn the freeholders and other inhabitants of said Town qualified by law to vote in Town affairs to meet at the Old Meeting House in said Town on Monday the third day of November next at three O Clock in the afternoon to act on the following particulars viz.

First To choose a Moderator for said meeting

2ly To see if the Town will choose a committee to meet the committee appointed by the Court

of General Sessions of the Peace to view the way this Town prayed for by Dudley Pearley  
& act thereon as the Town shall think proper

3ly To see if the Town will choose a committee to meet Jury or Juries that are to come (by order  
of the Court of General Sessions of the Peace) to estimate the damage done to the Estates  
of Capt John White & Amos Barker by the laying out the late county road thro their land  
and act thereon as the Town shall think proper

Hereof fail not and make return of this warrant with your doings thereon to us the  
Subscribers at or before the time of Said meeting

**Methuen October 22. 1794**

Stephen Barker	Selectmen
William Russ	of
John Parker	Methuen

Pursuant to the above warrant I have notified the inhabitants of Said Town qualified as  
above expressed to meet at the time and place by posting up notification as usual

Samuel Richardson Constable for Methuen

**Methuen November 3 – 1794**

**At a Town meeting November 3 – 1794**

Voted & Chose Stephen Barker Esquire Moderator

Voted to Choose a committee of 5 to meet the Court's committee to view a road prayed  
for by Dudley Bixby & others viz. Stephen Barker Esquire, William Russ, Lt John  
Parker,  
William Wheeler & Capt Ebenezer Carlton

Voted to Choose a committee of 5 to so act on the Jury viz. Peter Marston, Capt. John  
Davis,  
Doctor Samuel Hildreth, Capt. Ebenezer Carlton, John Sargent - Then dissolved the  
meeting

**Essex SS** To Mr. William Richardson one of the Constables for the Town of  
Methuen  
in Said County. **Greeting.** In the name of the Commonwealth of  
Massachusetts  
you are hereby required to notify & warn the freeholders & Other Inhabitants of Said  
Town

qualified by law to vote in Town affairs to meet at the Old Meeting House in Said Town on

Wednesday the twenty fourth day of December Instant at two O. clock in the afternoon,  
then  
and there to act in the following particulars – viz.

1ly To Choose a Moderator for said meeting

2ly At the request of Mr. Jonathan Aston, to see upon what terms the Town will vote to settle with Said Asten respecting his deficiency in settling his tax when he was Constable for said Town – and vote thereon as the Town shall think proper.

3ly To bring in and allow Town debts.

Hereof fail not & make return of this warrant with your doing thereon to us the Subscribers at or before the time of said meeting –

**Dated Methuen the tenth day of December 1794** Stephen Barker  
Selectmen William Russ } of  
John Parker  
Methuen

**December 14 – 1794** Agreeably to the within warrant I have notified all the freeholders & other inhabitants qualified to vote as the law directs to meet at the time and place above mentioned by posting up notifications as usual. -

William Richardson, Constable

**At the above meeting December 24 – 1794**

Voted & chose Mr. William Russ Moderator

Voted to this day three weeks, then to meet at this place, at two O'clock afternoon.-

1795

**January 13, 1795**

**Wednesday January 13 1795 met**

And voted to abate the following persons rates in Jonathan Asten's list viz.  
Mrs. Deborah Barker, John Barker Junior, Henry Benson & (name is obliterated),  
Samuel Kitredge

Voted to allow Captain Ebenezer Carlton for time & expense at Salem Court 1:5:2  
(1 pound:5 shillings:2 pence)

Voted Said Captain Carlton for 1 ½ day spent in Asten's & Haseltine's affair 4/6 0:4:6

Voted Captain Meloon for the same 0:4:6

Then dissolved

## **March 11, 1795 – Annual Meeting**

**At the Annual Meeting March 11<sup>th</sup> 1795 as is set forth in the warrant dated  
February 26<sup>th</sup> 1795 file first No. 1**

The Town voted and chose Mr. Peter Marsten **Moderator**

Chose John Huse **Town Clerk & Treasurer** –

**Selectmen** William Russ, Stephen Barker Esquire and Benjamin Osgood

Voted to choose Constables as last year Viz. to the lowest bidder who will give bonds  
with sureties to the satisfaction of the Selectmen

The **East end** bid off by Capt. John Davis, for five pence one farthing per pound, who  
was  
Chose into office and sworn.

The **West end** by Richard Pettengill for five pence two farthings per pound who was likewise  
chose  
(chosen) and sworn.

Chose **Surveyors of Highways** – Farnum Hall, William Whittier Jr., William Swan,  
Capt. William Ladd, Ebenezer Herrick, Capt. David M<sup>c</sup>Cleary, Lt. Jonathan Merrill, John  
Ladd,  
Samuel Richardson, Stephen Currier, Joseph How Jr. and John Pettengill.

Chose **Surveyors of Lumber** – Elisha Parker, Colonel Thomas Poor, Moses Farnum,  
Lt. Joseph Griffin, John Whittier, Capt. Jacob Messer, George D. Herrick, Stephen  
Barker Esq.

**Hog Reeves** – John Ladd, Benjamin Osgood, Henry Bodwell and John Harris Jr.

**Tythingmen** – (No names listed)

**Fence Viewers** – John Whittier, Capt. James Maloon, William Whittier Jr. and Afrod (?) Ingals

Chose **Field Drivers** – Abial How Jr. and Titus Harris

Chose **Scales of Weights & Measures** – Abial How Jr.

**Fish Wardens** – Jacob Sargent, Timothy Emerson, John Merrill & Colonel Caleb Swan.

**Sealer of Leather** – (No name listed)

- 3d As to raising money etc passed over till the adjournment
- 4<sup>th</sup> Voted to raise sixty pounds for schooling year ensuing
- 5<sup>th</sup> Voted to raise 180 pounds for repairing highways, wages as last year. Viz.  
For a hand 4/ yoke oxen 2/8 cart  $\frac{1}{4}$  until the list of October after that two thirds as much
- 6<sup>th</sup> Voted to pass over
- 7<sup>th</sup> Passed in the negative.
- 8<sup>th</sup> Voted that swine go at large.
  
- 9<sup>th</sup> Voted & chose Peter Martin, Josiah Brown, & Stephen Esquire a committee to reckon with the Treasurer.
- 10<sup>th</sup> Voted to pass over to the adjournment.
- 11<sup>th</sup> Voted the Selectmen shall draw orders for John Huse & Thomas Herrick for the County road  
thro'(through) their land, then the road shall be opened.
- 12<sup>th</sup> Voted in the negative.
- 13<sup>th</sup> Voted that the Town tax shall be made immediately after the precept for the state tax comes to hand.

Voted for County Treasurer being called for Stephen Choate Esquire had 32 votes.

Voted to allow Lt. John Parker for helping measure the Town 7 days at	1:8:0 per day
Voted Samuel Richardson for timber and plank last year	1:4:0
Voted Major Benjamin Town for timber and plank for bridge	0:14:0
Voted Capt. James Malloon for 7 days measuring the Town 4 S per day	1:8:0
Voted Capt. Ebenezer Carlton for two days and half as a committeeman to wait on Court's Committee at 3 shillings per day	0:7:6
Voted Capt. John Davis for 7 days measuring the Town	1:8:0
Voted to ditto for work on Spicket Bridge	0:2:0
Voted to William Whittier for 2 1/2 days Att (At)endance on Court's Committee	0:7:6
Voted to Capt. David McCleary for a day's reckoning with the Town Treasurer April 1793	0:3:0
Voted to James Frye for a day waiting on Court's Committee Sept. 1793	0:3:0
Voted to Colonel Thomas Poor for two days waiting on Court's Committee September 1792	0:6:0

Then adjourned to Monday 23 Instant two O, clock P.M.

### **March 23 1795 – Met agreeable to adjournment**

Voted to accept the report of the Committee that reckoned with Treasurer which is as follows.

We the Subscribers being appointed a Committee to examine the accounts of Mr. John Huse Town Treasurer, have Att (At)ended that service and find due to the said Treasurer in his said capacity, the sum of three hundred and forty three pounds ten shillings and four pence from the several Constables and from sundry other persons, according to the annexed list out of which sum there is a balance of four pounds sixteen shilling and eight pence due to Said Huse.

<b>Due from Constables</b>				<b>Demands on</b>	
<b>p</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>s</b>	<b>p</b>		
<b>From</b>					
8				Capt. Eben. Carlton	0 10
William Richardson	96	14	3	Capt. John White	0 4
6				Moses Pingree	0 4
Samuel Richardson	72	6	0	Notes of hand	
6				William Moses Jr.	0 3
Ensign Elijah Carlton	67	12	8		
Benjamin Osgood	92	6	1		
10					
William Whittier for				Francis Swan Jr.	0 2
6					
For delinquency of a				Joshua Bodwell	0 4
6					

Highways tax	2	12	9	William Page	0	19
4						
William Huse	2	0	8	Benjamin Osgood	2	12
9						
D? Swan	3	11	4	William Richardson	<u>0</u>	<u>12</u>
6						
former Treasurer					343	10
4						
Dr. Isaac Thom	0	9	9		<u>4</u>	<u>16</u>
8						
On Lt. John Sargent's list	0	2	8		338	13
8						

### **A list of notes standing against the Town of Methuen**

Caleb Sawyer	0	11	0
Capt. James Jones	4	6	5
Dr. James Bricket	6	17	0
Sally Wood	<u>4</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>8</u>
	16	14	1

### **Methuen March 19 – 1795**

Peter Marston  
 Josiah Brown } Committee  
 Stephen Barker  
 John Huse } Treasurer

Voted to raise a hundred pounds to defray Town charges the year ensuing.

Voted that the Treasurer postpone sending his execution to Mr. William Whittier till the first of September next.

Voted to pass over sending executions to the other Constables.

Voted Peter Marsten, Josiah Brown & Stephen Barker Esq. for reckoning with the Treasurer March 17, 1793 each 3 shillings

Voted Benjamin Osgood for 19 feet of black oak timber 3 shillings

Voted to allow John Searls for timber & plank 18/1

Voted to allow Dr Samuel Hildreth for doctoring Solomon Astin child 12.~

Voted John Huse for serving Treasurer 2 dollars per year for two years last past

Voted to adjourn to the first Monday in April next one O.clock P.M.

Monday April 6<sup>th</sup> meet (met)

Swore a number of officer & then dissolved

**At the meeting for State offices April 6 1795 the following persons were voted to viz.**

**Votes**

<b>For Governor</b> Samuel Adams	35
<b>Lt Governor</b> Moses Gill	31

**Senators**

Samuel Phillip	32
Azor Orn	32
Stephen Chote	32
Enoch Titcomb Jr	31
Joseph Wingate	1

**At a Town meeting April 1795 as is set forth in the warrant of April 3<sup>rd</sup> No 3**

1<sup>st</sup> Voted Chose Stephen Barker Esq. **Moderator**

2<sup>nd</sup> Voted in the affirmative both first & second class

Voted to Choose (chose) a committee to draw 2 petitions to be presented to the Town at the adjournment

Chose on the committee Stephen Barker Esq., William Whittier Jr., William Russ, Capt Jacob Messer, John Sargent

Voted & chose James Ingals Esq. & Ensign Elijah Carlton agents to present Said petition to the court

Voted to adjourn to Wednesday next three o clock P.M.

Wednesday April 8 met & voted to accept of the petition as drawn up by the committee  
& that

they shall be presented to the court of General Session of the Peace by the agents in the  
name

of the Town then dissolved the meeting

**At a Town meeting May 6 1795 as set forth in Warrant No 4**

Voted & Chose William Russ **Moderator**

Voted that the Selectmen be a committee to view the Road on Merrimack river bank & consult with the Surveyor what is best to be done

3d article Voted to pass over & then dissolved

**At a meeting May 28 1795 set forth in Warrant No 5**

Chose Stephen Barker Esq. **Moderator**

Voted to Choose (chose) a committee of three to run the line between Dracut & this Town

Chose on the committee Capt John Davis Benjamin Osgood & James Frye

Voted that the committee be instructed to run the 4 mile from Dunstable line Southeast  
Voted to adjourn to Fryday June 4<sup>th</sup> four O clock P.M. ryday June 4 meet & dissolved

**At a meeting September 7<sup>th</sup> 1795 as set forth in Warrant No 6**

1<sup>st</sup> Voted & chose M<sup>r</sup> William Russ **Moderator**

2<sup>nd</sup> Voted in the Negative

3d Voted that when Capt White & Amos Barker open the road the Selectmen shall give order for the pay

4<sup>th</sup> Voted to pass over

5<sup>th</sup> Voted to pass over

6<sup>th</sup> Voted to pass then dissolved

**At a meeting January 6 1795 as is set forth in Warrant No 7**

Voted & chose Mr. William Russ **Moderator**

2<sup>nd</sup> Voted in the negative 47 for dividing the Town into two parishes 68 against it

3d Voted to abate Nathan Perly' rates as set forth in Warrant

4<sup>th</sup> Voted to allow Capt John Davis, Capt William Ladd & Samuel Huse each one dollar for a day running a line from Windham

Voted to allow Alford Ingals for surveying or running said line from Windham 8/  
£

Voted to allow Ensign Elijah Carlton for Att (At)ending court to present a petition etc 31/  
- 1-11=0

Voted to allow Peter Marstin, Capt John Davis, Capt Ebenezer Carlton, Doctor Samuel Hildreth  
& John Sargent each 4/6 for Att (At)ending the jury on the road near Capt Whites

Voted to allow Capt Caleb Swan & John Huse each 3/ for Att (At)endance as evidencer –

5<sup>th</sup> Voted to pass over until next March meeting – Dissolved

## 1796

### **Proceedings of Annual Meeting March 9<sup>th</sup> 1796**

**At the Annual Meeting March 9<sup>th</sup> 1796 as set forth Warrant dated March 9<sup>th</sup> 1796  
File 1<sup>st</sup> No 8**

Voted & chose Mr. Peter Marston **Moderator**

John Huse **Clerk & Treasurer**

**Selectmen & Assessors** Stephen Barker Esq., Mr. William Russ & Colonel Benjamin Town

Voted to set up the Collectorships to the ? bidder who will give bond with surelier (sic: surety) to the satisfaction of the Selectmen

The east end bid off by Timothy Emerson for six pence one farthing per pound for collecting but at the adjournment voted to accept of Lt Jonathan Merriel in Mr. Emerson's stead

The west end bid off my Lt Jonathan Merriel for six pence two farthings per pound who was chosen & sworn –

### **Surveyors of Highways**

John Merriel William Whittier, 2d, Ensign John Russ, Capt John Davis, Ebenezer Herrick, Nathaniel Hibberd, Timothy Noyes, John Ladd, William Whittier, Robert Hastings, Jonathan How, Deacon William Bodwell.

### **Surveyors of Lumber**

Elisha Parker, Colonel Thomas Poor, Lt Joseph Griffen, Isaac Bodwell, Moses Farnum, Colonel Benjamin Town, Capt Jacob Messer, Capt Jeremy Bodwell, Stephen Barker, Esq.

### **Hog reeves**

John Ladd, Benjamin Osgood, Rebertson (?) Frye, Noah Stevens

### **Tythingmen**

John Serl, Jonathan How, William Swan

### **Fence Viewer**

John Whittier, Capt James Mallon, William Whittier 2d, Alfred Ingals

### **Field Drivers**

Abial How, Syrus Messer

### **Fish Wardens**

Caleb Sawyer, Jobe Pingree, Lt Jonathan Merriel, Capt William Ladd

### **Sealer of Leather**

John Merriel

### **Sealer of Weights & Measures**

Benjamin Osgood

3d Voted to pass over to the adjournment

- 4<sup>th</sup> Voted to raise 200 dollars for Schooling
- 5<sup>th</sup> Voted to assess or raise 600 dolars for repairing Highways
- 6<sup>th</sup> Voted that swine go at large
- 7<sup>th</sup> Voted & chose Peter Marston, John Serl, & Stephen Barker, Esq. a committee to reckon with treasurer
- 8<sup>th</sup> Voted to pass over to the adjournment
- 9<sup>th</sup> Voted in the affirmative (viz.) to accept of the road laid out by the Selectmen from Stephen Barker Esq. to Parker Richardson a return of which is as followeth (viz.)

We the Subscribers at the request of a number of the inhabitants of Methuen have laid out  
a

Road Town Road beginning at the Town Road near the house of Stephen Barker at a stake & stones  
From thence running Northeast Sixty one degrees thirty four poles through Said Barkers land to a  
Esq. stake & stones by a swamp. Thence Northeast forty three degrees twenty five poles on Said  
Barker Barkers land to a stake & stones by land of Joseph Jennings, thence Northeast forty five degrees  
to twenty nine poles on land of Capt. John Richardson & William Richardson to a stake & stones  
Parker by the road near the house of Parker Richardson Said road is laid out two rods wide on the  
Richards Southerly side of the above mentioned bound.

**Methuen January 6<sup>th</sup> 1796**

William Russ      } Selectmen  
Stephen Barker      } of Methuen

10<sup>th</sup> Voted to pass over

11<sup>th</sup> Voted to pass over

12<sup>th</sup> Voted that the Selectmen procure materials for the bridge near Colonel Towns & the Surveyor repair it

13<sup>th</sup> Voted to pass over

Voted to adjourn to **Wednesday Ye 16** Instant one O clock P.M.

**March 16** meet 7 adjourned to Wednesday next one O Clock P.M.

**March 23** meet agreeable to adjournment

Voted to accept of the report of the Committee that reckoned with the Treasurer which is as followeth

Reckoning We the Subscribers appointed to examine the accounts of Mr. John Huse Treasurer for the Town

With of Methuen have Att (At)ended that service & find there is due to the Said treasurer in his Said

Treasurer capacity the sum of Three hundred & eighty eight pounds Seventeen Shillings & nine pence

or one Thousand two hundred & ninety Six Dollars twenty nine cents out of which sum there is

a balance due to Said Huse of forty five dollars twenty nine cents, he paying his own out of

Standing Orders – which Sum first mentioned is due from the several constables & sundry

other persons according to the annexed list

	From	William Richardson for Constable	Dollar	Cents
			322	37
		Samuel Richardson	241	-
		Ensign Elijah Carlton	118	6
		Benjamin Osgood	21	12
		William Whittier 2 <sup>nd</sup>	8	79
		Francis Swan	11	89
	From	Doctor Isaac Thom	1	55
		John Sargent	0	44
		Capt Ebenezer Carlton	1	78
		Capt. John White	0	67
		Moses Pingree	0	75
	Notes	William Mors Junior	-	64
		Francis Swan	-	41
		Joshua Bodwell	-	75
		William Richardson	2	8
		Joseph How	3	12
		John Tipet	1	4
		Captain John Davis	326	96
		Richard Pettengill	<u>231</u>	<u>69</u>
			1296	25
		Balance due to Huse	<u>45</u>	<u>29</u>
		Due to the Town	1259	96

A list of notes standing against the Town

In favour of

Captain James Jones 15 90

Caleb Sawyer	1	83
Doctor James Bricket	22	83

Sally Wood	16	61
Lieutenant William Thom	72	67
Lieutenant William Thom	50	58
	180	42

**Methuen March 15 1796**

Peter Marston  
John Searl      } Committee  
Stephen Barker  
John Huse Town Treasurer

**Adjournment March 23**

Voted to raise to defray Town charges for the ensuing year four hundred dollars 400 dollars

Voted that if Constables the two Richardson do not settle & pay up their Town tax on or before  
the first day of July next the treasurer shall send his Executions excepting that part called  
the highway tax

Voted that if Lt. Elijah Carlton do not settle & pay his deficiency on or before the first  
day of  
June next he likewise have an execution

Voted that Mr. Osgood also have an execution if his deficiency is not paid in six weeks  
from this date

Voted that the Selectmen settle Mr. Whittier delinquency and let it rest for the present

Voted to adjourn to the first Monday in April next two O Clock P.M.

**April 4<sup>th</sup> meeting**

14<sup>th</sup> Voted to leave it with the Selectmen to set guide posts where they think they are wanted

15<sup>th</sup> Voted to allow William Swan for 200 feet of black oak plan for Spicket bridge  
three dollar

3-0

Voted Samuel Richardson for 60 feet pine timber & 27 feet black oak plank two dollars  
2-0

Voted Peter Marston, John Seal & Stephen Barker Esq each ½ dollar for reckoning with

Town Treasurer the 15<sup>th</sup> March last  
1-50

Voted John Huse for reckoning last year & this or for 1795 & 1796 two dollars  
2-0

16th Voted to abate Mr. Hibberd rates what is not paid agreeable to his request

17<sup>th</sup> Voted that the Selectmen be a committee to view the road on the banks of Merrimack River  
and prefix places on the Said road where people shall be prohibited laying timber & road then dissolved

**At the meeting for State Officers April 5<sup>th</sup> 1796 the following persons were voted for viz.**

**Votes**

<b>For Governor</b>	Samuel Adams	60
	Samuel Phillips	6
	Moses Gill	1
<b>Lt Governor</b>	Moses Gill	53
	Samuel Phillips	3

**Senators**

Samuel Holton	55
Samuel Phillips	14
Azor Orn	55
Stephen Chote	54
Nathan Dane	41
Dr. Thomas Kitredge	41

**At the meeting for choosing Representative votes March 1796 were as followeth**

For William Russ 63 votes for Captain John Davis 3

**At the meeting May 4 1796 as in Warrant No 10**

Chose Stephen Barker Esq. Moderator

Voted that the Selectmen agree with the Selectmen or Town of Boxford if Abigail Davis cannot be moved - then dissolved

**At the meeting May 4<sup>th</sup> 1796 agreeable to Warrant No 11**

- 1 Chose Captain Caleb Swan Moderator
- 2 Voted to send an Agent to court Yes 60 Nay 36 Chose John Huse Agent
- 3<sup>d</sup> Voted & chose Thomas Herrick a committee to join the Selectmen to settle with Richardson & Barker
- 4<sup>th</sup> Voted that the Selectmen be instructed to procure a house for Daniel Pettengill together with a spot of land not exceeding half an acre
- 5<sup>th</sup> Voted that a stand of coulan be procured by the Selectmen & Delivered to the Melitia (sic=militia) officers to be kept in Town for the use of the Melitia then dissolved

**At the meeting July 7<sup>th</sup> 1796 as in Warrant No 12**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Chose Stephen Barker Esq. Moderator
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Voted to pass over or not act on it then dissolved

**At a meeting August 30 1796 agreeable to Warrant No 13**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Chose Stephen Barker Esq. **Moderator**
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Voted in the negative
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Voted that the treasurer be instructed to give Capt. John White a note on interest if it is satisfactory to him

Voted to instruct the treasurer to hire on interest 80 dollars for the use of the Town then dissolved

**At a meeting September 21 1796 agreeable to Warrant No 14**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Chose Mr. William Russ Moderator & Mr. Whittier Clerk pro tem
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Voted & chose William Whittier 2<sup>nd</sup>, Capt Eben. Carlton & Stephen Barker Esq. a committee

to meet the jury from court

3<sup>rd</sup> Voted Capt John Davis for 63 feet of timber for a bridge 0=13=10

4<sup>th</sup> Voted Stephen Barker Esq. ninety dollars to indemnify the Town from the cost of the road newly laid out through his land

**At a Meeting September 2d 1796 as in Warrant No 15**

1<sup>st</sup> Chose Stephen Barker Esq. **Moderator**

2<sup>nd</sup> Voted that a committee be appointed to -- --

Chose Mr. William Whittier 2<sup>nd</sup> a committee for the purpose aforesaid then adjourned to Saterday (Saturday) next three O clock October 1<sup>st</sup> meet & dissolved

**At a meeting for a Representative for Congress November 7 1796 as in Warrant No 16**

The following persons were voted for

Bayley Bartlet Esq. 19	Theos (?) Bradbury 4	Doctor	Thomas
Kitredge 11			

**At the meeting November 7 1796 as in Warrant No 17**

The vote for elector of President & Vice President are as followeth viz.

Doctor T. Kitredge 19	Bayley Bartlet Esq. 13	Honorable Samuel
Philips 1		

## **1797**

**Proceedings of the Annual Meeting March 8<sup>th</sup> 1797**

**At the Annual Meeting March 8<sup>th</sup> 1707 as set forth in Warrant dated the twentieth day of February A.D. 1797 File 1<sup>st</sup> No 18 -**

Voted and chose William Russ **Moderator**

Peter Marsten **Clerk & Treasurer**

**Selectmen & Assessors**

William Russ, Stephen Barker Esq. and Oliver Emerson

Voted that the Constableship be vandued (sic=vendued meaning to sell) to the lowest bidder they giving bond, with suraties (sic=sureties) to the satisfaction of the Selectmen.

The east end bid of (off) to Stephen Huse at four pence three farthings – the west end bid of (off) to Stephen Huse at five pence

Voted to postpone the chois (choice) of Constable till the adjournment

**Surveyors of Highway**

Phillip Morril	William Swan	Daniel Huse	Joseph Bodwell
Samuel Clark	Lt Jonathan Merril	Elisha Richardson	Cyrus Messer
Alford Ingals	Timothy Emerson	Daniel Currier	Col. Benjamin Town

**Surveyors of Lumber**

Elisha Parker	Col Thomas Poor	Capt James Mallon	Isaac Bodwell
Gorgue D. Herrick	Capt Jacob Messer	Stephen Barker Esq.	

**Hog Reeves**

Joseph Richardson	Simon Tyler	Roberson Fry	Daniel Bartlet
Elijah Mansur	John Pettingell	Jonathan Swan	

**Tythingmen**

Job Pingree	Caleb Sayer	Alford Ingals
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**Fence Viewers**

John Whittier	Capt James Mallon	William Whittier 2d	Capt Jacob Messer
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**Field Drivers**

Jonathan How	David Boynton	Joseph Harris	William Richardson
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**Fish Wardens**

Joshua Swan      Joseph How Jr      Elisha Perkens      William Whittier 2d

**Packer of beef and pork**

Asa Messer

**Sealer of Leather**

Thomas Herrick

**Sealer of Weights and Measures**

Benjamin Osgood

3d article      Voted to raise Six Hundred Dollars to defray Town charges the year ensuing

4<sup>th</sup> article      Voted to raise Three Hundred Dollars for Schooling the year ensuing

5<sup>th</sup> article      Voted to raise Six Hundred Dollars for repairing the highways and private ways and the wages  
be the same they were the last year

6<sup>th</sup>      Voted that swine go at large

7<sup>th</sup>      Voted that Lieutenant John Willson have liberty to work out his highway tax between his house and the road

8<sup>th</sup>      To allow Mr Richard Pettengill for the counterfitt (counterfeit) money that he took for rates

9<sup>th</sup>      (no 9<sup>th</sup> listed)

10<sup>th</sup>      Voted not to allow Asa Currier anything

11<sup>th</sup>      Voted to chuse (choose) a committee to recon (reckon) with the Town Treasurer –  
Stephen Barker Esq., Peter Marston and Lieutenant John Parker

12<sup>th</sup>      Voted to postpone this article till the Adjournment

13 <sup>th</sup>	Voted to pass over this article	
	Voted to allow John Pettengills account half days work for 10 feet of white oak timber	0-5-6
	Voted to allow William Farnum 46 feet of plant cents	90
	Voted to allow Jacob Sargent for 33 feet of timer	0-9-0
	Voted to allow Ebenezer Carlton, William Whittier & Stephen Barker for attending the jury that was sent on the road through Noah Stevens land to each on Dollar	
	Voted to allow Samuel Richardson for 45 feet of pine & timber	1-50-0
	Voted to allow John Searls account to 111 feet of pine plant	0-7-6
	Voted to allow William Whittier account for going to bounty	0-13-9

Then adjourned this Meeting to Thursday the 16 of March Instant Att (At) one O Clock P.M.

**March 16 met** then voted upon the 12 (th) Article – to proceed to try if the Town can git (get) the Said road throu (through) (?) Herricks land and the parsonage land and Noah Steves land to be discontinued

Voted to chuse (choose) a man to take advise of an Atturney (Att (At)orney) upon the case

Voted that Capt Ebenezer Carlton be the man to take advice –

**Constable** – Chose Stephen Huse Constable

Voted to accept of the report of the committee that reckoned with the Treasurer which is a followeth

### **Reckoning with the Treasurer**

The committee appointed to examine the accounts of D<sup>r</sup> John Huse late (meaning previous

Treasurer not deceased) Treasurer for the Town of Methuen, have Att (At)ended that service

and find there is due to the Treasurer in his Said capacity the Sum of Eight Hundred and thirty six Dollars and forty-five cents, also a balance due from Said Treasurer of Sixty five

Dollars & Seventy cents making in the whole Six Hundred and two dollars & seventeen cents agreeable to the annexed list the Said Huse praying all his own outstanding orders (if any there be) which sum last mentioned we find due from the several constables & other

persons as followeth which we turn over to Peter Marston the Present Treasurer

		Dollars
	Cents	
		from Stephen Barker Esq.
44		599
		ditto
50		2
		from William Whittier Constable
79		8
		from Francis Swan
89		11
		from Isaac Thom
55		1
		from John Sargeant
44		
		Captain Ebenezer Carlton
78		1
		Captain John White
67		
		Moses Pingree
75		
		Notes William Morse
64		
		Francis Swan
41		
List of notes standing		Joshua Bodwell
75		
Against the Town		William Richardson
8		2
Captain James Jones	15 90	William Richardson
14		1

Caleb Sayer	1 83	Joseph How	3
12			
Dr James Brickett	22 83	Joseph Tippet	1
4			
Sally Wood	16 61	William Richardson Highway tax	12
72			
 Lt William Thom	 72 67	 Samuel Richardson ditto	 16
42			
Capt John White	<u>123 25</u>	Capt John Davis Constable	43
25			
	253 09	Richard Pettengill Constable	122
09			
	79	Balance due from Deacon Huse	65
		Isaac Bodwells note	<u>5</u>
	<u>00</u>		
<b>Methuen March 16 1797</b>			<b>902</b>
17			

Stephen Barker  
 John Parker } Committee  
 Peter Marston  
 John Huse

Voted that the Selectmen defer giving orders for the road thro (through) Huse' & Herrick land till the adjournment

Voted to allow Nathaniel Hibbard account 0-90

Voted to allow Stephen Barker, John Parker & Peter Marston 75 cents each for reckoning with the Town Treasurer

Voted to allow D<sup>r</sup> John Huse account 7-66

Then adjourned to Thirsday (Thursday) 23d Day of March Instant (1797)

Accounts Voted to allow Elisha Perkens for the use of a room for the widow Barker 15 months £1.6.2

Voted John Pettengill for three days work on the bridge by Col. Town's - 5/ per day 0.15.0

Voted that the Selectmen make search (search) if Mr Joshua Stevens hath been allowed for an order that Francis Swan former Treasurer drawed (drawn) upon Lieutenant Richard Hall for £1-10-0 dated December 27 1797

Then desolved (dissolved) –

**State  
were  
Officers voted for as No 19**

**For Governor**

James Sullivan	58
Inereas Sumner	14
Samuel Phillips	2

**Lieutenant Governor**

Moses Gill	17
Leomia Baldwin	25
Samuel Phillips	10

**Senators**

Samuel Phillips	9
Stephen Choat	43
Nathan Dean	36
John Norris	43
Nathaniel Marsh	2
Enoch Titcomb Jr.	1
Dr. Thomas Kitredge	34
Francis Carr	40
Jonathan Cogswill	7

**At a Meeting on April 3d 1797 as is set forth in Warrant No 20**

1<sup>st</sup> Chose William Russ Moderator for Said Meeting

2d Voted to allow Capt Ebenezer Carlton's accounts by a journey of himself & self horse to Beverly  
2-12 expenses 133-83-45

Voted to allow Captain Carleton one dollar that he paid ? in 1797

3d Voted that Captain Henery Bodwell & his son Joseph work out their highway rates between their house and Spicket mouth the year ensuing

4<sup>th</sup> Voted that the claim and of Amos Barker be settled by the Selectmen and put the boy of Oneil's out to best advantage for the boy and Town

Voted to allow Samuel Richardson for moving timber out of the highway in year 1795 – 75 cents

**At a Meeting for choosing a Representative on May 17<sup>th</sup> 1797 agreeable to Warrant No 21**

Voted not to send any Representative to the General Court the present year

**At a Meeting in August 24 1797 agreeable to Warrant No 22**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Chose Mr William Russ Moderator
- 2d Voted that the Selectmen be impowered (empowered) to buy James Sargeant's house or some other as cheap as they can
- 3d Voted to raise two hundred dollars to repair the new road laid out through Mr Herrick's, Deacon Huse' and Noah Stevens land and that a man have 4/0 per day and cart and oxen in proportion
- 4<sup>th</sup> Voted to pass over
- 5<sup>th</sup> Voted to pass over
- 6<sup>th</sup> Voted that one third part of the money that was raised last Annual Meeting be laid out in Schooling teachet (taught) by a woman – then desolved –

**At a Meeting in August 24 1797 agreeable to Warrant No 23 for choosing a Representative  
to the Congress of the United States of America**

Baley Bartlet Esq. had 22 votes  
Doctor Thomas Kitridge 16

**1798**

**Proceedings of the Annual Town Meeting March 14<sup>th</sup> 1798**

**As is set forth in Warrant dated March 1<sup>st</sup> 1798 File Ye first No 24**

Chose Mr William Russ **Moderator**

Chose Peter Marston **Town Clerk**

**Selectmen & Assessors**

Stephen Barker Esq. Mr. William Russ Colonel Benjamin Town

**Peter Marston Town Treasurer**

Voted to pass over the second article so far as it respects constables till the eleventh article

under consideration

Voted to put up the Constableships to the lowest bidder – the East and West end bid off to  
Noah Stevens at four pence one farthing upon the pound for collecting

Voted to omit the choice of Constables till the adjournment

### **Surveyors of Highways**

Lieutenant Elijah Carleton	Joshua Swan	Baley Davis	Stephen Huse
Caleb Sawyer	David Boynton	John Ladd	John Searl
Ensign Nathaniel Whittier	James Gutterson	Timothy Emerson	
Jacob How			

### **Surveyors of Lumber**

Elisha Parker	Stephen Barker Esq.	Ebenezer Herrick
Isaac Bodwell	Captain Jacob Messer	

### **Hog Reeves**

Francis Richardson Jr.	Alijah Cross	Ebenezer Merrill
Thomas Brown	Joseph Clark	Timothy Noyes

### **Tythingmen**

Phillip Morril	Phineas Messer	Benjamin Barker
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### **Fence Viewers**

Lieutenant Jonathan Merrill	Stephen Sargent	William Whittier 2d
Captain Jacob Messer	John Searl	

### **Field Drivers**

Job Pingree	Jeremiah Stevens	Joseph Bodwell
Samuel Clark	Joseph Harris	Samuel Richardson
Captain John Davis		

### **Fish Wardens**

Timothy Emerson	Stephen Barker Esq.	William Whittier
William Runoles (Reynolds)		

**Packer of Beef & Pork**

Asa Messer

**Sealer of Leather**

Ebenezer Herrick

**Sealer of Weights and Measures**

Benjamin Osgood

3d article Voted to pass over till the adjournment

4<sup>th</sup> article Voted to raise Three Hundred Dollars for schooling the year ensuing

5<sup>th</sup> article Voted that Stephen Barker Esq., Deacon John Huse and Lieutenant John Parker be a committee to reckon with the Town Treasurer

6<sup>th</sup> article To raise Seven Hundred Dollars to repair the highways and private ways in the Town the year ensuing

7<sup>th</sup> article Voted that swine shall go at large the year ensuing

8<sup>th</sup> Voted to releas (release) James Palmer's rates in Samuel Richardson's list

9<sup>th</sup> Voted to postpone till the adjournment

10<sup>th</sup> Voted to postpone till the adjournment

Then adjourned to Monday the second day of April at one O Clock in the afternoon

**April 2d** Meet (met) agreeable to adjournment

Chose Stephen Huse Constable and agreed to collect the taxes instead of Noah Stevens

Voted to accept the report of the committee that reckoned with the Town Treasurer which is as followeth

The committee that was appointed to examine the accounts of Peter Marston Treasurer for the Town of Methuen have Att (At)ended that service & report thereon as followeth

That on a Settlement with Deacon John Huse former Treasurer there was turned over by

the Town's committee into the hand of the present Treasurer

The Sum of	\$902.17
That there has been paid into his hands since that time by the Last General Order on the collector and in notes of hand viz.	<u>904.91</u>
	<u>\$1807.08</u>
The Treasurer has paid on Selectmen's Orders which are cancelled on this Settlement	936.64
Also paid on Lt. Thomas' note	5.10
Also paid on an order drawn by Timothy Poor former Treasurer	<u>1.02</u>
Which leaves a balance due to the Town	<u>\$942.76</u>
of Eight Hundred and Sixty four dollars and thirty-two cents	\$864.32

And we find there is due from the following persons the following debts which the Treasurer has been charged with and which we think is not recoverable viz.

### **Reckoning with the Treasurer**

#### **From**

Francis Swan former Treasurer	\$11.89
Doctor Isaac Thom	1.55
Captain John Sargent	0.44
Ebenezer Carleton	1.78
Captain John White	0.67
Moses Pingree	0.75

William Morse per note	0.64
Francis Swan Ditto	0.41
Joshua Bodwell Ditto	<u>0.75</u>
Which makes in the whole	<u>\$18.88</u>
Which being taken from the above leaves the Sum of	
Eight Hundred and forty five Dollars & forty four cents	<u>\$845.44</u>

Which Sum we find due from the Several Constables & from Sundry other persons as followeth

Stephen Huse late (meaning previous) Constable	\$776.21
William Whittier Constable	8.79
William Richardson on note	2.08
William Richardson Ditto	1.14
John Tippet Ditto	1.04
William Richardson Highway Tax	12.72
Samuel Richardson Ditto	16.42
Balance due from Doctor John Huse former Treasurer	22.85
Stephen Huse on note	2.19
Colonel Benjamin Town Ditto	<u>2.00</u>
	\$845.44

## A list of Notes standing against the Town –

Captain James Jones note	15.90
Caleb Sawyer	1.83
General James Bricket	22.83
Sally Wood	16.61
Captain John White	123.25
Doctor Amos Spofford	<u>60.50</u>
	<u>\$313.59</u>

We find that the Selectmen have drawn orders on the Treasurer since

the last Reckoning which have not come in to the amount of

Which taken out of the above

Leaves 37.16

**Methuen March 22<sup>a</sup> 1798**

Stephen Barker  
John Huse } Committee  
John Parker  
Peter Marston – Treasurer

3d article Voted to raise Seven Hundred Dollars to defray the Town charges the year ensuing –

Voted to allow Cyrus Messers accounts for

forty six feet of pine Timber \$ 1.50

12 feet of Timber 0.50

One days work of myself & half a day one pair of oxen and cart

Ditto to 105 feet of round plank 1.07 3.00

To 32 feet of Square Timber 2.70 \$ 4.37

To 32 feet of Square Timber 1.37

Voted to allow Doctor John Messer 15. for going to the General Court to  
Court, February 3, 1776, he is entitled.

11<sup>th</sup> April 2018 The 11<sup>th</sup> April 2018

## State Officers

**Proceedings of a Meeting was set forth in Warrant No 25 dated 23d of March 1798 for the choice of State officers**

<b>For Governor</b>		<b>Senators</b>	
Ineneas Sumner	54	Samuel Phillips	52
James Sullivan	6	Stephen Choat	43
		Stephen Cross	12
<b>Lieutenant Governor</b>		Nathan Dean	51
Moses Gill	45	Dr. Thomas Kitredge	9
		John Norris	51
		Ebenezer Marsh	1
		Enoch Titcomb Jr	39
		Richard Pike	1

**Proceedings of a Meeting as is set forth in Warrant No 26 dated March 24 1798**

1<sup>st</sup> Chose Stephen Barker Esq. **Moderator**

2d Voted that one third of the money that was voted for the schooling the present year should  
be laid in a School Teach & by a woman

3d Voted not to allow any part of Dr. Hildreths account for doctoring James Palmer

4<sup>th</sup> Voted to choose a committee to visit and inspect the schools in the Town the present year

Middle District Doctor John Huse  
Northeast District Ensign Nathaniel Whittier  
Towerhill District Stephen Barker Esq.  
Searl District John Searl

Upper [?] District Lieutenant John Parker  
Northwest District Captain David McClancy  
Spicket Hill District Captain Oliver Emerson

Then dissolved –

**At a Town Meeting as is set forth in Warrant No 27** for the choice of Representative  
the votes were for William Russ 73

**May 16, 1798**

**At a Town Meeting May 16<sup>th</sup> 1798 as is set forth in Warrant No 28 dated May 3d 1798**

1<sup>st</sup> Chose Stephen Barker Esq. **Moderator**

2<sup>nd</sup> Voted to choose a committee to view the bridge near Samuel Richardson's & the road from Ezekiel Morris' to Lieutenant Joseph Griffin and report at the adjournment  
The committee were Captain John Davis, Captain Ebenezer Carlton & William Whittier

3d Voted that the above committee view the way where Currier and How altered the way by John Pettingill's and see if the new way is as good as the old one and report at the adjournment –

Voted that the Selectmen order Surveyors to work out as much labour on the said District as they shall think necessary

4<sup>th</sup> Voted to pass over till the adjournment

Adjourned to 31<sup>st</sup> day of May 1798 at 3 o Clock P.M.

**May 31 Meet and voted upon the 3d article**

That the Surveyors with the advice of the Selectmen shall lay out as much money as they shall think necessary in fortifying the bank to save the road

Voted to pass over the 3d article so far as it respects the road from Colonel Town to Pettengill

4<sup>th</sup> article Passed over  
Then dissolved the Meeting

**Ipswich June 19<sup>th</sup> 1798**

**List of the Grand Jury this day held in this Place**

Captain John Davis (Foreman) of Methuen  
John G. Rogers of Gloucester  
Nathaniel Warner of Gloucester  
Joshua Tappan of Newbury  
Silas Pearson of Newbury  
Unes Greanleaf of Newbury Port  
Daniel Goodhue of Ipswich  
Joseph Lord of Ipswich  
John BrAtt (Atle) Bank of Rowley  
Amos Stickney of Rowley  
Benjamin Spofford of Bedford  
Andrew Peabody of Medford  
Samuel Ayres of Haverhill  
John PAtt (At)en of Almsbury (Amesbury)  
Ezekiel Evans of Salsbury (Salisbury)

**At a Legal Town Meeting November 5<sup>th</sup> 1798 as is set forth in Warrant No 29  
dated October 26 1798 for choosing a Representative to the Congress of  
the United States of America**

The votes were as followeth –

The Honorable Baley Bartlett Esq. 38 votes  
Doctor Thomas Kitridge 11 votes

**At a Legal Town Meeting November 5<sup>th</sup> 1798 as is set forth in Warrant No 30  
dated November 1<sup>st</sup> 1798**

First Chose (choose) Stephen Barker Esq. Moderator for Said Meeting  
Secondly Voted to abate the Dog Tax the present year  
Thirdly Voted in the Negative

Then dissolved Said Meeting

**1799**

**At a Legal Town Meeting January 28 1799 as is set forth in Warrant No 31  
dated**

## **January 19<sup>th</sup> 1799**

First      Chose Stephen Barker Esq. Moderator for Said Meeting

2dly      Voted that the Treasurer shall send Executions to all the delinquent Collectors (Except for Stephen Huses [Huse's] last collection) by the fifteenth day of February next

3dly      Voted to abate Captain James Mellon's Highway Tax in Samuel Richardson's list

## **March 13, 1799**

### **Proceedings of the Annual Town Meeting on March 13<sup>th</sup> 1799 as is set forth in Warrant No 32 Dated February 28<sup>th</sup> 1799**

First      Choose (chose) William Russ **Moderator**

2d      Peter Marston **Town Clerk and Treasurer**

Mr William Russ  
Stephen Barker Esq.   } **Selectmen**  
Mr Benjamin Osgood

Voted to choose Constables as usual

Voted that there should be a time set for the Constables to settle with the Treasurer

Voted that the Constables that are to be chosen settle up their collection in one year  
avterer (after) they receive their lists or loose their premium for gathering their Taxes

Voted to reconsider the last vote

Voted that the Constables settle up their Town Tax in one year after they receive their lists and what remains unpaid at that time they loose their premium for gathering

The collecting the Taxes for the East end of the Town was bid off to Joseph Bodwell at  
three pence three farthings on a Pound

The west end bid of to Joseph Bodwell at four pence on a Pound

Voted to postpone the choice of Constables till the Adjournment.

Surveyors      Captain Ebenezer Carlton, James Fry, George D. Herrick, Thomas Herrick, Samuel  
of Highways      Clark, Lieutenant Jacob Tyler, William Whittier, Captain Jacob Messer, Samuel Carlton, Jesse Jones, Abiel How Junior, Lieutenant Jonathan Merrill

Surveyors      Elisha Parker, Stephen Barker Esq., Nathaniel Sargent, Isaac Bodwell, Captain Jacob  
of Lumber      Messer, Colonel Thomas Poor, John Whittier

Hog reeves      Francis Richardson Jr, Alijah Cross, Joseph Richardson, William Farnum Jr, Timothy Noyes, Samuel Grifin

Fence      Daniel Bartlett, William Whittier, Ebenezer Herrick, John Searl, John Russ, Alfred  
Viewers      Ingalls, Lieutenant Jonathan Merrill

Field      Jonathan How, David Boynton, Joshua Swan, James Guterson, Thomas Richardson Jr,  
Drivers      John Searl, Captain Ebenezer Carlton

Voted      To pass over the third, fourth, five & sixth articles till the adjournment, and voted  
on the 7<sup>th</sup> article and Choose (chose) a committee to reckon with the Treasurer  
Stephen Barker Esq.  
Benjamin Osgood      } Committee  
William Whittier

Adjourned the Annual Meeting to March 27<sup>th</sup> 1799

**Meet (met) at the above adjournment and adjourned to April 1<sup>st</sup> at one O  
Clock  
in the afternoon**

Constable      **April 1<sup>st</sup> meet at the above adjournment** and chose Stephen Huse Constable

Surveyors      Chose Elisha Parker, Stephen Barker Esq., Nathaniel Sargent, Captain Jacob Messer  
of wood & bark

Fish Wardens Ephraim Peabody, William Whittier, Captain John Richardson, Benjamin Sargent

Culler of Staves	Samuel Richardson, John Searl	
Tythingmen	Doctor John Huse, Doctor William Bodwell, William Whittier 2d	
	Voted to accept the Report of the Committee that was to reckon with the Treasurer	
	The committee that was appointed to examine the account of Peter Marston Treasurer	
	for the Town of Methuen have Att (At)ended that service and report thereon as followeth	
	that on the last settlement with Said Treasurer there was in his hands of the Town money the sum of	\$ 45.44
	That there has been put into his hand since the last settlement	<u>1047.98</u>
	Making in the whole the sum of One Thousand eight hundred	
	And ninety three dollars & forty-two cents	\$1893.42
	That we find that Said Treasurer has paid on Selectmen's Orders	
	And on one note of hand which we canceled	
	On this Settlement	<u>846.39</u>
	Which leaves a balance due to the Town	\$1047.03
	And we find there is due to the Said Treasurer from Constables	
	And other persons as follows	
	From Stephen Huse Constable for the year 1798	1042.00
	Notes of Hand against William Richardson	2.08
	William Richardson	1.14
	Stephen Huse	2.19
	John Tippet	1.04
	Colonel Benjamin Town	2.00
	David Boynton	<u>3.00</u>
		\$1076.30
	Which leaves a balance due to Said Treasurer of Twenty Nine	
	Dollars and twenty seven cents he paying all his own	
	Outstanding orders	<u>29.27</u>
		\$1047.03
	A list of notes standing against the Town	
	Thomas Herrick	18.26
	Isaac How	44.80
	John Bolman	67.03
	James Jones	15.90
	Caleb Sawyer	1.83
	General James Brackett	22.83

Sally Wood	16.61
Will Thom	72.67
Doctor Amos Spofford	60.50
John P. White	100.00
John P. White	<u>39.88</u>
	\$ 460.31

And we find if all the Selectmen Orders which were drawn the year past (admitting orders to be drawn for the whole of the School money) and all the notes of hand standing against the Town are paid not reckoning any interest on said notes there would remain in the Treasurer the Sum of \$ 190.94

The committee further observes that agreeable to the vote of the Town there must be orders drawn on the Treasurer for 37 dollars in favour of Sundry persons as an abatement of the Dog Tax and that there is a number of Selectmen Orders which is yet to be paid & is not reckoned in the foregoing calculation – and also Sundry Debts which no orders has been drawn for. These with the Interest on the notes standing against the Town we are apprehensive will amount to more than the above sum.

### **Methuen March 21 1799**

Stephen Barker  
 Benjamin Osgood      } Committee  
 William Whittier  
 Peter Marston Town Treasurer

3d article      Voted to raise Eight Hundred Dollars to defray the Town charges the ensuing year  
 –

4<sup>th</sup> article      Voted to raise three hundred dollars for schooling the year ensuing – and voted that one third part of Said money be laid out in School Dept by woman

5<sup>th</sup> article      Voted to raise Seven Hundred Dollars to repair the Highways & private ways in Said Town the year ensuing

6<sup>th</sup> article      Voted that swine shall go at large the year ensuing with yoke and rings

8<sup>th</sup> article      Passed over

Voted to Choose (chose) a **committee** to instruct the Schools as follows

Reverend Mr. Parley  
Joseph Griffen  
Will Whittier  
Stephen Barker Esq.

Lieutenant Miles Flint  
John Pettengill  
Captain Oliver Emerson

10<sup>th</sup> article      Voted to pass over

11<sup>th</sup>      Voted to choose a committee to examine the road on the river bank and to repair the same on the Town Money and choose (chose)

William Whittier  
John Searl              } Committee  
William Russ

Voted to adjourn the Annual Meeting one hour & a half

Meet (met) according to adjournment and voted to reconsider the vote respecting the above committee mending the road on the river bank –

Voted that above committee go and view said road and report at the adjournment what they think must be done on said road and estimate what they suppose the cost will be

Voted to adjourn to the Second Wednesday in April at one O Clock in the afternoon

Meet according to adjournment

Voted to accept the report of the committee that was to view the road on the bank of the river near Samuel Richardson

**We the Subscribers being a committee** to view the road on the bank of the river near Samuel Richardson report as follows (viz.) that it will take thirty two dollars and fifty cents to mend that place against Jonathan Griffen's land, we further observe that the road is not more than one road in width for twenty rods against Samuel Richardson land lower field, but we think if people could be stopped from wasting the same it would be kept in repair at present by highway work in their District – we likewise report that we found

the road much encumbered with lumber against Aaron Sawyer and Samuel Richardson's lower field – We think if people could be prohibited from laying lumber in said places it would be a great saving to the Town –

**Methuen April 6<sup>th</sup> 1799**

Will Whittier 2d

John Searl } Committee

## William Russ

Voted to raise thirty two Dollars & Fifty cents to repair the highway on the bank of the river agreeable to the report of the committee

Voted that William Whittier be the man to lay out the above money on the bank of the river agreeable to the report of the committee

Voted that William Whittier work out one half of his highway list on the bank of the River

Voted that Lieutenant Jacob Tyler work out tend day work of one man two teams four oxen each with carts 2 days

Voted to reconsider the above vote

12<sup>th</sup> article      Voted to pass over

13<sup>th</sup> article      Voted to pass over

14<sup>th</sup> Voted to abate James Sprague's Pole Tax in Stephen Huse's list

15<sup>th</sup> Voted to allow Samuel Richardson 88 cents for three logs

Voted to allow William Bodwell 50 cents for twenty feet of pine Timber

Voted to Stephen Barker Esq., Benjamin Osgood & William Whittier each of them

75 cents for reckoning with the Town Treasurer in the year 1799

Voted to Doctor John Huse, Stephen Barker Esq., & Lieutenant John Parker to each

of them 75 cents for reckoning with the Town Treasurer in the year 1798

To 163 feet of 2 inch plank 326 – 149 feet of $2\frac{1}{2}$ plank 2.90	6	16
To stuff of Jonathan Griffen	0	49
	8	65

Voted to allow Captain Ebenezer Carlton to going to John Pettengill's & Samuel Richardson's to view ye road	1	00
Voted to allow William Whittier 2 <sup>d</sup> to going to John Pettengill And Samuel Richardson's to view the road	1	00
Voted to allow Peter Marston three Dollars for two days reckoning with the Town committee	3	00

16<sup>th</sup> article      Voted to pass over

17      Voted to give a bounty upon every crow that is killed four pence each for every other Blackbird 1 cent – young ones taken out of the nest  $\frac{1}{2}$  cent to be paid by the Treasurer

Voted to take up the eighth article and voted that the Treasurer has his Execution against  
all the delinquent Constables that do not settle up their collections with the Town  
Treasurer in one year after year they receive their lists and that to be a general rule  
till it  
is altered by a vote of the Town

Voted that the Treasurer call upon Stephen Huse for 71 or 72 Dollars to be paid in  
one  
month & if not paid by that time to send him an Execution

Then dissolved the Meeting –

## April 1, 1799

**The proceeding of a Town Meeting as is set forth in Warrant No 33 Dated  
March 22<sup>d</sup> 1799 for the choice of State Officers.**

The following persons were voted for

### **Governor**

Honorable Inereas Sumner had 45 votes  
Honorable William Heath had 80 votes

### **Lieutenant Governor**

Honorable Moses Gill had 121 votes  
Honorable William Heath had 1 vote

### **Senators**

Honorable Samuel Phillips had	33 votes
Nathan Dean had	88
Isreal Hutchinson	81
Stephen Gross	80
Doctor Thomas Kittridge	83
Francis Carr	80
Stephen Choat	35
Honorable Ebenezer March	31
John Treadwell	28
Nathaniel Marsh Jr	27
John Norris	7

### **Proceedings of a Town Meeting as is set forth in Warrant No 34 dated April 24 1799**

for to Choose (chose) a Representative to Represent the Town of Methuen in the General Court –  
the votes were as followeth –

M <sup>r</sup> William Russ	91 votes
Captain John Richardson	74 votes

## **1800**

### **March 12, 1800 – Annual Meeting**

#### **Proceedings of the Annual Town Meeting in March Ye 12 1800 agreeable to Warrant dated February 27<sup>th</sup> 1800 No 35**

1<sup>st</sup> article      Voted and Choose (chose) Mr William Russ **Moderator**

2<sup>d</sup>      Peter Marston – **Clerk and Treasurer**

**Selectmen**      Stephen Barker Esq.    Mr William Russ      Lt Jonathan Merrill

Voted to set up the collecting of Taxes to the lowest bidder and was bid off to Amara Sargent a four pence on the pound

Voted to propose the choice of a Constable till the adjournment

<b>Surveyors of Highways</b>	Dudley Bixby Herrick Samuel Clark Messer Joseph Clark Bodwell	Robinson Frye Lt Jacob Tyler Stephen Currier	John Sargent Lt Joseph Griffen Ebenezer Carlton Jr	Thomas Alpheus Alpheus
<b>Surveyors of Lumber</b>	Elisha Parker Capt Jacob Messer	Stephen Barker Esq. Col. Thomas Poor	Nathaniel Sargent John Whittier	Isaac Bodwell John Searl
<b>Surveyors of Wood &amp; Bark</b>	Elisha Parker Joseph U. Parker	Stephen Barker Esq.	Joseph Bodwell	John Searl
<b>Culler of Staves</b>	Samuel Richardson			
<b>Hogreeves</b>	Francis Richardson Jr Bodwell David Boynton	John Searl Jonathan Griffen	John Pettengill	Henery
<b>Fence Viewers</b>	Samuel Griffen Swan David Boynton Mellon	James Messer James Gutterson	Stephen Huse Thomas Richardson Jr	Joshua Kendal
<b>Tythingmen</b>	Asa Currier Tyler	Lt Joseph How	Nathaniel Hibberd	Lt Jacob
<b>Fish wardens</b>	William Whittier James Jones	Ephiram Peabody	Dr William Bodwell	Capt
<b>Sealer of Leather</b>	Ebenezer Herrick			
<b>Sealer of Weights &amp; Measures</b>	Benjamin Osgood			
<b>Packer of</b>	Thomas Brown	Asa Messer		

## Beef & Pork

3d article Passed over till the adjournment

4<sup>th</sup> Voted to raise Three Hundred Dollars for Schooling the ensuing year and voted that one third part of Said money be laid out in a woman's school and to be laid out by the direction of the Selectmen

5<sup>th</sup> Voted to raise Seven Hundred Dollars to repair the highways & private ways in this Town the ensuing year

6<sup>th</sup> Passed over

7<sup>th</sup> Voted that swine go at large the ensuing year

8<sup>th</sup> Voted to Choose (chose) a committee to reckon with the Town Treasurer  
Chose D<sup>r</sup> John Huse      L<sup>t</sup> John Parker      Mr. Benjamin Osgood

9<sup>th</sup> article Voted that the Selectmen proportion the money out of the several wards as they think proper to build a bridge over a brook between Col Town's & Dr. Bodwell's

10<sup>th</sup> Voted in the negative

11<sup>th</sup> Passed over

12<sup>th</sup> Passed over till the adjournment  
Voted to adjourn to this day forthnit [forthnight] at two o Clock P.M.

### Meet according to the above adjournment

**Constable** Choose (chose) Stephen Huse Constable and is to receive 4 dollars on the pound for gathering taxes which was bid off to Amasa Sargent

Voted to except (accept) the report of the committee that reckoned with the Treasurer

The committee that was appointed to examine the accounts of Mr. Peter Marston Treasurer for the Town of Methuen have Att (At)ended that service and report

thereon as followeth, that on the last settlement with said Treasurer March 21<sup>st</sup> 1799 there was in his hands of the Town's Money

1047.03

That there has been put into his hands since the last settlement in a  
General Order on Stephen Huse

1159.99

A note of hand from said Huse  
12.43

Ditto from Said Huse

2.92

Making in the whole the sum of Two Thousand two Hundred  
\$2222.37

& Twenty two Dollars & thirty seven cents

That we find that Said Treasurer has paid on Selectmen Orders and on  
Notes of hand since the last settlement Nine Hundred & Eighty Nine  
Dollars and ninety five cents

989.95

which leaves a balance due to the Town of Twelve Hundred  
1232.42

& thirty two Dollars & forty two cents

and we find there is due to the Said Treasurer from Stephen Huse  
Constable for 1799

1159.99

And other persons as followeth  
from Dr John Huse for Treasurer  
22.85

Notes of Hand

From Stephen Huse

2.92

David Boynton

3.00

William Richardson

2.08

From Ditto

1.16

Colonel Town

2.00

Captain Emerson

55.50

\$1249.50

Which leaves a balance due to Said Treasurer of Seventeen Dollars  
& eight cents his paying all his outstanding Orders

17.08

A list of Notes standing against the Town	
Thomas Herrick	
14.26	Isaac How
44.80	John Bolman
67.03	Capt James Jones
15.90	Gen James Bricket
22.83	Sally Wood
20.00	John P. White
139.83	Benjamin Osgood
23.40	Joshua Whittier
100.00	Aaron Hardy
20.00	Doreas Swan
<u>15.00</u>	
482.40	\$

### Methuen March 21 1800

John Huse                      Committee to  
 Benjamin Osgood              } Reckon with  
 Peter Marston                Treasurer

3d article      Voted to raise Eight Hundred Dollars to defray the Town charges the ensuing year

12<sup>th</sup>              Voted that the Selectmen settle with Dr John Huse for his services as a committeeman  
 to oppose the Division of the Town

Voted to allow Dr John Huse & Benjamin Osgood 75 each for reckoning with the Town Treasurer in 1800

Voted to allow Peter Marston 1.50 for Att (At)ending upon the Town committee

Allowed Samuel Carlton for 104 feet of plank                      2.00

To John Pettengill for 118 feet of ditto	2.33
To Dr Bodwell for Timber	1.00

<b>School Committee</b>	Choose (chose) a School Committee		
	Dr John Huse	John Searl	Capt Jacob Messer
	Stephen Barker Esq.	Samuel Richardson	Amos Morse
	Emerson		Capt Oliver

Voted to adjourn to the first Monday in May next at three oClock P.M.

**Meet (met) accordingly & adjourned to the first Wednesday in May next at 3 oClock P.M. then dissolved this meeting**

**Proceedings of a Town Meeting the 26 of March 1800 as is set forth in a Warrant  
dated March 22 1800 No 36**

1<sup>st</sup> Choose (chose) Stephen Barker Esq. Moderator for Said meeting

2<sup>nd</sup> Voted to Choose (chose) a committee to examine & view the meeting house ward (so called) and see if it will admit of a division, and where the line should be and report at the adjournment

Committee:  
Choose (chose) William Russ      Elijah Carlton      Capt John Davis  
Benjamin Osgood      William Swan

Then voted to adjourn to the first Monday in April next at 3 oClock P.M. then adjourned to the first Wednesday in May next at 4 oClock P.M.

**Meet according to adjournment** and voted to except (accept) the report of the committee that was to divide the meeting house ward – report is as follows –

**We the Subscribers being chosen a committee to divide the fourth School District into two districts have Att (At)ended that service and ask leave to report as followeth (viz.)**

That the East part of said ward or the first Division begin at Job Pingree's so on the road to Marston's Ferry (so called) including Daniel Carlton & William Swan so on the road from Said Swan to Capt John Whittier so on the road to Jacob Tyler 2<sup>nd</sup>

The West part of Said ward or the Second Division beginning at the house of Doctor Samuel Hildreth so on the road to Samuel Huse' so on the road to James Sargent's, Joseph Morse Jr., Benjamin Osgood so on the road to Capt John Davis's so on the road from the meeting house to Thomas Herrick including William Russ & Henery Bodwell J'

**Methuen April 4 1800**

William Russ  
Elijah Carlton  
John Davis      } Committee  
Benjamin Osgood  
William Swan

**Proceeding of a Town Meeting on April 1800 for the choice of State Officers agreeable to Warrant dated March 26, 1800 No 37**

The following persons were voted for

**Governor**

Honorable Caleb Strong had	75 votes
Honorable Moses Gill	1

**Lieutenant Governor**

Honorable Moses Gill had	110 votes
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**Senators**

Honorable Samuel Phillips had	72 votes
Stephen Choat Esq.	70
John Treadwell Esq.	70
Nathaniel Marsh Esq.	72
Honorable Ebenezer March	71
Doctor Thomas Kitridge	67
Francis Carr Esq.	67
Jacob Crowningshield	67
Major Robert Farley	67
Stephen Cross Esq.	67
John Choat	02

**April 23, 1800**

**At a Legal Town Meeting on the Seventh Day of May for the choice of Representative agreeable to a Warrant dated April 23 1800 No 38**

Mr William Russ had	85 votes
Captain Ebenezer Carlton had	59 votes

**May 7, 1800**

**At a Legal Town Meeting on May 7 1800 agreeable to Warrant No 39 dated April 23 1800**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Choose (chose) Stephen Barker Esq. **Moderator**
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Voted that the Selectmen procure powder and ball sufficient to furnish each training soldier with the cartridges to be kept in the Town stock for the yearly Inspection carried in the field on each Inspection day for that purpose the commanding officer of each company being accountable for the return of the same
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Voted to accept of the School Committee report of regulations for the Schools that was made by Said committee Dec 24 1800

**School Regulations Preamble**

As the Town of Methuen are annually at a considerable expence (expense) to support their schools it appears necessary to bestow a particular Att (At)entions that the money raised for that purpose should be employed to the best advantage. The authority of this State have in their wisdom been pleased to enact such laws as may operate for the general good & regulations of the several towns and schools throughout this Commonwealth – giving at the same time liberty for each Town to make such additions & regulations as may be more conducive to the good order & improvement of their particular schools – Therefore the present School Committee have thought it necessary & proper to throw together a few articles in conformity to the above mentioned law for the particular government improvement of the several schools in Methuen – which they humbly beg leave to present for the consideration & acceptance of the Town –

**Section I - Concerning the Duty of the School Committee**

- Article 1<sup>st</sup> It shall be the duty of the School Committee to visit the several Town Schools in each District twice every year & more if necessary giving seasonable notice to the Master or Mistress
- 2<sup>nd</sup> It shall be the Duty of the Committee to enquire into the regulations the mode of

Government & the method instructions practiced in the school (it is specified in an act

of the General Court) and it shall be the duty of the Committee to use their best endeavours to correct any deficiency in the mode of government the manner of Instruction or the Discipline of the Schools -

3<sup>rd</sup> Should any Master or Mistress appear so essentially deficient in the mode of government the method of instruction or the discipline of the school as not to be useful:

It shall be the duty of the Committee & Selectmen a majority of them concerning to

dismiss him or her from the school and the Committee or the Selectmen shall provide

another who may be more useful –

4<sup>th</sup> It shall be the duty of the Committee to close each visit to the School with addressing themselves to the Scholars upon the Duty of Order the necessary respectability and advantages of good education –

## **Section II - Concerning the duty of School Masters –**

1<sup>st</sup> It shall be the duty of every School Master to open his School in the morning & close it in the evening with prayers

2<sup>nd</sup> It shall be the duty of the Master or Mistress to adopt such general regulations as will have tendency to operate uniformly throughout the whole school that every one may have an equal chance to pursue & improve in his particular branch of study & be subject to the same rules of government.

3<sup>rd</sup> The Instructor shall endeavour to govern his respective school by the skillfulness of his hand and the integrity of his heart with using as little severity as he shall judge will be for the best good of the school but where mild measures will not subject the idle to the good order regulations of the school the Instructor shall have a right to inflict reasonable & decent corporal punishment –

4<sup>th</sup> It shall be the duty of the Instructor to [the rest of the page is blank]

## **Proceedings of a Town Meeting for the choice of a Representative to Congress**

**agreeable to Warrant dated October 24 1800 No 40**

The votes were as followeth

The Honorable Mannassah Cutler	44 votes
Doctor Thomas Kitridge	42 votes

**Proceedings of a Town Meeting Nov 3<sup>rd</sup> 1800 agreeable to Warrant dated October 25 1800 No 41**

1<sup>st</sup> Choose (chose) Stephen Barker Esq. **Moderator** for said Meeting

2<sup>nd</sup> Voted to allow Stephen Huse for gathering taxes for the year 1800 according to the first contract

**To Mr Peter Marston Clerk for the Town of Methuen**

We the Subscribers Selectmen & Assessors for the Town of Methuen have divided the Nonresident Land in Said Town to, and among the several School Wards in Said Town, agreeable to a late (recent) Law of this Commonwealth in order that in all

assessments made and proportioned in any of the Said wards for the purpose of building or repairing a School House, may be also proportioned on the owners of Nonresident Lands; which is set and annexed to such respective wards as follows –

<b>Ward No 1</b>	<b>Assessed</b>	<b>Improved</b>	<b>Assessed</b>
<b>Unimproved</b>			
Honorable Joseph B. Farnum	6		1
Kindal Parker	6		6
Peter Parker	28		21
Jonathan Parker	5		--
Moses Newell	2		--
James Mansur	20		22
<u>Samuel White Esq.</u>	8		63

**Ward No 2**

John S. Harvey – Dracutt	12	14
<u>Samuel Mansur – Newbury Port</u>	2	--

**Ward No 3**

Enoch Titcomb – Newbury Port	--	27
Paul Gerrish – Newbury	--	14
Honorable Samuel Phillips – Andover	--	9
<u>William Richardson – Andover</u>	--	<u>20</u>

#### **Ward No 4 – East part of Meeting House Ward**

Abner Greenleaf – Newbury	--	20
Captain Joseph Brown – Newbury	--	14
Doctor Thomas Huse	--	10
Edmond Kimball	15	9
William Kimball ??	15	4
Timothy Kimball	15	11
Captain James Kimball	--	21
Major Samuel Johnson	--	5
Isaac Roberson	--	6

#### **Ward No 5**

William Kimball – Newburyport	--	5
Abel Greenleaf – Newburyport	--	4
Joseph Newell	--	5
Gage (Andover)	5	4
Abel Huse – Derryfield	13	--
Ebenezer Mitchel's Heirs – Haverhill	35	10
John Haseltine – Bradford	--	3 <sup>3/4</sup>
John Peabody – Bradford	--	2 <sup>1/2</sup>

Doctor Thomas Webster	--	9
Samuel Webster	--	6
Moses Webster	--	6
Dudley Carleton Esq.	--	8
Daniel Buswell	--	2 <sup>1/2</sup>
Daniel Carleton	--	2 <sup>1/2</sup>
James Campbell	--	4
Stephen Carleton	--	7
Ruben Carleton	--	1
Joseph Carleton	--	1
Samuel Chadwick	--	5 <sup>1/2</sup>
Ezra Trask	--	2
John Day	--	48
John Griffen	--	10
Ebenezer Griffen	--	17
Elijah Kimble	--	5
Nathan Kimble	--	5

Jonathan Chadwick	20	7 <sup>1/2</sup>
Daniel Gage	--	2
Sarah Kimble	--	2
Daniel Kimbell	--	4
Rev. Jonathan Allen	--	8
David Carlton	--	2
<u>Stephen Foster</u>	6	14

### Ward No 6

Peter Ayer – heirs of Haverhill	--	24
Nathan Parley	11	15
Nathaniel Marsh Esq.	--	10
Nathaniel Eaton heirs	--	13
Lieutenant David Webster	--	9
Joseph Hayns	7	43
Samuel Barber	23	7
Kimbal Carlton	11	6
Peter Ayer	--	6
Benjamin Bailey	3	17
Enoch Bradley	-	10
Capt Samuel Merrill	45	130
Woodbridge Bailey	--	3
Jonathan Merrill	15	5
Capt Isaac How	--	12
David Marsh	--	5
Even L. Jones	6	--
<u>John Lowell</u>	6	--

### Ward No 7

John P. White	8	--
Josiah Gutterson	5	5
Jonathan Webster	6	--
David How	--	41
Stephen Webster	--	40
Doctor Samuel Webster	7	10
Capt John Carrier	20	25
Samuel Day	--	16
Joseph Day	--	28
Mary Day	--	20
Bailey Day	--	40

<u>Moses Day – heirs</u>	--	20
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**Ward No 8 – being the westerly part of the Meeting House ward**

Seth Emerson	20	20
Farnum Hall	21	5
Phillip Morrill	15	--
Abraham Day	15	39
Uriah Gage	19	4
Peter Gage	12	36