

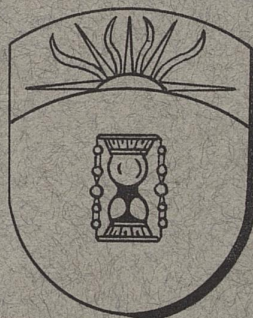
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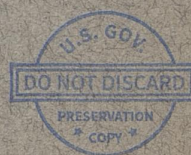
No. 2



Vol. IV

West Greenwich

1741



INVENTORY OF THE TOWN AND CITY

ARCHIVES OF RHODE ISLAND

NO. 2. Kent County

VOL. IV. WEST GREENWICH

Prepared by

The Rhode Island Historical Records Survey
Division of Service Programs
Work Projects Administration

Sponsored by

State of Rhode Island, Record Commissioner

Providence, Rhode Island
The Rhode Island Historical Records Survey
April 1942

HISTORICAL RECORDS SURVEY

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P R E F A C E

The Historical Records Survey originated by authority of a Presidential Letter in January 1936 as a nation-wide project of the Work Projects Administration. The Survey began to operate in Rhode Island in April of that year. Prior to July 1939 the project was Federally sponsored but since that date it has been sponsored by the State of Rhode Island under the Office of Record Commissioner, and operated as a Statewide project. The style and arrangement has been approved by the State officials and follows the recommendations of the National organization.

The purpose of the Survey is to inventory, organize, and describe the records in possession of State, city, and town governmental units; also to inventory church records and manuscript collections of historical societies and individuals. The inventories thus prepared are to be made available in volume form to lawyers, historians, officials, students of government, and the public. In conjunction with these inventories the Survey is to prepare and make available inventories of civilian organizations, make descriptive inventories of housing and storage facilities of archives, manuscripts, records, and museum treasures for emergency deposit in protected areas; also to assist curators and custodians in preparing priority lists of such material.

The Inventory of the Town and City Archives of Rhode Island will, when completed, consist of a series, separately numbered for each county in the State. Counties are numbered according to alphabetical position; towns are numbered likewise, within each county. The publications of the Survey are distributed free to State and local officials, and to a selected group of public and institutional libraries. In addition to listing the records of the various town officers, this inventory briefly sketches the historical background of the town of West Greenwich and describes the organization of the offices whose records are listed. Records are described in formalized entries to give the following information: title of record, dates for which available, quantity, labeling of volumes or containers, information on missing and discontinued records, variant titles, description of record contents, manner of arrangement, indexing, nature of recording, size of volume or contents, and location.

The project gratefully acknowledges the courtesy and cooperation extended to us by the town officials of West Greenwich and the helpful support given by Miss Grace M. Sherwood, Record Commissioner and Librarian of the State of Rhode Island, various State officials, and the advisory direction of Sargent B. Child, National Director of the Historical Records Survey. The cover design was made for the Inventory by the WPA Rhode Island Art Project, and the binding of the volume done by the Statewide Library Project, State House.

R. I. Historical Records Survey
Providence, R. I.
April 1942

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ABBREVIATIONS, SYMBOLS, AND EXPLANATORY NOTES

A. & R.	. .	abbreviated reference citing Acts and Resolves
A. D.	. .	Anno Domini (in the year of our Lord)
alpha.	. .	alphabetically
approx.	. .	approximately
A., R. & R.	. .	abbreviated reference citing Acts, Resolves and Re- ports
arr.	. .	arranged
Art.	. .	Article
aver.	. .	average
bdl(s).	. .	bundle(s)
C. C. C.	. .	Civilian Conservation Corps
C. E.	. .	Civil Engineer
ch.	. .	chapter
chron.	. .	chronologically
Co.	. .	Company
Const.	. .	Constitution
Dept.	. .	Department
env(s).	. .	envelope(s)
Esq.	. .	Esquire
etc.	. .	et cetera (and so forth)
f. d.	. .	file drawer
Gen. Stat.	. .	General Statute
G. L.	. .	abbreviated reference citing General Laws
hdw.	. .	handwritten
hor.	. .	horizontal
Ibid.	. .	<u>ibidem</u> (in the same place)
interim	. .	in the meantime
No(s).	. .	number(s)
numer.	. .	numerically
obv.	. .	obvious
p., pp.	. .	page, pages
<u>passim</u>	. .	here and there
P. L.	. .	abbreviated reference citing Public Laws
R.	. .	room
res.	. .	residence
R. I.	. .	Rhode Island
R. I. Col. Recs.	. .	abbreviated reference citing Rhode Island Colony Records
sec.	. .	section
<u>sic.</u>	. .	thus
St.	. .	Street
T. C. R.	. .	abbreviated reference citing Town Council Records
T. M. R.	. .	abbreviated reference citing Town Meeting Records
U. S.	. .	United States
vert.	. .	vertical
vol(s)	. .	volume(s)
W. P. A.	. .	Work Projects Administration

Abbreviations, Symbols, and
Explanatory Notes

Symbols

--	. .	current, to the closing date of inventory
. . .	. .	ellipsis, indicating omission of part of a quotation, text, or section
#	. .	number
=	. .	equals
x	. .	by
/	. .	oblique (and or or)
&	. .	and
&C	. .	by itself and

Explanatory Notes

Title: Exact titles of records are written in solid capitals without parentheses (as in entry 2). In the absence of titles, descriptive titles have been assigned, which are written in solid capitals and enclosed in parentheses (as in entry 1). If a record title is not descriptive of the contents of the record, an assigned explanatory title (or explanatory words), written with initial capitals and enclosed in parentheses, has been added (as in entry 4). The current or most recent title of a record is used as the entry title and title variation is indicated (as in entry 4).

Dates: First and last dates covered by a particular record are shown in the title line of the entry. Continuous records are shown by a hyphen between the beginning and closing dates, as 1765-1874 (see entry 17). Lapses in the records are indicated by commas between the groups of inclusive dates, as 1776, 78, 80-82, 1862 (see entry 27a). Current dates are indicated by two hyphens, as 1906--. When dates of a record cannot be ascertained, the expression "undated" is used.

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

Labeling: Letters, numbers, or dates in parentheses, following the number of volumes, file boxes, or other type of container, indicate the labeling. If no labeling is indicated, it may be assumed that there is none.

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

Description of Records: The description of the contents of a record applies only to the current or most recent record unless a change in contents is actually shown in a record entry.

Abbreviations, Symbols, and
Explanatory Notes

Indexing: All indexes to records, unless otherwise stated, are self-contained.

Dimensions: When the dimensions of file boxes, volumes, etc., vary greatly the size of the two extremes is given. When two or more types of containers are considered in an entry, the dimensions item is arranged to correspond with the quantity item to which they apply. Dimensions are always given in inches unless otherwise indicated, therefore, the symbol for inches ("") is omitted.

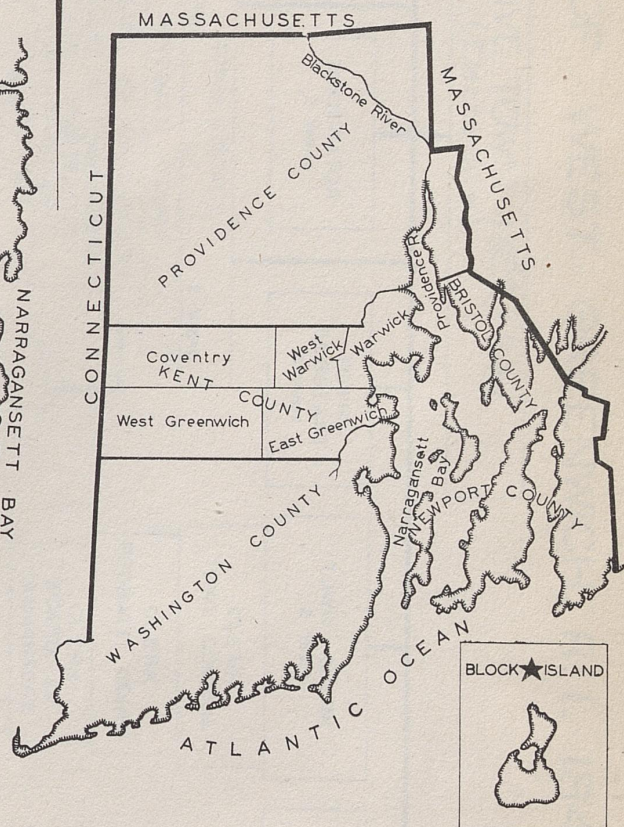
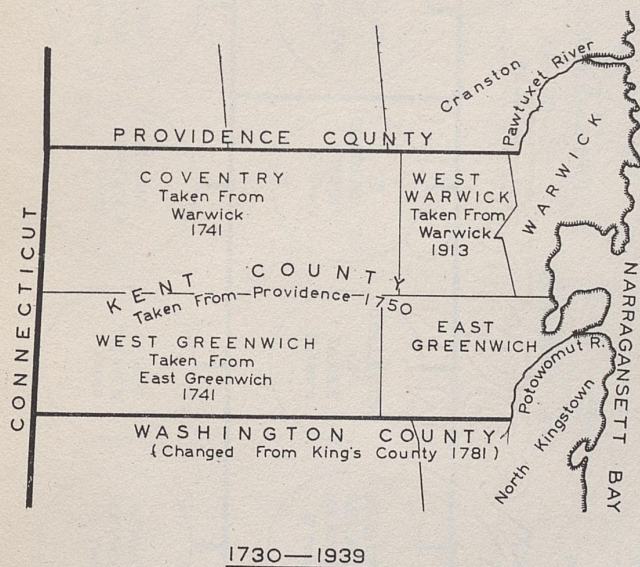
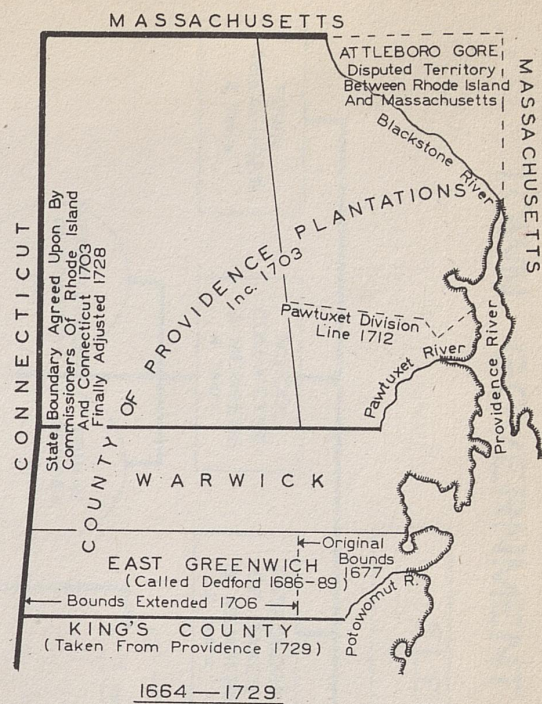
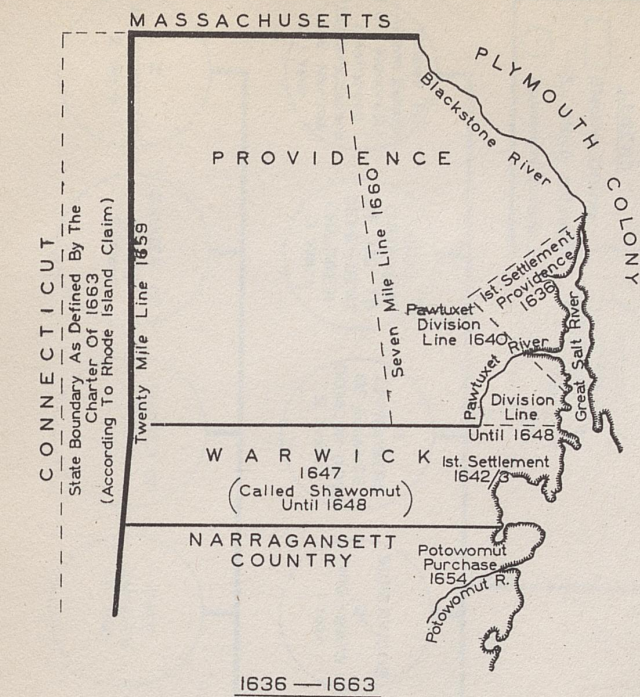
Location of Records: When all or the majority of the records of an office have a common location, the location is indicated in the last sentence of the office essay instead of each individual entry.

Cross References: Title-line cross references are used in the master entry to complete a series for records kept separately for a period of time, and in other records for different periods of time, as in entry 11: "1741-1829 in Council Records (Minutes of Proceedings), entry 4-b; 1828-46 in Probate Record of Wills, entry 14-m." The sub-entries 4-b and 14-m refer the searcher directly to the master entry 11, which carries complete cross references for the record series.

Third-paragraph cross references are given to show related records, or to prior, intermediate, coextensive, and subsequent records which are not a part of the same series.

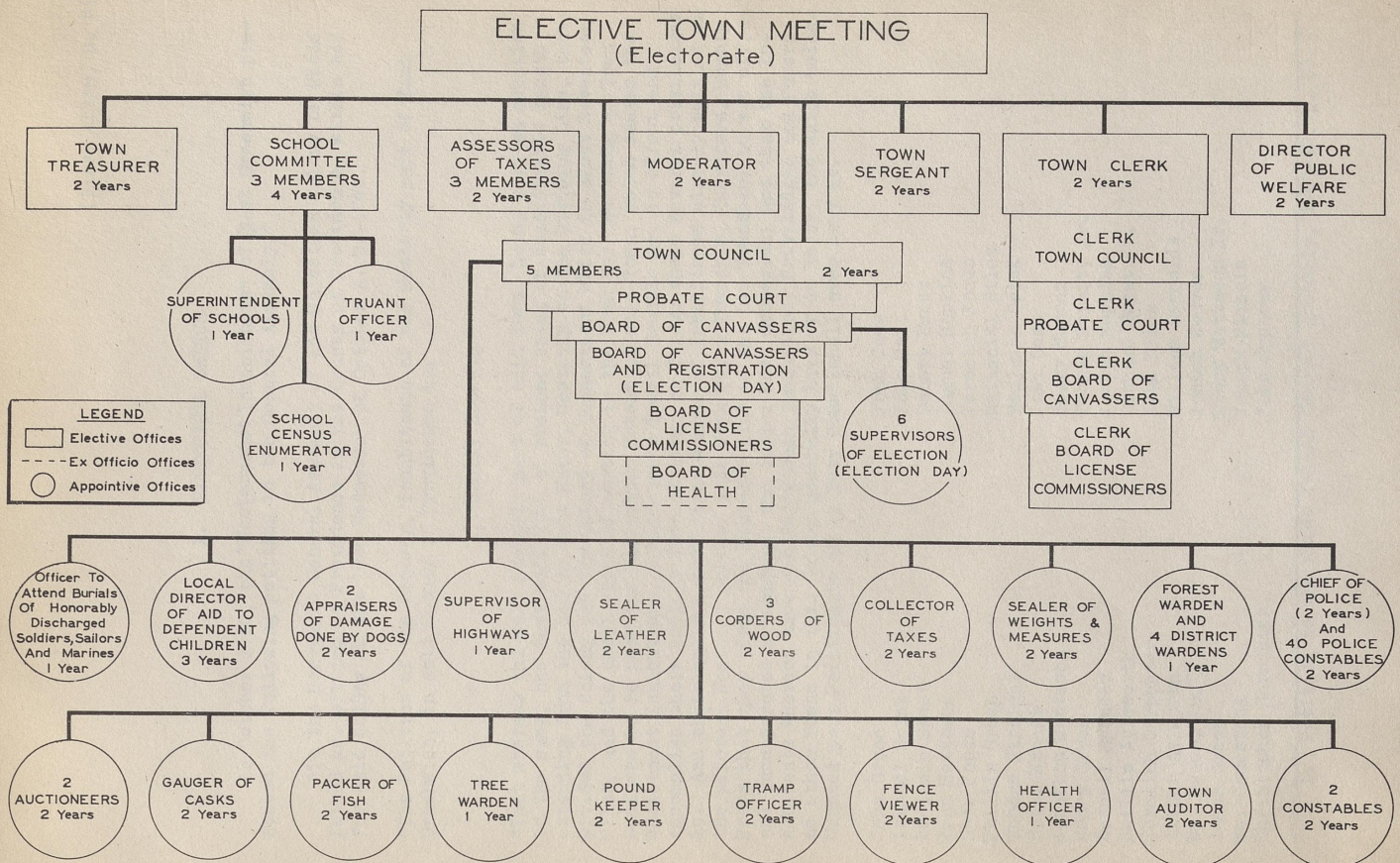
For complete references to any subject, consult the subject index.

Arrangement: This item is used to show the logical order or planned sequence by which items have been entered in records; it means the internal arrangement of records in volumes, file boxes, or other containers, and not the arrangement of volumes on a shelf. Entries in tabular form are arranged alphabetically by subject matter, and chronologically thereunder. The arrangement, dimensions, and location shown at the end of each entry, in the case of an entry in tabular form, apply to the whole entry and not to individual parts thereof.



EVOLUTION OF THE TOWNS IN KENT COUNTY

TOWN GOVERNMENT OF WEST GREENWICH, R.I. 1940



1. HISTORICAL SKETCH

In October 1740, the "Westernmost Inhabitants" of East Greenwich presented the following petition to the General Assembly.¹

"To the Honorable General Assembly of his Majesties Colony of Rhode Island &c. sitting at Providence in the County of Providence, within and for said colony on the last Wednesday of October A. D. 1740.

"The Petition of the freemen, Inhabitants of the Westerly part of East Greenwich, in said County of Providence &c.

"Humbly Sheweth

"That whereas the said Westerly part of said Town, being only an addition to the same, and that said Town at present being of considerable length extending from the sea or Salt Water, Westerly to the Dividing Line, that Divided the Colony and the Colony of Connecticut which is about Seventeen Miles, and the usual place of meeting in the Town for the doing of Town Business &c is near the Easternmost Extent of said Town, which causes the Westernmost Inhabitants, considerable Travil Trouble &c. to effect and accomplish their publick Town affairs: or forego their several priviledges &c. And their being a sufficient Number of Inhabitants already settled on the affores^d Westerly part of said Town for a Township, Therefore, Humbly Prays that they (from the Westerly Line of the Old Township) be set off, and Incorporated a Township, and called West Greenwich; And that the Inhabitants thereof have and Enjoy such Immunities, Priviledges and Powers as other Towns in this Colony generally have or do Enjoy; the Which being Granted your Petitioners as in Duty Bound shall ever pray &c.

John Green
Ishmael Spink
Benjamin Sweet
John Matteson
Seth Jones
Phillip Green
Thomas Straight
Peter Wreast
Jonathan Matteson
Henry Green
Samuell Spencer
Phillip Ayleworth
Jeremiah Carpenter
Arthur Aylworth
Wm. Sweet, Jun^r
James Green
Wm. Comestock
Christopher Carpenter

John Case
John Wait
Robert Sweet
Samuel Hopkins
Jeremiah Jones
Nathaniel Niles
Benjamin Spink
John Cass
Henry Summer
Thomas Strait, Jr.
Joseph Hopkins
Richard Sweet Jr.
John Niles
William Reynolds
Joseph Weaver
Henry Matteson Jr.
Joseph Nichols
John Spencer

1. Petition to the Rhode Island General Assembly, 1738-42, p. 68.

Historical Sketch

(First entry, p. 9).

James Reynold
John Jones
Henry Matteson

James Matteson
Benjamin Gardner
Henry Goff, Jr.

"We the Subscribers Freemen and Inhabitants of the Easterly part of East Greenwich do hereby freely and willingly give our Asent to the above written Petition, And Humbly Prays the Honourable General Assembly to allow the Same.

Joseph Norion ?
Anthony Aylsworth
Wm. Baley
John Fry
Nathan Rice
Joseph Nichols
Joseph Tillinghast
Abner Spencer Son of Michael
John Spencer " " Wm.
Israel Underwood
Thos. Spencer Jr.
Tho. Goodfellow
Robert Estes
John Coupe
Peter Stevens
Clem^t Cooper
Thomas Casey

John Hammett
Thomas Spencer Son of John
Thomas Matteson
John Langford
John Pierce Jr.
Henry Tibbets
Philip Tillinghast
Samuel Soule
Joseph Corey
Peter Spencer
John Godfrey
John Arnold
William Sweet
John Pierce
John Wells
John Andrews
Alexander Nichols
Josiah Burlingame

"Oct. 31, 1740 - To the House of Mag^{tes}
Resolved that this Petition be referred to next Session of Assembly and that the Town of E. Greenwich be forw'd with a copy of this Petition & Cited to appear at next Session of Assembly at the Charge of the Petitioners

Noted and Passed

Concurred with
per order

per order J. Lyndon Clerk

Peter Bours, Dept. Sec'y.

"April 2, 1741 - To the House of Mag^{tes}
Gen^t Resolved that this petition be granted and that after so chosen to let out to New Town part of the Bank money and that the Justice of Peace within new Town remain till first Wednesday & that the Kings Attorney forthwith draw up and act accordingly.

Noted and Passed

Wm. J. Lyndon Clerk

Concurred with
per order
Jas. Martin Sec'y"

The eastern part of the town made no objection to the division; in fact, the vote in the town records in regard to the matter shows that they were not only willing for the change, but even glad.

"Propositions for setting off the westerly part of said town into a township by itself, as set forth in a petition now lying before the General Assembly. The Moderator put it to a vote whether they would give consent for the setting off the westerly part of said town, as aforesaid, or not, and the vote was in the affirmative by a very great majority."²

The following act was passed in the General Assembly in April 1741: ³

"An Act for incorporating the West End of the Town of East Greenwich into a Township, and the same to be distinguished and known by the name of West Greenwich

"Whereas. Several of the Inhabitants of the aforesaid Town of East Greenwich by Petition to this Assembly did set forth the great disadvantage They labour under on account of the great Extent of said Town; And as it is conceived, It will be more for the Ease and Benefit of all its Inhabitants in transacting and negotiating the prudential Affairs there to have a Division made.

"Be it therefore enacted by the General Assembly, and by the Authority Thereof it is enacted, That from the Westerly Line of the Old Township as unto the Colony Line be set off and Incorporated a Township, and the Same to be distinguished and known by the name of West Greenwich; And that the Inhabitants there of from Time to Time shall have and enjoy the like, Benefits, Liberties, Priviledges and Immunities with other Towns in this Colony according to our Charter.

"And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That John Spencer Esq. a Justice of the Peace living within the afore said new Town remain in his office till the first Wednesday in May next and that he grant forth a warrant to call in the Inhabitants of the said Town, together on the Third Tuesday of this instant April to choose and elect such Town Officers as they shall have occasion for and the Law directs and to appoint the Time of their Town Meeting and the Places, and to choose and elect Two Deputies to represent Them at the next General Assembly, and soon as by the charter is directed.

"And it is further enacted by the Authority above said, That said Town shall send One Petit Juror to the Superior Court of Judicature, Court of Assize and General Gaol Delivery; and One Grand and One Petit Juror to the Inferior Court of Common Pleas and General Sessions of the Peace.

"And it is further enacted, That there be Two Trustees appointed for the said new Town, for the letting out of its proportionable Part of the Twenty Thousand Pounds ordered to be emitted.

"Voted & Resolved that John Spencer Esq. & Mr. John Green be Committee Men for the Town of West Greenwich to let out their proportionable Part of the Bank Money."

2. Greene, op. cit.; p. 15.

3. R. I. Col. Recs., vol. 5, 1741-1756, pp. 430-431.

Historical Sketch

(First entry, p. 9)

No record has been found of the appointment of a committee to run the West Greenwich boundary lines, or of its ever having been run. The original western boundary of East Greenwich was decided upon as the dividing line between the two towns, and the southern and northern boundaries continued in effect in West Greenwich as had been settled for East Greenwich in 1706 and 1888. The only dispute ever recorded in regard to any of these lines was with Connecticut about the monument at the old southwest corner of Warwick, which is at present the corner of Coventry and West Greenwich. The differences were settled, a monument was placed, and the report of the commission was entered in the general assembly records, March 8, 1742/3.⁴ Today the boundary limits of West Greenwich, Coventry on the north, Exeter on the south, East Greenwich on the east, and Connecticut on the west, enclose an area of 51.32 square miles.

In the early years of its history, the town was a center of rural and small industrial activity. The first census of the town, taken in 1748, shows there were 766 inhabitants. In 1755 the population had increased to 1,246, and thereafter, there was a steady growth until the peak was reached in 1790; census records show there were 2,054 persons in the town at that date.⁵

From 1790 to 1820 there was a slight fluctuation in population, but generally there was no appreciable change during this period. Beginning in 1820 the population has declined steadily down to the present. There seems to have been no single cause for the consistent reduction in the number of inhabitants, but the advent of the industrial era coupled with the westward movements seem to have been contributing factors. The building of railroads, resulting in the abandonment of turnpikes, particularly the New London turnpike, so-called, perhaps was the event in the locality of West Greenwich which gave impetus to the downward trend of population. Whatever may have been the cause, the records show the loss to have been a persistent decline from 1,927 persons in 1820 to a mere 400 in 1938.⁶

In 1750, Providence County was broken up and Kent County was formed to include Coventry, East Greenwich, Warwick, and West Greenwich.⁷ There was a great deal of controversy between East Greenwich and Warwick over the county seat, East Greenwich finally being successful; but West Greenwich stood apart and apparently manifested not even a mild interest, as no mention is made of the affair in the town records.

The first settlers in the town were farmers, who, in spite of the crude agricultural methods of the day, managed to make good livings. Perhaps that is one reason why they were willing to stay in the quiet solitude of the town and not join in the commercial activity of the coastal settlements.

4. R. I. Col. Recs., vol. 5, p. 59.

5. Louis W. Cappelli, Secretary of State, Manual with Rules and Orders for the use of the General Assembly of the State of Rhode Island, 1937-38, pp. 369, 370.

6. Ibid., pp. 370-373.

7. Acts & Resolves, Oct. 1747 to Oct. 1753, June 1750, pp. 23-25.

Also, West Greenwich in its early history was not so isolated, comparatively speaking, from the outside world as it is now. The New London turnpike, one of the main highways from New York to Boston, ran through the town, and many travelers stopping to refresh themselves brought both news from other parts of the country and a certain amount of trade. In time, when the railroad replaced the stage-coach as a means of travel, this highway, which was once a connecting link, was abandoned and deteriorated into a typical country road.

Several small mills were built in West Greenwich when water-power was dominant. Cotton cloth and yarn were the chief products manufactured, although others, including carriages and farming implements, were produced in small quantities. These mills, not being able to stand the competition of large concerns in other parts of the State, gradually gave way to the pressure, and the manufacturing industry in the town died almost as soon as it was born.

As early as 1750 steps were taken to provide a formal organization for public worship in the town, by the formation of the West Greenwich Baptist Society.⁸ Although the land evidence records reveal that one Samuel Reynolds in 1764 made a grant of a parcel of land to the society,⁹ no definite proof of the erection of a church building appears until 1825, at which time an edifice was constructed at West Greenwich Center to house the congregation;¹⁰ this building has continued to provide accommodations for the original group's successors in church membership.

In 1850, the Freewill Baptist Church was organized,¹¹ and in 1862 a building was erected in the Sharpe Street district as a meeting place for its members.¹² This group, although now few in number, continues to hold services in the original structure. The Advent Chapel was erected at Escoheag in 1870 by Jason P. Hazard, a distinguished member of this particular denomination.¹³ Regular services have been conducted in the chapel since the date of its founding.¹⁴ In 1885, the Nooseneck Baptist Church was established;¹⁵ and in 1893 a building to house the congregation was dedicated.¹⁶ This structure is located on Nooseneck Hill, and remains a popular place of worship.

8. John A. Bates, Historical Sketch of the West Greenwich Baptist Church, in Minutes of the Rhode Island Baptist Anniversaries, 1890, Providence, pp. 20-28.

9. Record of Deeds, (1760-66), pp. 290, 291.

10. Hoag, Wade & Co., History of the State of Rhode Island 1636-1878, 1878, Philadelphia, p. 332.

11. Ibid.

12. Ibid.

13. Ibid.; Minute Book of the Escoheag Advent Christian Church, 1871--.

14. Minute Book of the Escoheag Advent Christian Church, 1871--.

15. John W. Rathbun, Historical Sketch of Nooseneck Baptist Church, in Minutes of the Rhode Island Baptist Anniversaries, 1898, Providence, pp. 16, 17.

16. Ibid.

As no public meeting house came into being in the town until 1936, the church, together with the schoolhouse and private home, provided the only places for popular assembly in the town.

Today, West Greenwich maintains five one-room schoolhouses, several of the present structures replacing buildings either destroyed by fire or discarded as obsolete. These schools are Nooseneck (1870) located on the Nooseneck Hill Road in Nooseneck; Kitt's Corner (1875) situated at Kitt's Corner, also in Nooseneck; Plain (1885) maintained in the Division Street section of the town; Hitty Corner (1905) lying deep in the woods at Hopkin's Hill; and William E. Louttit (1936) located on the Victory Highway, in the Sharpe Street district.

West Greenwich, aside from the several public schools, has but one publicly owned building, a Town Hall, erected in 1936, and located off the Nooseneck Hill Road in the village of Nooseneck.

Although West Greenwich has no public library, the need therefore is filled in part, at least, by the State library extension service. Through this service, books are made available for both adults and school children in the town during the summer vacation periods. The Nooseneck School is the usual center of distribution. These libraries are generally known as "traveling libraries," and are under the general supervision of the State Librarian, through whose office the extension service operates.¹⁷

The entire countryside of West Greenwich is dotted with numerous private cemeteries, the markers therein containing many distinguished family names long identified with the history and development of this country township. Many of these private burial lots are under the perpetual care of custodians and caretakers annually appointed by the town council. Care of these private lots is provided for under the terms of various trust deeds, charging the town council and their successors in office with the duty of providing for their upkeep.¹⁸ Also located in West Greenwich is a general burial ground, situated in West Greenwich Center, and known as the "Plain Meeting House Cemetery."

Shortly after the World War the town dedicated a lot and a granite memorial on the summit of Nooseneck Hill to the memory of those from West Greenwich who served their country in the Civil and World Wars. A bronze plaque on the east side of the memorial perpetuates the memory of those veterans serving in the World War from the town, and inscribed on the south side are the names of those participating in the Civil War. A caretaker is appointed annually by the town council to care for this lot and monument.¹⁹

17. P. L., 1907, ch. 1451; P. L., Jan. 1920, ch. 1875;
P. L., May 1935, ch. 2250, sec. 21.

18. G. L., 1923, ch. 51, sec. 40, pp. 289, 290; G. L., 1938,
ch. 333, sec. 40, p. 707.

19. T. C. R. (1919--).

Historical Sketch

(First entry, p. 9).

Located off Nooseneck Hill is the Nooseneck Forest Park Reservation (15.36 acres). This park was formerly the site of the third C. C. C. Camp in Rhode Island. It now serves as headquarters for the U. S. National Park Headquarters and as storage quarters for Emergency Conservation Work.

Situated off Bald Hill and Plain Roads in West Greenwich Center is the Wickaboxet State Forest (288 acres). This reservation is used for forest experimental purposes and for the breeding of, and the experimentation in, local wild life. Maintained on this woodland tract is an administration building and also a fire tower.

West Greenwich has no compact, built-up area. Nooseneck, the governmental center, holding more of the town's 400 inhabitants than any of its other villages, so-called, is spread out over the general vicinity of Nooseneck Hill Road from the Coventry line to Exeter. Farther to the west, in the proximity of the Connecticut border, are West Greenwich Center and Escoheag, these communities being little more than cross-road farming centers. The remainder of the 400 inhabitants are located on widely separated farms scattered over the town's 51.32 square miles of countryside.

West Greenwich is situated within the territorial jurisdiction of the superior court in and for the county of Kent, which court sits periodically in Historic Kent County Courthouse, located in the neighboring town of East Greenwich,²⁰ the county seat. West Greenwich is also within the territory over which the fourth district court has jurisdiction²¹ (4th Judicial District, Kent County). The medical examiner for district No. 1, Kent County, has jurisdiction over the towns of West Greenwich and Coventry.²² West Greenwich, being west of Narragansett Bay, is in the Second Congressional District.²³

20. P. L., Jan. 1931, ch. 1775, secs. 1, 2; G. L., 1938, ch. 498, secs. 2, 4, p. 955.

21. G. L., 1923, ch. 330, sec. 1, p. 1385; G. L., 1938, ch. 500, sec. 1, p. 958.

22. G. L., 1923, ch. 409, sec. 2, p. 1783; G. L., 1938, ch. 11, sec. 2(b), p. 72.

23. G. L., 1938, ch. 322, sec. 2, p. 688.

I. TOWN MODERATOR

Among the first officers to be chosen was one whose principal function it was to preside over the town meeting and to maintain good order and peace therein.¹

The only extant record of the first meeting in West Greenwich appears on a fly-leaf of the first volume of the town meeting records, and consists entirely of a list of officers chosen at this meeting.² The town moderator is not included in this group. The following meeting, however, named John Spencer as the presiding officer,³ doubtlessly the John Spencer, Esq., Justice of the Peace, who under the provisions of the act incorporating the town was directed to issue the warrant for the calling of the first town meeting.⁴

Until 1845 a moderator was chosen at each meeting,⁵ from 1845 to 1914 annually,⁶ and from 1914 to date, biennially.⁷ The office has always been elective.⁸

The moderator keeps no records.

II. TOWN MEETING

The town meeting is an assembly of all qualified inhabitants of the town at which those entitled to participate take part directly in the affairs of local government.¹ The first town meeting in West Greenwich was held on April 21, 1741 with John Spencer in all probability acting as moderator.² The freeholders among other things chose town officers, deputies to the general assembly, and set time and place for future meetings.³ The town meeting has remained the proper agency for ordering of town's fiscal affairs, and in a modified form, continues to provide a suitable means and method for the exercise of the right of suffrage.

Until 1829, the qualified inhabitants of the town continued to meet regularly in April, May, August, and December at which time the regular

1. Records of the Town of Portsmouth (1642), pp. 19-20.

2. T. M. R. (1741).

3. Ibid.

4. R. I. Col. Recs., vol. 5, pp. 430-431.

5. T. M. R. (1741-1845).

6. T. M. R. (1845-1914).

7. T. M. R. (1914-1930); Record of Elections (1930--).

8. T. M. R. (1741-1930); Record of Elections (1930--).

1. William T. Davis, "The Constitutional History of Rhode Island".

2. T. M. R. (1741).

3. Ibid.

Town Meeting - Warrants; Minutes

(1-2)

December meeting was discarded.⁴ The three other regular meetings were held annually until 1850, when the August meeting was eliminated.⁵ From 1850 to 1895, the electors met annually in April and May;⁶ from 1896 until 1914, in June and November;⁷ and from 1914 to 1934 annually in May, and biennially in November.⁸ From 1914 to date one elective meeting popularly called the "election" has been held biennially in November.⁹ The financial meeting, however, has continued to be held annually.¹⁰ Meetings are also held every fourth year for choosing presidential and vice presidential electors, 1800--; also special meetings have been called from time to time.¹¹

Today at the elections held biennially the electors choose: a State Senator, a Representative, a town moderator, town clerk, five members of a town council, town sergeant, three assessors of taxes and a director of public welfare. Votes are also cast for a Senator upon expiration of each 6-year term, and a representative in Congress, a Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General and General Treasurer.¹²

The town clerk is clerk of all town meetings and makes and keeps a record of the proceedings.¹³

Warrants

1. (WARRANTS FOR CALLING OF TOWN MEETINGS), 1922--. 35 sheets.

Original warrants for calling of town meetings, showing name of town, date and place of meeting, reason for call, articles and propositions to be acted upon, seal and signature of town clerk. Town sergeant's return annexed, showing name of town, state, date, places where notices were posted, signature of town sergeant. Arr. chron. by date of warrant. No index. Ldw. 18 x 7. Safe, town clerk's office.

Minutes

2. TOWN MEETING BOOK, 1741--. 4 vols. (1-4).

Minutes of proceedings of annual, financial, and special town meetings, showing date, time, place, and purpose of meeting; actions on such matters as appointment of special committees, instructions to delegates to constitutional conventions, deputies, and representatives, decrees and resolutions;

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4. T. M. R. (1741-1829).
 5. T. M. R. (1830-50).
 6. T. M. R. (1850-95).
 7. T. M. R. (1896-1914).
 8. T. M. R. (1914-30); Record of Elections (1930--).
 9. T. M. R. (1914-30); Record of Elections (1930--).
 10. T. M. R. (1741--); P. L., Jan. 1934, ch. 2168, sec. 1.
 11. T. M. R. (1741-1930); Record of Elections (1930--).
 12. Record of Elections (1930--).
 13. T. M. R. (1741-1930); Record of Elections (1930--).

Town Meeting - Minutes

(2)

admitting freemen after being propounded, rejection and recision, with reason stated, restoration of election franchise (1741-1842), lending town's money to freeholders (1741-1842); orders and authorizations for procedure of school committee (1830-73), fixing bonds of town clerk, treasurer, and tax collector, and accepting sureties (1770-1843); orders and authorizations for procedure of school committee (1830-73); accepting, postponing action, or rejecting reports of town officers and committees, and fixing their fees and compensations; imposition of town (1741--), State (1841-1935), school (1828-1904), and highway (1808-95) taxes; granting exemptions (1771-82), abatements (1733-1803); fixing bounties on predatory animals and birds (1745-1858); approving expropriation for public use, authorizing condemnation, exchanging land for and laying out of highway (1741-79); arbitration of town boundaries (1741-79); remanding transients, warning vagrants to leave town (1741-61); allowing bills and granting orders for payment of town obligations; town ordinances; impressing, equipping, hiring, allotting bounties and accepting substitutes for soldiers in the colonial and civil wars; petitions; annual appropriations to town departments; providing isolation in infectious diseases, rules and regulations, fixing and remitting fines for violations (1760-78); directing town clerk to issue warrants for subsequent town meetings; authorizing town treasurer to issue bonds to general treasurer (1776-1803), to borrow money (1754--); leasing town land and property (1790-1813); ordering composition and payment of town's unpaid orders (1790-1828); adjournments, date of subsequent meetings, time adjourned, clerk's attest. Also contains:

- a. jury list, 1741-1828. For subsequent records 1829-92, see entry 4-l; 1893--, see entry 7.
- b. list of (qualified) freeholders, 1741-1843. For subsequent records 1933--, see entry 9.
- c. returns of elections, 1741-1920. For subsequent records 1930--, see entry 61.
- d. list of proxies, 1743-1842.
- e. auditor's reports, 1743-1903.
- f. record of polls, 1756-1871. For related printed record 1864--, see entry 65-h.
- g. reports of viewers of freehold, 1828-42. For subsequent related records 1844--, see entry 4-m.
- h. town treasurer's reports, 1829-63. For original reports 1915--, see entry 8; for record of duplicate reports 1935--, see entry 82.

Arr. chron. by date of meeting. Vols. 1-3 indexed by dates of meeting, vol. 4 no index. Hdw. Aver. 250 pp. 13 x 9 x 1 $\frac{1}{2}$. Vols. 1, 2, 1741-1811, State Archives, R. 314, State House, Providence; vols. 3, 4, 1811--, safe, town clerk's office.

Town Council

(Next entry 3, p. 12).

III. TOWN COUNCIL

When the freemen of West Greenwich met for the first time on April 21, 1741 and chose their first town council, it was composed of six freeholders of their own choosing, namely, Ishmael Spink, John Greene, John Cass, Samuel Hopkins, Joseph Weaver, and John Greene, son of John.¹ Thenceforth, the council has been made up solely of members chosen by the electorate of the town or of members chosen by the council itself to fill vacancies in this agency.² Eligibility remained dependent upon the freehold until 1843,³ when the State Constitution extended the right to hold civil office to all qualified electors under the new system.⁴

From 1741 to 1799, the council retained its original membership of six,⁵ from 1799 to 1822, the original statute having been altered by an act passed by the general assembly in 1798,⁶ membership fluctuated between seven and five;⁷ and from the latter date, 1822, down to the present, five members have made up the agency.⁸

From 1741 to 1914 members of the council served for one-year terms.⁹ Since 1914, by virtue of a special act of legislature, tenure has been two years.¹⁰

The general power of the town council has changed but little and is set forth in substantially the same language as used in the original act; namely " . . . full power to manage the affairs and interest of such towns and to determine all matters and things as shall by law come within their jurisdiction."¹¹

The town council is also the probate court, 1741--,¹² board of health, ex officio, 1816--,¹³ the board of canvassers, 1844--,¹⁴ the board of

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1. T. M. R. (1741).
 2. T. M. R. (1741-1930); Record of Elections (1930--).
 3. P. L. (Digest 1844), sec. 1, p. 301; G. L., 1938, ch. 322, sec. 1, p. 701.
 4. Const., art. IX, sec. 1, in G. L., 1938, p. 28;
P. L. (Digest 1844), sec. 1, p. 301; G. L., 1938, ch. 322, sec. 1, p. 701.
 5. T. C. R. (1741-99).
 6. P. L. (Digest 1798), sec. 1, p. 331.
 7. T. C. R. (1798).
 8. T. C. R. (1822--).
 9. T. C. R. (1741-1914).
 10. P. L.; Jan. 1914, ch. 1154, sec. 1.
 11. G. L., 1923, ch. 51, sec. 4, p. 283; G. L., 1938, ch. 333, sec. 4, p. 704.
 12. T. C. R. (1741--).
 13. T. C. R. (1816--).
 14. T. C. R. (1844--).

Town Council - Papers; Proceedings

(3-4)

license commissioners, 1933--,¹⁵ and sits as or may designate not more than three of its members to sit as a board of canvassers and registration on election day, 1935--.¹⁶

A majority of the members elected to the town council constitute a quorum, and a majority of the members present at any legal meeting may determine any matter legally before them.¹⁷ The president of the town council, chosen by and from the members thereof, is the presiding officer.¹⁸

The town clerk is clerk of the town council.¹⁹ With the exception of the records now housed in the State Archives, the town clerk is official custodian of all town council records. Unless otherwise specified, all records are housed in the town clerk's vault.

Papers

3. (ORIGINAL TOWN COUNCIL PAPERS), 1931--. 1 bdl.

Petitions to town council by citizens, requesting calls for special town meeting for pole locations by electric light and telephone companies; petitions of U. S. Department of the Interior, Resettlement Administration, requesting permission to work on various roads, etc.; claimants requesting payments of debts, damages, showing date of petition, prayer, signatures of petitioners; time, date, filed by town clerk. Arr. chron. by date of petition. No index. Hdw. and typed. 9 x 13 x 1.

Proceedings

4. COUNCIL RECORDS (Minutes of Proceedings), 1741--. 11 vols. (1-7, 1 vol. unlabeled, 9-11). Title varies: Town Council Book, 1741-1817, vols. 1-5; Town Council, 1817-56, vols. 6, 7; Council Book, 1856-1901, 1 vol. unlabeled.

Minutes of town council meetings, showing date, time, place held, names of members present, organization and selection of one of members as council president, annually (1741-1913), biennially (1914--), actions in such matters as appointment of town officers and committees, accepting deposits of freeholders (1741-43); lending town funds to freeholders (1741-43); fixing fees, compensation, and acting on resignations, deaths, removals, replacements, and reports submitted by town officers and committees (1741--) and deputies to general assembly (1741-97); complaints; petitions and proposals, tavern, liquor, amusement, victualing and license applications; claims against town; ordering assessment of dog tax (1864--), school tax

15. T. C. R. (1933--).

16. T. C. R. (1935--).

17. G. L., 1923, ch. 51, sec. 1, p. 282; G. L., 1938, ch. 333, sec. 1, p. 703.

18. T. C. R. (1741--).

19. Ibid.

Town Council - Proceedings;
Accounts and Orders

(4-5)

(1828-1904), highway tax (1808-95); town ordinances; examinations in bastardy process (1741-1811), fixing bonds of town clerk, treasurer, tax collector, and special constables, accepting sureties (1844--); determination of uncollectible taxes and issuing orders on town treasurer to adjust tax warrant (1783--); authorizing warrants for special town meetings; authorizing issuance of complaints and warrants, citations and summonses; exempting masters from town tax in lieu of pay when poor and indigent are bound out (1742-1841); examinations, fixing bonds, accepting surety, and remanding transients (1742-1841); establishing regulation for, and abating nuisances affecting public health (1778-1815); engaging counsel to defend or prosecute on behalf of town (1760--); appointing, reappointing, or removing with causes stated, one trial justice from the qualified justice of the peace to hold justice courts; fixing bonds, term, accepting surety (1872-85); adjournments, time adjourned, clerk's attest.

Also contains:

- a. registry of earmarks, 1741-42.
 - b. proceedings of the probate court, 1741-1829. For transcriptions 1829-46, see entry 14-m. For subsequent records 1846--, see entry 11.
 - c. certificates of inhabitation, actions on, 1741-1841.
 - d. petitions of overseers of poor, actions on, 1741-1925.
 - e. orders of town council on town treasurer, 1741--. For invoices 1933--, see entry 5; for stubs of orders authorizing payment, see entry 6.
 - f. indenture of apprenticeship, 1746-1882.
 - g. highways and driftways, 1780--.
 - h. public easements, 1784--.
 - i. list of poor vendued, 1788-1884.
 - j. proceedings of the board of health, 1816--.
 - k. indenture of paupers, 1819-85.
 - l. jury list, 1829-92. For prior records 1741-1828, see entry 2-a; for subsequent records 1893--, see entry 7.
 - m. proceedings of board of canvassers, 1844--.
 - i. proceedings of the board of canvassers and registration, 1935--.For prior records 1828-42, see entry 2-g.
 - n. burial ground trust funds, record of, 1898--. For transcriptions 1925--, see entry 16-g-xviii.
 - o. proceedings of the board of license commissioners, 1933--.
- Arr. chron. by date of meeting. No index. Hdw. 400 pp. 14 x 9 x 1½.
Vols. 1-5, 1741-1817, State Archives, R. 314, State House, Providence;
vols. 6, 7, 1 vol. unlabeled, 9-11, 1817--, safe, town clerk's office.

Accounts and Orders

5. (PAID BILLS), 1933--. 1 bdl.

Original invoices allowed and ordered paid by town council, orders drawn on treasurer for payment, showing name and address of vendor, number of units, description of items, total cost of each item, total invoice.

Town Council - Accounts and Orders;
Jury; Reports; Voting

(6-9)

Arr. chron. by date of payment. No index. Hdw. and typed. 13 x 9 x 6.
For record of bills ordered paid 1741--, see entry 4-e.

6. ORDER BOOK (Stubs), 1923--. 7 vols.

Stubs of orders from town council to town treasurer authorizing payment of town expenses, showing amount, date, purpose, payee's name, department charged, order number. Arr. chron. by date of issue with stubs numbered consecutively. No index. Hdw. 500 pp. 9 x 12 x 1.

For record of bills ordered paid 1741--, see entry 4-e. For related record 1921--, see entry 77-a.

Jury

7. JURY BOOK, 1893--. 1 vol. 1741-1828 in Town Meeting Book, entry 2-a; 1829-92 in Council Records, entry 4-1.

List of persons qualified to serve as grand or petit jurors, showing name of town, name, address and occupation of person drawn, date drawn, date called, type of jury duty (grand or petit), signatures of councilmen; attest of council clerk. Arr. chron. by year drawn. No index. Hdw. 150 pp. 10½ x 8 x 1.

Reports

8. TOWN TREASURER'S REPORTS, 1915--. 3 bdl.

Annual reports, showing itemized dated account of receipts, expenditures, special funds, public school funds for the year, general summary of all funds, certification of town auditor, date filed in office of town clerk, and signature of town clerk, treasurer and auditor. Arr. chron. by fiscal year. No index. Hdw. and typed. 9 x 12 x 2.

For record of reports 1829-63, see entry 2-h; for record of duplicate reports, see entry 82.

Voting

9. (VOTING LISTS), 1933--. 1 bdl. 1741-1843 in Town Meeting Book, entry 2-b.

Alphabetical lists of qualified voters, showing name of town, representative district number, name and residence of voter; classification under real estate, personal property, and registry; names of absentee voters stricken, certification of eligibility, signature of presiding officer of board of canvassers, attest, signature of clerk of board. Arr. chron. by date of list, thereunder by classification and alpha. by first letter of surname of voter. No index. Printed. 16½ x 5 x 5.

For prior records 1741-1843, see entry 2-b.

IV. PROBATE COURT

When the freemen of West Greenwich convened in their first town meeting,¹ and chose a town council, this agency among other powers and duties was invested with general jurisdiction in matters of probate.² Thenceforth, this authority has been retained and exercised by each succeeding council without interruption down to the present.³

The membership of the probate court has varied from time to time only as the make-up of the town council has been increased or decreased.⁴ The major part of the members elected constituted a quorum for doing business, and the major part of those present at any legal meeting are authorized to decide upon any matter before them.⁵ At present there are five members of the probate court.⁶ The town clerk is clerk of the probate court.⁷

Unless otherwise specified, all records are housed in the town clerk's vault.

Papers

10. (PROBATE PAPERS), 1857--. 1 box.

File of original instruments submitted in or issued pursuant to probate proceedings, consisting of:

- a. accounts and decrees. For transcriptions 1743--, see entry 14-c.
 - b. codicils. For transcriptions 1743--, see entry 14-e.
 - c. commissioner's reports. For transcriptions 1743--, see entry 14-f.
 - d. petitions and decrees. For transcriptions 1743--, see entry 14-h.
 - e. probate bonds. For transcriptions 1743-1871, see entry 14-a; 1872--,
see entry 12.
 - f. wills and testaments. For transcriptions 1743--, see entry 14-k.
- Arr. chron. by date filed. No index. Hdw. and typed. 10 x 19 x 14 $\frac{1}{2}$.

Proceedings

11. PROBATE RECORDS (Minutes of Proceedings), 1846--. 3 vols.
(10-12). 1741-1829 in Council Records, entry 4-b; 1828-46 in
Probate Record of Wills, entry 14-m.

Minutes of meetings of the town council sitting as probate court, showing date, time and place of session, names of members present; proceedings in cases coming before the court, such as final determinations and decrees

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1. T. M. R. (1741)
 2. P. L. (Digest 1730), pp. 5-7; P. L. (Digest 1745), pp. 4-7.
 3. Probate Records (Minutes of Proceedings) (1846--).
 4. T. C. R. (1741--).
 5. G. L., 1923, ch. 357, sec. 1, p. 1521; G. L., 1938, ch. 568, sec. 1, p. 1077. See also: Acts and Laws (Digest 1730), p. 5, and P. L. (Digest 1798), sec. 1, p. 276.
 6. T. C. R. (1938--).
 7. G. L., 1923, ch. 357, sec. 4, p. 1522; G. L., 1938, ch. 568, sec. 4, p. 1077.

Probate Court - Proceedings;
Bonds; Docket

(12-13)

concerning the rights and obligations of parties; petitions for custody and probate of wills, testaments, and codicils; filing and recording of foreign wills; appointments of executors, administrators, appraisers, guardians, conservators, custodians, commissioners, trustees; acceptance, removal, inability to serve, disqualification, resignation, death, or discharge of fiduciary, collection of assets and allowance on claims; executing decrees, issuing process, and adjudging respondent in contempt for refusal to comply with orders of the court, actions on claims of appeal; granting applications for allowance to widows and children; partition of real estate, assignment (set-off) of dower, adoption of minors; allowing or disallowing appraiser's inventories, fiduciary's first, intermediate, and final accounts; granting orders of distribution, descent, division, and advancement, with decrees; authorizing suits against children for failure to execute life estates in favor of parents after conveyance of real estate, modifying and revoking orders and decrees; ordering publication of notice; time adjourned; date, place, time of next meeting; attest of probate clerk. Arr. chron. by date of meeting. Indexed alpha. by first letter of name of estate; also Probate Docket, 1896--, entry 13, serves as a guide to location of transcripts of instruments and decrees entered. Hdw. 500 pp. 13 x 9 x 2.

For original instruments, 1857--, see entry 10.

Bonds

12. PROBATE BONDS, 1872--. 3 vols. (1-3).

Transcriptions of administrator's, executor's, custodian's, guardian's, conservator's, appraiser's, commissioner's, and trustee's bonds, showing names of State, county, town and court, name of estate or ward, names and residences of principal and sureties, amount of bond; conclusion, date signed and sealed; conditions and obligations of bond; signatures and seals of principal and sureties; attestation; dates approved and recorded; clerk's attest.

Also contains:

a. acknowledgments, 1916--. For transcriptions 1743-1916, see entry 14-b. Arr. chron. by date of entry; numer. thereunder by probate case number of estate. No index. Probate Docket, entry 13, serves as guide to location of instrument. Hdw. 250 pp. 14 x 9 x 1.

For original bonds, 1857--, see entry 10-e.

Docket

13. PROBATE DOCKET, 1896--. 1 vol.

Abridged entries of probate proceedings, serving as a guide to the location of instruments in Probate Records, entry 11, Probate Record of Wills, entry 14, Probate Bonds, entry 12; indicating title, book and page number, date recorded, showing probate case number, name of estate; petitions, purpose, dates received, dates of court session to which referred,

Probate Court - Docket; Wills;
Town Clerk

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or continuances, disposition; name of fiduciary; kinds and amounts of bonds, names of sureties; names of appraiser, commissioner; amounts of inventories, date received, disposition, settlement. Arr. chron. by date of entry. Indexed alpha. by first letter of name of estate. Hdw. 100 pp. 9 x 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ x $\frac{1}{2}$.

Wills

14. PROBATE RECORD OF WILLS, 1743--. 11 vols. (1-11, vols. 1-9 dated). Title varies: Wills, 1743-1846, vols. 1-9; Book of Wills, 1846-90, vol. 10.

Transcriptions of instruments submitted in probate proceedings consisting of:

- a. probate bonds, 1743-1871. For original bonds 1857--, see entry 10; for transcriptions 1872--, see entry 12.
 - b. acknowledgments, 1743-1916. For subsequent records 1916--, see entry 12-a.
 - c. accounts and decrees, 1743--. For original instruments 1857--, see entry 10-a.
 - d. citations and other writs (orders for and issuance of), 1743--.
 - e. codicils, 1743--. For original instruments 1857--, see entry 10-b; for transcriptions 1794--, see also entry 16-g-x.
 - f. commissioner's reports, 1743--. For original instruments 1857--, see entry 10-c.
 - g. orders and distribution, 1743--.
 - h. probate letters
 - i. letters testamentary, 1743--; letters of administration, 1743--, custodianship, 1747--, receivership, 1848--, conservatorship, 1782--, and guardianship, 1746--.
 - i. petitions and decrees, 1743--. For original instruments 1857--, see entry 10-d.
 - j. warrants and inventories, 1743--.
 - k. wills and testaments, 1743--. For original instruments 1857--, see entry 10-f.
 - l. general releases, 1803--.
 - m. probate proceedings, 1828-46. For prior records 1741-1829, see entry 4-b; for subsequent records 1846--, see entry 11.
 - n. affidavits of complete administration, 1837--.
- Arr. chron. by date of entry. Indexed alpha. by first letter of name of estate. Hdw. 100-500 pp. 12 $\frac{1}{4}$ x 8 x 3/4 - 16 x 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 2. Vols. 1-4, 1743-1817, State Archives, R. 314, State House, Providence; vols. 5-11, 1817--, town clerk's office.

V. TOWN CLERK

The first town clerk to be chosen in West Greenwich in the first town meeting was one Benjamin Sweet.¹ Following the first town meeting, the town

1. T. M. R. (1741).

Town Clerk - Property Records

(15-16)

clerk was chosen annually until 1914,² when a special act of legislature increased the tenure of the office to two years,³ and this period of holding has been continued to the present.⁴ The office has always been elective.⁵

In addition to the many detailed duties of the clerk as local recorder, or registrar of the town, he is clerk of the following agencies, and as such has official custody of their records: the several town meetings, 1741--,⁶ the town council, 1741--,⁷ the probate court, 1741--,⁸ the board of canvassers, 1844--,⁹ and the board of license commissioners, 1933--.¹⁰

In case of the absence of the moderator or of the clerk of any town meeting of a town not divided into voting districts (West Greenwich), the town meeting may elect a moderator or clerk pro tempore, and the town clerk presides at such election as the moderator.¹¹

All records, unless otherwise specified, are housed in the office or vault of the town clerk.

Property Records

15. RECEIVING BOOK, 1903--. 1 vol.

Register of all instruments affecting real and personal property left for recording with town clerk, showing names of grantor, grantee, or parties; type of instrument, date and time of day received, book and page numbers, when recorded. Arr. chron. by date of entry. No index. Hdw. 300 pp. 14 x 9 x 1.

16. RECORD OF DEEDS, 1739--. 23 vols., 3 folders. (vols. labeled 1 and 2, 3-8, 1-5, 10-20). Title varies: Land Evidence, 1739-1917, vols. 1 and 2, 3-8, 10-17; vols. 1 and 2, 3-8, subtitled Old Date; vols. 1-5 subtitled New Date.

Transcriptions of various instruments affecting property, including:

a. Assignments

- i. of water rights, 1807--.
- ii. of mortgages, 1811-48. For transcriptions 1742-72, 1838--,
see entry 20-a-i.
- iii. of estate for life, 1814-88. For transcriptions 1772-1827,
see entry 20-a-iii.
- iv. general, 1835--.

2. T. M. R. (1741-1914).

3. P. L., Jan. 1914, ch. 1154, sec. 1.

4. T. M. R. (1914-30): Record of Elections (1930--).

5. T. M. R. (1741-1930); Record of Elections (1930--).

6. T. M. R. (1741-1930); Record of Elections (1930--).

7. T. C. R. (1741--).

8. Ibid.

9. Ibid. (1844--).

10. Ibid. (1933--).

11. G. L., 1938, ch. 331, sec. 7, pp. 700-701.

Town Clerk - Property Records

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b. Bonds

- i. grantee's, 1763-1814. For transcriptions 1737-72, 1838-57, see entry 20-b-i.
- ii. defeasance, 1763-1857. For transcriptions 1737-72, 1838-58, see entry 20-b-ii.
- iii. and mortgage, 1711-1836.

c. Deeds

- i. general warranty, 1739--. For transcriptions 1737-72, 1838-72, see entry 20-c-i.
- ii. of gift, 1741--. For transcriptions 1747-72, 1838-52, see entry 20-c-v.
- iii. quitclaim, 1742--. For transcriptions 1743-72, 1838--., see entry 20-c-ii.
- iv. of partition (articles of division), 1751--. For transcriptions 1744-1903, see entry 20-c-iv.
- v. treasurer's (Colony), 1755-87.
- vi. sheriff's, of sale, 1758--.
- vii. mortgagee's, 1772--. For transcriptions 1744-68, see entry 20-c-iii.
- viii. confirmatory, 1838--.
- ix. tax collector's, 1851--.

d. Discharges

- i. of grantee's bonds, 1763-1806. For transcriptions 1737-72, 1838-58, see entry 20-d-i.
- ii. of defeasance bonds, 1763-1858. For transcriptions 1737-72, 1838-58, see entry 20-d-ii.
- iii. of bonds and mortgages, 1771-1836. For transcriptions 1747-1902, see entry 20-d-vi.
- iv. of chattel mortgages, 1773-1837. For transcriptions 1742-72, 1838-42, see entries 20-d-iv, and 22-b.
- v. of mortgages, 1786-1837. For transcriptions 1737-72, 1838--., see entry 20-d-iii.
- vi. of liens, 1902--.

e. Mortgages

- i. real estate, real estate and personal property, 1751-1837. For transcriptions 1737-72, 1838--., see entry 20-e-i.
- ii. bonds and, 1771-1836.
- iii. chattel, 1773-1837. For transcriptions 1742-72, 1838-42, see entry 20-e-iii.
- iv. release and discharge of personal property, 1773-1837. For subsequent records 1846--., see entry 22-d.

f. Releases

- i. of dower, 1788-1841. For transcriptions 1743-72, 1838--., see entry 20-f-ii.
- ii. of estate, 1795-1836.

g. Miscellaneous

- i. acknowledgments, 1739--.
- ii. estates for life, 1752--.
- iii. easements, 1754--.

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- iv. affidavits, 1758-1882.
 - v. water rights, 1760--.
 - vi. agreements, 1761--.
 - vii. special letter of attorney, 1761--. For transcriptions 1741-72, 1838--, see entry 20-f-i.
 - viii. affidavit of publication of notice of sale, 1772--. For transcriptions 1744-68, 1844-83, see entry 20-f-iii.
 - ix. indenture of lease, 1791--. For transcriptions 1747-72, see entry 20-f-iv.
 - x. wills and codicils, 1794--. For transcriptions 1743--, see also entry 14-e, k.
 - xi. bills of sale, 1797-1931. See also entry 22-a.
 - xii. fence viewers' decisions, 1803-1928.
 - xiii. witnesses' certificate of entry, 1803--.
 - xiv. contracts of sale, 1810--.
 - xv. articles of association, 1813-88.
 - xvi. dedications, 1869--. For original instruments 1869-1934, see entry 18.
 - xvii. (statutory, actual, or constructive) notices, 1922--.
 - xviii. burial ground trust, 1925--. For record 1898--, see entry 4-n.
- Arr. chron. by date of entry. 1739-1836 indexed alpha. by surname of grantor-grantee; 1836-- indexed alpha. by first letter of surname of each party (grantor-grantee in front of book; grantee-grantor in back of book). For separate index, see entry 17. Hdw. and typed. 13 x 9 x 2 - 18 x 12 x 2 $\frac{1}{2}$. 12 vols. and 3 folders, 1741-1836, State Archives, R. 314, State House, Providence, 11 vols., 1817--, safe, town clerk's office.

17. GRANTOR AND GRANTEE INDEX, 1899-1915. 1 vol.

Grantor and grantee index serving Record of Deeds, entry 16, Record of Mortgages, entry 20, Chattel Mortgages, entry 22, showing date recorded, name of grantee or party (of second part), type of instrument, name of grantor or party (of first part), book and page reference number. Arr. alpha. by first letter of surname of parties, chron. thereunder by date recorded. Hdw. 150 pp. 6 x 11 x $\frac{1}{4}$.

18. QUITCLAIM DEEDS TO TOWN (Dedications), 1869-1934. 1 bdl., 1 env.

Original deeds of property conveyed to town as gifts for schools, highways, etc., showing names and residences of grantor and grantee; designation of parties, explanation of title, description and location of property; conclusion, date executed; signatures and seals of grantors; attestation; time and date received for record, book and page reference number; clerk's attest. Arr. chron. by date of deed. No index. Hdw. 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 1/3.

For record of dedications, see entry 16-g-xvi.

19. TAX COLLECTOR'S RETURNS ON SALES OF REAL ESTATE, 1899. 1 env.

Returns of public sale of real estate levied upon for unpaid taxes by tax collector, showing name of taxpayer, location and description of property; amount of tax, interest, costs; date of warrant; name of purchaser, amount of sale; date of deed; name of newspaper in which notice of sale appeared, clipping of notice of sale; notarization, signature of tax collector, town clerk. Arr. alpha. by first letter of surname of taxpayer. No index. Hdw. 4 x 9 x $\frac{1}{4}$.

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20. RECORD OF MORTGAGES, 1737-72, 1838--. 7 vols. (1, 1-5, 5A).
Title varies: Mortgages and Quitclaims, 1737-72, 1 vol.;
Book of Mortgages, 1838-1921, 4 vols.

Transcriptions of mortgages and other instruments recorded by town clerk, including:

a. Assignments

- i. real estate, real estate and personal property mortgages, 1742-72, 1838--. For transcriptions 1811-48, see entry 16-a-ii.
- ii. of legacy, 1747-72.
- iii. of life estate, 1772-1827. For transcriptions 1814-38, see entry 16-a-iii.

b. Bonds

- i. grantee's, 1737-72, 1838-57. For transcriptions 1763-1814, see entry 16-b-i.
- ii. defeasance, 1737-72, 1838-58. For transcriptions 1763-1857, see entry 16-b-ii.

c. Deeds

- i. general warranty, 1737-72, 1838-72. For transcriptions 1739--, see entry 16-c-i.
- ii. quitclaim, 1743-72, 1838--. For transcriptions 1742--, see entry 16-c-iii.
- iii. mortgagee's, 1744-68. For transcriptions 1772--, see entry 16-c-vii.
- iv. of partition (articles of division), 1744-1903. For transcriptions 1751--, see entry 16-c-iv.
- v. of gift, 1747-72, 1838-52. For transcriptions 1741--, see entry 16-c-ii.

d. Discharges

- i. of grantee's bonds, 1737-72, 1838-58. For transcriptions 1763-1806, see entry 16-d-i.
- ii. of defeasance bonds, 1737-72, 1838-58. For transcriptions 1763-1858, see entry 16-d-ii.
- iii. of mortgages, 1737-72, 1838--. For transcriptions 1786-1837, see entry 16-d-v.
- iv. of chattel mortgages, 1742-72, 1838-42. For records 1773-1837, see entry 16-d-iv; for 1834--, see entry 22-b.
- v. of bonds, 1747-1902.
- vi. of bonds and mortgages, 1747-1902. For transcriptions 1771-1836, see entry 16-d-iii.

e. Mortgages

- i. real estate, real estate and personal property, 1737-72, 1838--. For transcriptions 1751-1837, see entry 16-e-i.
- ii. colony (paper money), 1742-64.
- iii. chattel, 1742-72, 1838-42. For transcriptions 1773-1837, see entry 16-e-iii.
- iv. partial release of, 1841--.
- v. Narragansett Electric Lighting Company, Providence; Rhode Island Hospital Trust Company, Providence, trustee.

f. Miscellaneous

- i. special letter of attorney (power of attorney), 1741-72, 1838--. For transcriptions 1761--, see entry 16-g-vii.

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- ii. release of dower, 1743-72, 1838--. For transcriptions 1788-1841, see entry 16-f-i.
- iii. affidavit of publication of notice of sale, 1744-68, 1844-33. For transcriptions 1772--, see entry 16-g-viii.
- iv. leaseholds for life, 1747-72. For transcriptions 1791--, see entry 16-g-ix.

Arr. chron. by date of entry. Indexed alpha. by first letter of surname of mortgagor, mortgagee, or parties; also separate index, 1899-1915, entry 17. Hdw. 550 pp. 14 x 9 x 2 $\frac{1}{4}$. Vol. 1, 1737-72, State Archives, R. 314, State House, Providence, vols. 1-5, 5A, 1838--, safe, town clerk's office.

21. THE BOOK OF THE REGISTRY OF MORTGAGES TO THE STATE, NO. 1 OF THE NEW DATE BELONGING TO WEST GREENWICH, 1786-87. 1 vol.

Transcriptions of mortgage deeds, showing date, name of instrument, name, residence of mortgagor; location, description of property; conditions, interest rate, defeasance bond; signature and seal of mortgagor, attestation and signatures of witnesses, acknowledgment; date recorded, clerk's attest. Arr. chron. by date of entry. Indexed alpha. by first letter of surname of mortgagor. Hdw. 104 pp. 14 x 11 x 3/4.

22. CHATTEL MORTGAGES, 1834--. 2 vols. (1, 2).

Transcriptions of instruments conveying title of personal property to mortgagee, showing names of State, county, town, names and residence of mortgagor, mortgagee, considerations; conveyance of legal title; description, location of chattels, appraisal value, pertinent information; conclusion, date executed, signature and seal of mortgagor; attestation; time and date recorded, clerk's attest.

Also contains:

- a. bill of sale with warranty (transfer of personal property), 1834--, see entry 16-g-xi.
- b. discharge of chattel mortgages, 1834--. See entries 16-d-iv and 20-d-iv.
- c. assignments of personal property mortgages, 1838--.
- d. release and discharge of personal property mortgages, 1846--. For prior records 1773-1837, see entry 16-e-iv.
- e. receipts in full, 1873-1906.
- f. assignment of wages, 1884--.

Arr. chron. by date of entry. Indexed alpha. by first letter of surname of mortgagee, mortgagor, or parties. For separate index, see entry 17. Hdw. 250 pp. 13 x 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 1.

23. (Copies of Writs of) EXECUTIONS, 1928-29. 1 env.

a. Sheriff's copies of writs of execution on judgment with notices of public vendue annexed, showing name of plaintiff, name and place of court of jurisdiction, date of session; name and residence of defendant; amount of judgment, costs; return date; attestation, seal, signature of clerk of court. Jacket, showing names of plaintiff, defendant, plaintiff's attorney and deputy sheriff.

b. Sheriff's notice of sale, showing time, date, description and location of property; date, time and place of sale; signature of deputy sheriff. No obv. arr. No index. Hdw. 4 x 9 x $\frac{1}{2}$.

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24. WRITS (of Attachment and Mesne Process), 1927-29. 1 bdl.

Deputy sheriff's copies left with town clerk for recording, showing names and addresses of defendant, plaintiff, and trustee; damages or declarations to be filed; return date, name and location of court of jurisdiction, affidavits, type of action, seal, date, and signature of clerk of court.

Officer's return, showing date, time, and place of service, articles attached, date and place of filing, signature of officer.

Arr. alpha. by first letter of surname of defendant. No index. Hdw. 9 x 4 x $\frac{1}{2}$.

For record 1924--., see entry 25.

25. BOOKS OF WRITS OF ATTACHMENTS, 1924--. 1 vol. (1).

Register of writs of attachment and mesne process, showing names of defendant, plaintiff, and trustee, damages or declarations to be filed.

Officer's return, showing time and place of service, date and place of filing, signature of deputy sheriff, clerk's attest.

Also contains sheriff's bonds and discharges, 1924--.

Arr. chron. by date of entry. Indexed alpha. by first letter of surname of plaintiff showing defendant. Hdw. 75 pp. 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 7 x $\frac{1}{2}$.

For original writs 1927-29, see entry 24.

26. DISCHARGE OF LIEN (State Inheritance Tax Liens), 1922--. 1 bdl.

Original notices of discharges of inheritance tax liens, to town clerk by chairman of State tax agency, discharging inheritance tax upon payment, showing name of estate, location and description of property, manner and date of discharge; signature of State tax official. Arr. alpha. by name of estate. No index. Typed. 4 x 9 x 1.

Vital Statistics

27. (Original Certificates and Returns of) BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS, 1857-1921. 3 boxes.

a. Returns of births, 1900-1901, 3-4, 6, 16-17, 19-21, original and official copies, including out-of-town births of residents of town, showing names of town, State, date of birth, full name, sex and color of child, number of child of mother, place of birth, present residence; father's name, age, color, occupation, and birthplace; mother's maiden name, age, and birthplace; signature of physician or enumerator, and town clerk.

b. Returns of marriages, 1857-71, 73-89, 91-93, 95-99, 1903-4, 1921, original and official copies, showing full name of bride and groom, residence, age, color, occupation, birthplace, number of marriage, father's name, mother's maiden name, maiden name of bride if previously married, date of return, certification of bride and groom; signatures of witnesses; clergyman's certification of marriage, showing name of groom and bride, date and place of marriage, attest of clergyman, and signature of witnesses. For subsequent records 1896--., see entry 33-b.

c. Returns of deaths, 1898-99, 1901-2, 4, 20, official and original copies, showing date of death, full name of deceased, age, place of death,

Town Clerk - Vital Statistics

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residence, sex, color, marital status, occupation, birthplace, parents' names and birthplaces; place of burial, name of informant; physician's certificate, showing name of deceased, date of death, diseases or causes of death, duration of disease, signature of physician; undertaker's certification of physician's certificate.

Arr. chron. by date of return. No index. Hdw. and typed. 5 x 6 x 12 - 11 x 18 x 18.

For record of births 1741-1862, see entry 29-a; for record of births 1857--, see entry 30. For record of marriages 1741-1869, see entry 29-b; for record of marriages 1852-1921, see entry 31; for record of marriages 1881--, see entry 33-b. For record of deaths 1741-1906, see entry 29-c; for record of deaths 1853--, see entry 32.

28. MINORS' PERMIT TO MARRY, 1881-91, 1893-99, 1907, 1909, 1911-14, 1916, 1918, 1920. 2 bdls.

Minor's permit to marry, issued by town clerk, showing name of town, names of father and mother or guardian, certificate of approval and permission to marry; name of intended bride or groom, name of minor, signature of father and mother or guardian, and witness. Arr. alpha. by first letter of surname of minor. No index. Hdw. Approx. 4 x 8 x 1.

29. MARRIAGES, BIRTHS, &C (and Registry of Deaths), 1741-1906.
3 vols. (1-3). Title varies: Marriages, Births, and Burials in West Greenwich, 1741-65, 1 vol.; A Book of Registry of the Marriages, Births, and Burials belonging to West Greenwich in the county of Kent, in his Majesty's English Colony of Rhode Island in New England &C, 1765-1815, 1 vol.

a. Record of births registered in town, 1741-1862, showing date of record, date of birth, full name of child, sex, color, number of child of mother, place of birth, whether stillborn; name, occupation, age, residence, color and birthplace of father; maiden name, age, color, and birthplace of mother; name of physician or midwife, town clerk's certification. For subsequent and coextensive records 1857--, see entry 30.

b. Record of marriages registered in town, 1741-1869, showing date and place of marriage, full name, residence, age, date of birth, color, birthplace, and occupation of bride and groom, maiden name of bride if previously married; parents' birthplace; number of marriage of each; name, official station and denomination of person performing ceremony, names of witnesses, town clerk's certification, and date recorded. For subsequent and coextensive records 1852-1921, see entry 31; for record 1896--, see entry 33-b.

c. Record of deaths registered in town, 1741-1906, showing date of recording, date of death, name of deceased, age, place of death, sex, color, marital status, occupation, birthplace; names and birthplaces of parents, mother's maiden name; place of burial, name of informant and relation to deceased; name of physician or undertaker; physician's certificate with date, time and cause of death, duration of disease, signature of physician; town clerk's certification. For subsequent and coextensive records 1853--, see entry 32.

Arr. chron. by date of recording. Indexed alpha. by first letter of surname of child, groom and bride, or deceased. Hdw. 200 pp. 14 x 8 x 1. 2 vols., 1741-1815, State Archives, R. 314, State House, Providence; 1 vol. 1815-1906, safe, town clerk's office.

For original returns of births 1900-1901, 3-4, 6, 16-17, 19-21, see entry 27-a. For original returns of marriages 1857-71, 73-89, 91-93, 95-99, 1903-4, 1921, see entry 27-b; 1896-- , see entry 33-b. For original returns of deaths 1898-99, 1901-2, 4, 20, see entry 27-c.

30. RECORD OF BIRTHS, 1857-- . 3 vols. 1741-1862 in Marriages, Births, &C., entry 29-a.

Record of births registered in town, showing name of town, date of record, name of informant, date of birth, full name, sex, and color of child; number of child of mother, place of birth; whether born alive, stillborn, plural births; parents' residence, father's name, age, occupation, birthplace, color; mother's name, maiden name, age, birthplace, color, remarks; signature of physician, midwife, or parent, date filed, clerk's attest. Arr. chron. by calendar year; chron. thereunder by date of birth. Indexed alpha. by first letter of surname of child. Hdw. 200 pp. 16 x 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 1.

31. RECORD OF MARRIAGES, 1852-1921. 2 vols. 1741-1869 in Marriages, Births, &C., entry 29-b; 1881-- in (Intentions and) Returns of Marriage, entry 33-b.

Record of marriages in town, and out-of-town marriages of residents (1894-1921), showing name of town, year ending date, date and place of marriage, names, ages, color, residences, and birthplace of bride and groom, occupation of groom, names of parents of each, mother's maiden name, birthplace of parents, number of marriage of each (terminated by divorce, death), name, address, official station, and denomination of person performing ceremony, names of witnesses, clerk's attest. Arr. chron. by calendar year, chron. thereunder by date of marriage. Indexed alpha. by first letter of surname of groom and bride. Hdw. 300 pp. 16 x 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 1.

32. RECORD OF DEATHS, 1853-- . 3 vols. 1741-1906 in Marriages, Births, &C., entry 29-c.

Record of deaths registered in town, showing name of town, date of recording, date of death; name of deceased, address, date and place of birth, age, sex, color, place of death, and marital status; father's name, mother's maiden name, parents' birthplaces; place of burial, military record, signature of informant, relation to deceased; physician's certificate with date, time and cause of death, duration of disease, signatures of physician and undertaker, clerk's attest. Arr. chron. by calendar year, chron. thereunder by date of recording. Indexed alpha. by first letter of surname of deceased. Hdw. 200 pp. 16 x 11 x 1 $\frac{1}{4}$.

33. (Intentions and) RETURNS OF MARRIAGE, 1881-- . 6 vols. (3 vols. unlabeled, 4-6). Title varies: Intentions of Marriage, 1881-96, 2 vols. unlabeled; Intentions and Returns of Marriages, 1807-1926, 3 vols. 1 vol. unlabeled and 4, 5. 1857-71, 73-89, 91-93, 95-99, 1903-4, 1921 in (original Certificates and Returns of) Births, Marriages, and Deaths, entry 27-b.

a. Record of declaration of intentions and returns of marriage; intentions showing license number, date of intention, names, ages, occupations, race or color, birthplaces, and dates of births of bride and groom, number of marriage of each (terminated by death, divorce), father's name, mother's maiden

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name; birthplaces and occupations of parents of each; certifications, signatures of bride and groom; clerk's attest.

b. Reverse side, return of marriage, 1896--, showing date of return, name of State, names of bride and groom, date and place of marriage; attest, signature, residence, and denomination of clergyman, title of officiant, signatures of witnesses, date recorded, clerk's attest.

Arr. chron. by calendar year, chron. thereunder by date of recording. Indexed alpha. by first letter of surname of groom and bride. Hdw. 150 pp. 16 x 11 x 1.

Census

34. CENSUS, 1820, WEST GREENWICH, 1820. 1 vol.

Official enumeration of inhabitants of town, showing names of heads of families, number of males and females with names, ages, sex, addresses, and occupations. Arr. alpha. by first letter of surname of family. No index. Hdw. 10 pp. 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 8 x 1 $\frac{1}{8}$.

35. CENSUS OF DISTRICT NO. 1, 1875. 1 vol.

List of inhabitants of district, numbered consecutively in order of enumerator's visitations, showing construction and type of building, names of head and members of family, with ages, sex, color, relation to head, martial status, birthplace, parentage, occupation, literacy; whether voters, type of physical or mental defects (if any). Arr. chron. by date of visitation. No index. Hdw. 75 pp. 14 x 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ x $\frac{1}{2}$.

Licenses and Registrations

36. (REGISTRATION OF APIARIES), 1927--. 1 vol.

Stubs of certificates issued for registration of apiaries, showing certificate number, name and address of registrant, number of colonies of bees kept, names and addresses of other bee keepers known to registrant, date of registration. Arr. alpha. by first letter of surname of registrant. No index. Hdw. 50 pp. 5 x 4 x $\frac{1}{4}$.

37. APPLICATIONS FOR HUNTING LICENSE, 1935--. 1 env.

Applications, showing citizenship status of applicant, name, address, occupation, birthplace, and physical description; number and date of application, applicant's signature, notarization. Arr. chron. by date of application, numer. thereunder by application number. No index. Hdw. 9 x 12 x $\frac{1}{2}$.

38. HUNTING LICENSE (Stubs), 1937--. 1 vol.

Stubs of hunting licenses issued, showing license number, citizenship status of licensee, type of license (resident, nonresident, alien, nonresident alien), fee paid; name, residence, nationality, age, color or race, physical description, and occupation of licensee; date issued, signature of town clerk. Arr. chron. by date of issue, numer. thereunder by license number. No index. Hdw. 100 pp. 6 x 3 x 1.

Town Clerk - Licenses and
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39. (MONTHLY RETURN OF HUNTING LICENSES), 1934--. 1 env.

Copies of monthly returns of hunting licenses issued, submitted by town clerk to State, showing name of town, period covered by return, type of license (resident, nonresident, alien, nonresident alien), fees collected, license numbers issued, numbers voided, total fees collected, amount retained by town clerk, amount remitted to general treasurer, certification and signature of town clerk. Arr. chron. by date of return. No index. Typed. 9 x 12 x $\frac{1}{4}$.

40. HUNTER'S CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION, 1935. 1 env.

Copies of resident, nonresident, and alien hunter's certificates, showing license fee, name, residence, age, occupation, identifying physical description of registrant, name of town, certificate number, town clerk's attest. Arr. numer. by number of certificate. No index. Hdw. 9 x 12 x $\frac{1}{4}$.

41. FRESH WATER FISHING LICENSE (Stubs), 1938--. 1 vol.

Stubs of licenses issued, showing license number, fee paid, type of license (resident, nonresident, alien, nonresident alien), name, residence, nationality, age, identifying physical description, and occupation of licensee, name of town, date issued, signature of town clerk. Arr. chron. by date of issue, numer. thereunder by license number. No index. Hdw. 100 pp. 6 x 3 x 1.

42. MONTHLY RETURN FROM FRESH WATER FISHING LICENSES, 1935--. 1 env.

Copies of monthly returns of fresh water fishing licenses made by town clerk to State, showing name of town, period covered by return, type of license issued (resident, nonresident, alien, nonresident alien), fees collected, numbers voided, total fees collected, amount retained by town clerk, amount remitted, certification and signature of town clerk. Arr. chron. by date of return. No index. Hdw. 9 x 12 x $\frac{1}{4}$.

43. DOG BOOK, 1864-1927. 1 vol.

Register of licensed dogs, showing date registered, license number, name and address of owner or keeper; sex, breed, description, and name of dog. Arr. chron. by years, alpha. thereunder by first letter of surname of owner. No index. Hdw. 150 pp. 13 x 8 x 1.

44. DOG LICENSE BOOK (Stubs), 1927--. 2 vols.

Stubs of dog licenses issued (replacing Dog Book, entry 43), showing name and address of owner or keeper, fee paid, license number; sex, breed, and description of dog. Arr. chron. by date of issue. No index. Hdw. 200 pp. 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 9 x 1 $\frac{3}{4}$.

Maps and Plats

45. TELEPHONE POLES AND WIRES LOCATED, 1924-32. 8 maps.

Maps originally annexed to petitions to town council for proposed location and relocation of poles and wires, showing names of streets,

highways, trails, waterways, adjoining residences; present and proposed location of poles. New England Telephone and Telegraph Company, Providence. Blueprints. Scale varies. 11 x 36. No index.

46. PLAT #187, STATE BOARD OF PUBLIC ROADS - SECTION OF HIGHWAYS IN TOWNS OF FOSTER, COVENTRY, WEST GREENWICH AND EXETER, APRIL 20, 1927, 1927. 19 plats.

Plats of sections of land condemned by State for highway purposes, showing boundaries, highways; name of proposed road; location; surveyed section of project, indicating owner's or claimant's bounds; plat number, date surveyed, name of draftsman; time, date filed, signature of town clerk. State Board of Public Roads, Providence. Blueprint. Scale 1 inch = 40 feet. 40 x 13. No index.

47. PLATS #61 and #90, STATE BOARD OF PUBLIC ROADS - SECTION OF HIGHWAYS IN TOWN OF WEST GREENWICH, 1923. #61, 9 plats; #90, 8 plats.

Plats of sections of land condemned by State for highway purposes, showing boundaries, name of proposed road; location; town boundaries intersected; plat number, name of draftsman; time, date filed, signature of town clerk. State Board of Public Roads, Providence. Blueprint. Scale 1 inch = 40 feet. 40 x 13. No index.

48. PLAT #5, STATE BOARD OF PUBLIC ROADS - SECTIONS OF HIGHWAYS IN TOWNS OF COVENTRY AND WEST GREENWICH, May 26, 1920. 10 plats.

Plats of sections of land condemned by State for highway purposes, showing boundaries, highways; name of proposed road; location; surveyed section of project indicating owner's or claimant's bounds; town boundaries intersected; plat number, date surveyed, name of draftsman; time, date filed, signature of town clerk. State Board of Public Roads, Providence. Blueprint. Scale 1 inch = 40 feet. 40 x 13. No index.

49. PLANS AND PROFILES OF STATE ROADS IN WEST GREENWICH, 1903-4, 1908. 4 sheets.

Tracings of plans of section of State road, showing various cross sectional elevations (shaded) of profiles of State roads, adjoining highways, bridges; name of draftsman; date approved by State Board. State Board of Public Roads, Providence. Tracing cloth. Scale: hor. 1 inch = 40 feet; vert. 1 inch = 8 feet. 84 x 23. No index.

50. THE CONGDON MILLS PLAT IN WEST GREENWICH, 1874. 1 plat.

Tracing of subdivision of Congdon Mills Plat, showing location and number of lots; boundary markings, highways, streets; names of abutting property owners. Ink tracing by G. T. Lanphear, C. E. Tracing cloth. Scale 1 inch = 80 feet. 13 x 24. No index.

51. MAP OF THE DAVID HOPKINS WOOD LOT IN WEST GREENWICH, 1873. 1 map.

Tracing of subdivision of estate into house lots, showing location and number of lots; boundary markings; names of abutting property owners; highways, streets. Gladding and Reynolds, Providence. Tracing cloth. Scale 1 inch = 160 feet. 32 x 24. No index.

Town Clerk - Maps and Plats;
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Naturalization

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52. PLAT OF DIVISION OF GREAT PURCHASE TO THE WESTWARD OF TOWN OF
EAST GREENWICH, 1726. 2 plats.

Plat of subdivision as it was laid out in June 1720 by the governor with the assistance of the committee appointed, copied February 12, 1726, showing location of town lines, roads, highways; various properties, lot numbers, names of property owners, area. Draftsman and publisher unknown. Mounted, black and white. Writing and scale illegible. 24 x 21. No index.

For legible plat manuscript copy by Wm. Hall, Surveyor, Feb. 19, 1726/27, see R. I. Maps, Vol. 48, pp. 25-30, in custody of R. I. Historical Society, 52 Power St., Providence.

53. PLAT AND PLAN OF BEACH POND PARK, no date. 1 plat.

Plat and plan of land in West Greenwich and Exeter under condemnation, showing State and town boundaries; stake and stone bounds of property; roads, highways, ponds; lot numbers, names of abutting property owners; properties purchased; Federal and State owned properties. State Department of Agriculture and Conservation, Providence. Tracing cloth. Scale 1 inch = 400 feet. 42 x 66. No index.

Military Records

54. ENROLLED MILITIA, 1862--. 1 vol.

List of male inhabitants between eighteen and forty-five years of age, showing entry number, names, and ages of enrollees. Arr. chron. by date of roster, alpha. thereunder by first letter of surname of inhabitant. No index. Hdw. 200 pp. 13 x 8 x 1.

55. MILITARY RETURNS, 1922--. 1 env.

Returns by company commander of State militia to town clerk, listing residents who have performed military duty during year and entitled to remission of poll tax by law, showing name and location of company, date of return, names of militiamen, signature of commanding officer, notarization. Arr. alpha. by first letter of surname of militiaman. No index. Typed. 4 x 9 x 1/8.

Naturalization

56. NATURALIZATION RECORD, 1892--. 1 vol.

Copies of naturalization certificates filed and recorded at the time of first registration of person desiring to vote, showing name and location of court granting petition; name and residence of naturalized citizen, date recorded, town clerk's attest. Arr. chron. by date of entry. Indexed alpha. by first letter of surname of citizen. Hdw. 150 pp. 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 8 x $\frac{1}{2}$.

Town Clerk - Professional Register;
Voting; Miscellaneous

(57-62)

Professional Register

57. REGISTER OF CLERGYMEN, 1897--. 1 vol.

Entries, showing name of clergyman, name, location and denomination of church, date of registry, and signature of clergyman. Arr. chron. by date of entry. No index. Hdw. 12 pp. $11\frac{1}{2}$ x $9\frac{1}{2}$ x $\frac{1}{4}$.

Voting

58. THE REGISTRY BOOK, 1877--. 4 vols.

Record of men and women registered in West Greenwich, showing date registered, name, residence, date and place of birth; dates of entrance into State, into town, and into United States; place of entry; where, when, and by what court naturalized; where, when, and by what court father or husband was naturalized, signature of registrant, signature of town clerk. Arr. alpha. by first letter of surname of registrant. No index. Hdw. 100 pp. 20 x 16 x 1.

59. CAUCUS PAPERS (Democratic Party), 1933--. 1 bdl.

Lists of names and addresses of men and women approved at democratic party caucus as delegates to State and congressional conventions, and as members of State central committees; signature of clerk of democratic town committee. Arr. chron. by date of caucus. No index. Hdw. $10\frac{1}{4}$ x $4\frac{1}{4}$ x $\frac{1}{4}$.

60. CAUCUS PAPERS (Republican Party), 1933--. 1 bdl.

Lists of names and addresses of men and women approved by republican town committee, showing information as in entry 59; signature of clerk of republican town meeting. Arr. chron. by date of caucus. No index. Hdw. $10\frac{1}{4}$ x $4\frac{1}{4}$ x $\frac{1}{4}$.

61. RECORD OF ELECTIONS, 1930--. 1 vol. 1741-1928 in Town Meeting Book, entry 2-c.

Record of ballots cast at general elections, showing date of election, nature of office (senator, representative, town clerk, etc.), names of candidates, name of party, number of votes received by each candidate, number of votes cast for and against governor's proclamation and warrants, etc.

Also contains:

a. loose copies of affidavits of absentee voters.

b. applications for ballots, 1938.

Arr. chron. by date of election. No index. Hdw. 200 pp. 14 x 9 x 1.

Miscellaneous

62. TOWN TREASURER'S BOND, 1938. 1 sheet.

Treasurer's bond, filed with town clerk, showing names and residences of obligors, obligees, and principal; amount of bond, date executed, conditions, signatures and seals of obligors; attestation; acknowledgments, date filed, clerk's attest. No obv. arr. No index. Typed. 16 x 8 x $\frac{1}{4}$.

Town Clerk - Miscellaneous;
Town Sergeant

(63-65)

63. CORRESPONDENCE, 1934--. 1 folder.

File of incoming correspondence and carbon copies of replies. Arr. alpha. by first letter of name of addressor and addressee, chron. thereunder by date of letter. No index. Hdw. and typed. 9 x 12 x 1.

64. TAX LISTS, 1925--. 2 vols. (dated), 1 roll.

Town's permanent assessed valuation and tax record, transcribed by town clerk from Statement of Assessors, showing similar information as entry 67. Arr. chron. by years, alpha. thereunder by first letter of surname of person assessed. No index. Typed. Vols. aver. 125 pp. 17 x 14 x 1½; roll 14 x 3.

65. WEST GREENWICH TAX BOOK, 1864--. 75 vols.

Annual printed publication by vote of financial town meeting, containing:

- a. tax assessments on property with name of town, year assessed, list of property owners, exemptions; description, location, and area of real property and items assessed; assessed valuations on land (1869--), buildings and improvements (1890--), personal property (1864--), intangible personal (1912--), total assessed valuation on all property; total tax; registry tax (1864-88); summary of town valuation and assessments (1864--); tax warrants (1864--); certification of assessments (1864--); town clerk's certification (1864-84).
 - b. unpaid highway tax returns, 1864-66, 1869-76, 1878-94.
 - c. list of town officers, 1864-1924, 1926--. For original records 1741-1928, see entry 2-c.
 - d. town treasurer's report (annual), 1864-1924, 1926--. For original reports 1915--, see entry 8. For prior records 1829-63, see entry 2-h.
 - e. town ordinances, 1867-71, 77-79, 81, 83, 87-88.
 - f. school fund, 1867-1908, 1910-19. For prior records 1741--, see entry 74.
 - g. dog fund, 1876-1908, 1910-19. For prior records 1741--, see entry 74; for records 1906--, see entry 76.
 - h. poll tax list, 1889--. For prior records 1756-1871, see entry 2-f.
- Arr. chron. by years. No index. Printed. Aver. 30 pp. 9 x 6 x 1/16.
For original records of assessments 1903-11, see entry 66.

VI. TOWN SERGEANT

Following closely upon the organization of colony government under the charter of 1663, the general assembly passed an act "Establishing the Election of Town Officers in Each Respective Town in the colony." ¹ Included among the officers set forth by the provisions of this act was that of the town sergeant.

1. R. I. Col. Recs., vol. 1, Part I, 1636-1663, p. 180.

Town Sergeant; Assessors of Taxes

(Next entry 66, p. 33).

Consequently, when in the year 1741, the freemen of West Greenwich met for the first time " . . . to choose and Elect such town officers as they shall have occasion for and the Law directs . . . " they selected, among others, a town sergeant, Benjamin Spink.²

The sergeant was chosen annually until 1914,³ when, by a special act of the general assembly passed earlier in the same year, tenure of the office was increased to two years.⁴ Thenceforth, the officer has been chosen biennially.⁵ The office has always been elective in West Greenwich.⁶

The town sergeant keeps no records.

VII. ASSESSORS OF TAXES

At their first town meeting, the freemen of the town proceeded forthwith to lay the foundation for the collection of taxes by choosing, as the law directed,¹ two "Rate Makers" -- Pasco Whitford and Thomas Green.²

From the first meeting until 1914, with the exception of the year 1780, when the town meeting set the term of office at three months, tenure of the office remained fixed at one year.³ In 1914, however, a special act of the general assembly increased the term to two years;⁴ from that year, such officers have been chosen biennially.⁵

The title of the office has varied slightly from time to time. The present title of Assessors of Taxes has been applied to the office since 1902.⁶ The number of officers regularly elected to perform the duties of the office has also varied. From 1741 to 1910 the number of incumbents has ranged from two to five;⁷ but from 1910 to date three members were chosen to perform the duties.⁸ The office has always been elective.⁹

Unless otherwise specified, all records are housed in the office or vault of the town clerk.

2. T. M. R. (1741).

3. T. M. R. (1741-1914).

4. P. L., Jan. 1914, ch. 1154, sec. 1.

5. T. M. R. (1914-30); Record of Elections (1930--).

6. T. M. R. (1741-1930); Record of Elections (1930--).

1. Acts and Laws (Digest 1730), p. 16; R. I. Col. Recs., vol. 1, Part I, p. 180.

2. T. M. R. (1741).

3. T. M. R. (1741-1914).

4. P. L., Jan. 1913, ch. 1154, sec. 1.

5. T. M. R. (1914-30); Record of Election (1930--).

6. T. M. R. (1741-1930); Record of Elections (1930--).

7. T. M. R. (1741-1910).

8. T. M. R. (1910--).

9. T. M. R. (1741-1930); Record of Elections (1930--).

Assessors of Taxes - Minutes; Records;
Automobiles

(66-68)

Minutes

66. TAX BOOK A (Minutes of Meetings and Record of Assessments), 1903-11. 1 vol.

Minutes of meetings of assessors of taxes, showing time, date, and place of meeting, names of members present, nature of business transacted, list of property owners, date assessed, description and location of property by title and page number of record, assessed valuation of real estate, personal property, and total assessed tax. Arr. chron. by year assessed. No index. Hdw. 575 pp. 19 x 12 x $2\frac{1}{2}$.

For subsequent related records 1920-- , see entry 67.

Records

67. STATEMENT OF ASSESSORS, 1822-26, 1920-- . 1 vol., 1 bdl., 7 envs. Title varies: West Greenwich Tax Book, 1822-26, 1 vol. Tax Lists, 1920-23, 1 bdl.

Estimation sheets of annual town tax assessment made by assessors of taxes in the town, showing name of property owner, description, area and location of real estate assessed, lot number, valuation of tangible and intangible personal, and total value of all classes.

Also contains:

- a. certification of assessment, 1920-23, 1931-- . For prior printed records 1864-- , see entry 65-a.
- b. poll tax assessment lists, 1920-23, 1931-- . For prior printed records 1889-- , see entry 65-h.
- c. summary (annual) of town valuation and assessments, 1920-23, 1931-- . For prior printed records 1864-- , see entry 65-a.
- d. tax exemptions, 1920-23, 1931-- . For prior printed records 1864-- , see entry 65-a.
- e. tax warrants, 1920-23, 1931-- . For prior printed records 1864-- , see entry 65-a.

Arr. chron. by year of tax, alpha. thereunder by first letter of property owner's surname. No index. Hdw. and typed. Vol., 120 pp., $8\frac{1}{2}$ x 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ x $\frac{1}{2}$, 1822-26, R. I. Historical Society, 52 Power St., Providence, R. I.; bdl., 10 x 4 x 4, 7 envs. 9 x 3 x $\frac{1}{16}$, 1920-23, 1931-- , town clerk's office.

Automobiles

68. AUTOMOBILE REGISTRATION CARDS, 1935-- . 5 bdl.

Copies of automobile registration cards, issued by the Registry of Motor Vehicles Division and used by the Assessor of Taxes in making assessments on motor vehicles, showing date of issue, name and address of owner; make, year, type, model, engine and serial numbers, seating capacity, gross weight, annual fee, and registration number of vehicle. Arr. alpha. by first letter of surname of registrant. No index. Typed. 3 x 5 x 2.

Assessors of Taxes - Miscellaneous;
Collector of Taxes

(69-70)

Miscellaneous

69. (LIST OF REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS), 1934--. 6 sheets.

Annual list, compiled by the town clerk, showing name and address of grantor and grantee, description and location of real estate transferred. Arr. chron. by years. No index. Hdw. 10 x 8 x 1/16.

70. RATE BILL OF TOWN OF WEST GREENWICH, 1774-75. 1 vol. (dated).

Copy of original rate bill, in custody of the R. I. Historical Society, showing alphabetical list of taxpayers, amount assessed, and date of transcription. Arr. alpha. by family surname. No index. Hdw. $8\frac{1}{4}$ x 7 x $\frac{3}{8}$. R. I. Historical Society, 52 Power St., Providence, R. I.

VIII. COLLECTOR OF TAXES

At the time of incorporation of West Greenwich, and for many years prior thereto, the collection of both colony and town taxes was committed to the constables of the respective towns in the colony.¹

At their first meeting the freemen of West Greenwich chose, among other town officers, two constables, John Matteson and Charles Carr, who undertook the collection of colony and local taxes, if any, in the town.² The constable, in all probability, continued to collect the colony taxes until 1749, when a "Collector to Collect Colony Rates" was chosen.³ In 1755, however, the freemen chose a " . . . Collector to gather the Rates when any Levied . . . " ⁴ probably pursuant to an act passed by the General Assembly in 1754 directing the freemen of each town in the colony to elect or choose annually one or more "Collectors of Rates", ⁵ without reference to the nature of the tax to be collected.

The title of the office has varied slightly but the present title has been more or less regularly applied since 1820. ⁶ As a general rule, a single officer has undertaken the collection of taxes in the town. ⁷

The office remained elective until June 1900, when, for the first time, the town council appointed the collector. ⁸ The following year, however, the town meeting again chose the officer and continued to do so until 1905, ⁹

1. R. I. Col. Recs., 1671-1686, vol. 2, p. 112.

2. T. M. R. (1741).

3. T. M. R. (1741-49).

4. T. M. R. (1755).

5. A. & R., Feb. 1754-Oct. 1757, Act passed June 1754, p. 34.

6. T. M. R. (1741-1900, 1901-05); T. C. R. (1900, 1905--).

7. T. M. R. (1741-1900, 1901-05); T. C. R. (1900, 1905--).

8. T. M. R. (1741-1900); T. C. R. (1900).

9. T. M. R. (1901-05).

Collector of Taxes - Tax List;
Receipts; Tax Levies

(71-73)

when the council again made the selection.¹⁰ The council has continued to make the appointments down to the present time.¹¹

Tenure of office remained, for the most part, at one year until 1914. In 1914 tenure was increased to two years which term of holding has been maintained to the present.¹²

All records are housed in the office or vault of the town clerk.

Tax List

71. (COLLECTOR'S TAX LIST), 1933--. 1 bdl.

Copies of Statement of Assessors, entry 67, made by town clerk, showing name of property owned, description, area, and location of real estate assessed, lot number, valuation of tangible and intangible personal property, and total valuation of all classes. Also contains tax collector's warrants, 1933--, issued by town treasurer. Arr. chron. by years, alpha. thereunder by first letter of surname of taxpayer. No index. Typed. 14 x 5 x 2.

Receipts

72. TAXES (Receipt Stubs), 1935--. 8 vols. (1-2, 1-6, dated).

Stubs of receipts issued for part or full payment of real estate, personal property, and poll tax assessments, showing year of tax, name of town, name of taxpayer, amount paid, interest (if any), total amount paid, date of payment. Arr. chron. by date of issue. No index. Hdw. 500 pp. 9 x 3 x $\frac{1}{4}$.

Tax Levies

73. BOOK OF TAX LEVIES, 1908. 1 vol. (1).

Record of levies by tax collector for delinquency, showing names of State and county, statement certifying levy on real estate or personal property, date tax assessed, dates due and payable, signature of tax collector, name of taxpayer, assessed valuation on real estate or personal property, total delinquent tax. Arr. chron. by year of tax, alpha. thereunder by first letter of surname of taxpayer. No index. Hdw. 150 pp. 14 x 8 $\frac{3}{4}$ x $\frac{1}{2}$.

10. T. C. R. (1905).

11. T. C. R. (1905--).

12. T. M. R. (1741-1900, 1901-05); T. C. R. (1900, 1905--).

IX. TOWN TREASURER

By the terms of an act of the general assembly passed soon after the colony government began to function under the charter of 1663, the freemen of each respective town were directed, among other things, to elect annually, a number of specified town officers.¹ It was in accordance with the provisions of this act, as set forth in the Digest of 1730,² that the freemen of West Greenwich met for the first time and chose their first set of town officers, included among which was a town treasurer, one Henry Matteson, Jr.³

The treasurer continued to be chosen annually until 1914,⁴ when the general assembly, by special act, increased the tenure of the office to two years.⁵ Thenceforth, the treasurer has been chosen biennially.⁶ The office has always been elective.⁷

From the beginning of the town to date, although special duties have been added to the office from time to time, the regular functions of the treasurer have remained substantially the same.⁸ In general, the treasurer is charged, unless otherwise specified by law, with the receipt, custody, and disbursement of all municipal moneys and funds.⁹

All records are housed at the residence of the town treasurer, Doris V. Andrews, Weaver Trail Road, Nooseneck.

Records and Orders

74. TREASURER'S RECORDS, 1741--. 4 vols. (3 vols. dated). Title varies: Records of the Town of West Greenwich, 1741-1797, 1 vol.; Town Treasurer's Records, 1797-1849, 1 vol.

Ledger of receipts and expenditures by fiscal years under fund headings (general fund, school fund, town hall fund, highway fund, etc.); receipt entries, showing date money received, name of payer or source, explanation and amount; expenditure entries, showing date paid, name of payee, explanation, title of fund, and amount. Also shows intermittent certification of town auditor of explanation and settlement of accounts. Arr. chron. by fiscal years. No index. Hdw. 300 pp. 16 x 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 2 $\frac{1}{2}$.

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1. R. I. Col. Recs., vol. 1, Part I, p. 180; Laws of the Colony of R. I., 1663-1705, p. 35.
 2. Acts and Laws (Digest 1730), p. 16.
 3. T. M. R. (1741).
 4. T. M. R. (1741-1914).
 5. P. L., Jan. 1914, ch. 1154, sec. 1.
 6. T. M. R. (1914-30); Record of Elections (1930--).
 7. T. M. R. (1741-1930); Record of Elections (1930--).
 8. Treasurer's Records (1741--).
 9. Ibid.

Town Treasurer - Records and Orders

(75-79)

75. TREASURER'S SCHOOL RECORD, 1849--. 1 vol.

Itemized record of receipts and disbursements of school funds by fiscal years; receipts, 1850--, showing date fiscal year begins, balance carried forward from previous year, date money received, amount received, source, and purpose; disbursements, 1849--, by school district number, showing apportionment, date, name of payee, explanation, amount expended, and purpose of expenditure. Between fiscal years, 1870-84, lists of amounts of money assigned to each school district by school committee are included, showing year, amount assigned, district number, and total for all districts. Certifications of the town auditor of the examination and settlement of accounts are included, 1894--. Arr. chron. by fiscal year. No index. Hdw. 350 pp. $13\frac{1}{2}$ x $8\frac{1}{2}$ x 2.

For prior related record see entry 74.

76. (DOG FUND ACCOUNT BOOK), 1906--. 1 vol.

Record of annual receipts and disbursements upon order for payment; receipts, showing date, name of payer, amount, total receipts, name of treasurer; disbursements for dog damages, showing date, type of damage, name of claimant, and amount; for killing unlicensed rabid dogs: date, name of payer, amount; amount turned over to school fund, balance, certification of town auditor of the examination and settlement of accounts. Arr. chron. by date of entry. No index. Hdw. 100 pp. 10 x 8 x $\frac{1}{2}$.

77. ORDERS ON TOWN TREASURER, 1921--. 7 bdls., 1 env.

Written authorizations for payment of bills allowed and ordered paid, showing amount of order, date, name of town, name of payee, account (fund) chargeable, explanation, order number, and signature of issuing officer; consisting of:

- a. orders on dog fund, 1921--.
- b. council orders on town treasurer, 1932--. For related record of stubs 1923--, see entry 6; for original invoices 1933--, see entry 5.
- c. school committee orders on town treasurer, 1932--. For original invoices 1932--, see entry 92.
- d. home relief bills ordered paid, 1933-34.
- e. aid to dependent children orders, 1933-38.
- f. town hall committee orders, 1936-37.

Arr. by agency authorizing payment, chron. thereunder by date of order. No index. Hdw. Bdls. $8\frac{1}{2}$ x 1 x 3 - 10 x 4 x 3; env. 9 x $3\frac{1}{2}$ x $\frac{1}{4}$.

78. NOTE BOOK (Old Age Assistance Cash Book), 1935--. 1 vol.

Monthly receipt entries for State reimbursement in front of book, showing date, explanation, amount; semimonthly expenditures in back of book, showing date, name of recipient, amount. Arr. chron. by fiscal year. No index. Hdw. 9 x $7\frac{1}{2}$ x $\frac{1}{2}$.

79. (CHECK STUBS), 1933--. 6 vols.

Stubs of checks issued by town treasurer, upon written authorizations, showing check number, date, name of payee (creditor or relief recipient),

Town Treasurer - Records and Orders

(80-82)

description and purpose of payment, amount. Arr. chron. by date of issue with stubs numbered consecutively. No index. Hdw. 150 pp. 15 x 11 x 1.
For related record, see entry 80.

80. (CANCELLED CHECKS AND BANK STATEMENTS), 1933--. 4 bdls.

a. Monthly bank statements, showing names of bank and depositor, date of statement, debit entries listing deposits by dates, amounts, total deposits; credit entries listing checks paid, dates, amounts, total payments; balance at end of month.

b. Cancelled checks perforated with initials of bank, date paid, showing check number, date issued, bank on which drawn, payee's name, amount of check, signature of town treasurer; reverse side shows signature of endorser, bank stamp impressions for clearing house.

Arr. chron. by months, numer. thereunder by check number. No index. Hdw. and typed. 9 x 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 3.

For related record of check stubs, see entry 79.

81. (REIMBURSEMENT VOUCHERS), 1933-34. 2 bdls.

Transmittal vouchers submitted with checks to town treasurer, containing:

a. State Unemployment Relief Commission vouchers reimbursing town for money expended on work relief projects, showing date, period covered, name of town, amount of work relief payroll, work relief orders, State projects, project supervision, home relief, administration, supplies, equipment and transportation, total expenditures, reimbursement, 5/11ths from State, signature of town treasurer, approval signatures of relief accountants and secretary of State Unemployment Relief Commission.

b. Federal Emergency Relief Administration vouchers, approved demands for payments following certification of work relief and home relief programs, showing voucher number, check number, name of bank, name of town, period covered, amount expended for work relief payroll, work relief orders, State projects, home relief, administration, miscellaneous, total demand, signature of secretary of State Unemployment Relief Commission, date of payment, approval signature of chief relief accountant, signature of town treasurer.

Arr. by agency, chron. thereunder by date of period covered. No index.

Typed. 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 11 x 1/8.

82. TOWN TREASURER'S REPORTS, 1935--. 5 bdls.

Duplicates of reports made by treasurer, consisting of:

a. town treasurer's reports, 1935--., showing information as in entry 8.
For originals 1915--., see entry 8; for printed record 1864--., see entry 65-d.

b. annual report to State Budget Director and Controller for fiscal year ending Feb. 28, 1935, showing sheet number, department to which directed, name of town, fiscal year ending date, all revenues and expenditures for fiscal year under schedules: statement of

Town Treasurer - Records and Orders;
Deeds and Bonds

(83-85)

receipts and disbursements, statement of revenue and expense, statement of general fund assets and liabilities, signature of town treasurer.

- c. annual report to State Controller, 1936--, of all revenues and expenses by fiscal year, arranged by schedules, inclosed within jacket; face of jacket, showing title of report and name of town, fiscal year ending date, office to which directed, number of exhibits used by town, printed list of exhibits with check marks after those used, certification of town treasurer; schedules show itemized statement of receipts and disbursements, exclusive of sinking funds and trust funds, as compared with current and prior fiscal years, condensed statement of revenue and expenditures (cash basis) as compared with current and prior fiscal years, statement of operation of appropriation accounts, and schedule of taxes classified by years.
 - d. annual report of treasurer to Department of Education of amounts paid out to the order of the school committee and source from which derived, showing department to which directed, title of form, name of town, fiscal year date covered, revenues from State, revenues from town, total revenue from all sources, summary of current expenditures, taxation, signature of town treasurer, and date.
- Arr. by series of reports, chron. thereunder by date of report. No index.
Hdw. $8\frac{1}{2}$ x $3\frac{1}{2}$ x $1\frac{1}{8}$ - 9 x 10 x 1.

Deeds and Bonds

83. (TOWN DEEDS), 1933--. 1 bdl.

Original deeds conveying land to town by purchase, showing names and residences of grantor and grantee, designation of the parties, amount of consideration, acknowledgment; conveyance, description, and location of property; conclusion, date of instrument, signature and seal of grantor; attestation; time and date received for record, book and page reference; clerk's attest. Arr. chron. by date of deed. No index. Hdw. $8\frac{1}{2}$ x $3\frac{1}{2}$ x $1\frac{1}{3}$.

84. TOWN OFFICER'S BONDS, 1918-39. 1 env.

Town officer's bonds given by town sergeant, 1918-38; town clerk, 1924-38; tax collector, 1925-39; constables, 1925-38; and auctioneer, 1926-38, showing names and residences of obligors, principal, and obligees; amount of bond, date executed, conditions, signature and seal of obligor; attestation; acknowledgment; date filed. Arr. by agency, chron, thereunder by date filed. No index. Hdw. 9 x 3 x 1.

85. ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE BONDS, 1933-39. 1 env.

Bonds required as precedent to the issuance of any license, showing names and residences of sureties, principal, and obligee; amount of bond, date executed; conditions; signature and seal of obligors; attestation; acknowledgments; date filed. Arr. chron. by date filed. No index. Hdw. 9 x 3 x $\frac{1}{2}$.

Town Auditor

(Next entry 86, p. 44)

X. TOWN AUDITOR

The task of examining and verifying the accounts of the town was assigned for many years during the earlier period of the town's existence to so-called "committees", chosen annually, or more frequently as the occasion arose, by the freemen of the town in their town meetings assembled.¹ Thus, on March 2, 1741/2, the town meeting records disclose the freeholders voting for the first time " . . . that Benja Sweet, Joseph Slocum, John Spencer be chosen a committee to audit the town's debt and the treasurer's account and to make a report of them at the next quarterly meeting." ²

The town meeting records further reveal that the persons named to these committees were variously designated as "audits", "auditts", "auditors of treasurer's accounts", or "auditors of the town's debts and treasurer's accounts." ³

"Committees," as such, continued to audit the town's accounts until August 31, 1813, when the town apparently abandoned this procedure and elected, for the first time as individual town officers, three "auditors", David Matteson, Silas Jones, and Caleb Bailey.⁴ No essential changes have occurred in the title of the office from 1813 to date.⁵

The number of auditors chosen has varied from time to time. From 1813, to and including the year 1872, three were regularly chosen. Two were elected to the office in 1873, and one in 1874 and 1875. The town selected three from 1876 to 1878 inclusive; two in each year from 1879 to 1887; one from 1888 to 1891; two in 1892; and one from 1893 to date.⁶

The office remained elective until May 26, 1900, ⁷ when, for the first time, the council appointed an auditor for a full term.⁸ The following year the town meeting again elected the auditor;⁹ in 1902 the council made the appointment;¹⁰ and in 1903 and 1904, the selection was made in the town meeting.¹¹ From 1905 to date, however, the auditor has been chosen by the town council.¹²

Annual appointments were made until November 1914, ¹³ when the auditor was first chosen for a full two-year term.¹⁴ Yearly appointments are again

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1. T. M. R. (1741-42).
 2. Ibid.
 3. Ibid.
 4. T. M. R. (1741-1813).
 5. T. M. R. (1813-1900, 1901, 3-4); T. C. R. (1900, 1902, 1905--).
 6. T. M. R. (1741-1900, 1901, 3-4); T. C. R. (1900, 1902, 1905--).
 7. T. M. R. (1741-1900).
 8. T. C. R. (1900).
 9. T. M. R. (1901).
 10. T. C. R. (1902).
 11. T. M. R. (1903-4).
 12. T. C. R. (1905--).
 13. T. M. R. (1741-1900, 1901, 3-4); T. C. R. (1900, 1902, 1905-14).
 14. T. C. R. (1914).

Town Auditor; Board of Health

(Next entry 86, p. 44)

indicated by the council records of 1916 and 1917.¹⁵ From 1918 to date, however, the officer has been chosen biennially.¹⁶

The office of town auditor was without explicit legislative sanction until 1909, when the general assembly enacted legislation authorizing the several town councils " . . . to elect one or more town auditors, prescribe their duties by ordinance and fix their compensation." ¹⁷

The auditor keeps no records.

XI. BOARD OF HEALTH

An act of the general assembly passed in February 1816 established for the first time the several town councils as ex officio boards of health in their respective towns, and generally defined their powers and duties as such.¹ Prior to the enactment of this law, the town meeting² and the town council, as such, acted locally in all matters concerning public health. An examination of the minutes of the proceedings recorded in the council records of West Greenwich discloses that no action was taken by this body in its ex officio capacity as board of health until April 8, 1830. At this time the council was specially convened for the purpose of taking effectual measures to prevent the spread of small pox.

Today, by statute, the several town councils, as ex officio boards of health, are expressly empowered " . . . to make such rules and regulations, not repugnant to law, as they shall judge proper, for the preservation of the health of the inhabitants thereof, the prevention and abatement of nuisances, the promotion of cleanliness, the removal of the causes and the prevention of the introduction and spread of any contagious or infectious disease therein; either by removing the inhabitants of their respective towns, or forbidding or regulating ingress or egress of persons to and from the same, or any parts thereof, or otherwise; and in case of seaport towns, by making rules and regulations respecting quarantine." The several councils are further authorized to establish " . . . such regulations as they may deem proper in reference to cattle or other animals coming from without this state by railroad, for the health and safety of such cattle and other animals . . . ", to prevent " . . . the obstruction of the public highways by them, for the safety of the people who may have occasion to use such highways, and with reference to the slaughtering or selling such cattle or other animals, or the flesh thereof, for human food, within the limits of their respective towns . . . " ³

No records have been found.

15. T. C. R. (1916-17).

16. T. C. R. (1918--).

17. P. L., Jan. 1909, ch. 402, sec. 1.

1. A. & R., 1815, 1816, 1817 (Feb. 1816).

2. T. M. R. (1741-1816); T. C. R. (1816--).

3. G. L., 1938, ch. 333, sec. 13, p. 704.

Health Officer

(Next entry 86, p. 44)

XII. HEALTH OFFICER*

The original law appointing the several town councils boards of health ex officio also empowered each seaport town in the State to choose a health officer and defined generally the powers and duties of such officer.¹ Not until 1885, however, was express provision made for the appointment of health officers in towns generally. The general assembly at this time enacted legislation, which provided, among other things, that "There shall be appointed in every town by the town council thereof, a health officer, who shall perform the duties of said office for a term of one year" ²

The town council in land-locked West Greenwich, nevertheless, as early as December 9, 1835, at a time when smallpox was apparently prevalent therein, appointed a health officer for the town--one Elisha Johnson.³ No further appointment to the office, however, is to be found recorded anywhere in the archives of the town until December 29, 1934, when the council again selected a health officer for the town.⁴ Subsequent appointments to the office are recorded in the council records of April 26, 1936 and of February 24, 1940. ⁵ The health officer has always been chosen by the town council, and in each instance a single officer selected to perform the duties of the office.⁶

Whereas no definite tenure is apparent from the local records,⁷ the law of 1885, which has been unchanged to date in this respect,⁸ fixed the term of the officer at one year " . . . and until his successor is appointed and qualified: Provided, however, that the town council may remove said health officer at any legal meeting of said town council after notice to said officer" ⁹

The health officer is the agent of the town council for making all sanitary inspections and is required from time to time to report to the town council the result of his inquiries.

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1. A. & R., 1815, 1816, 1817 (Feb. 1816), "An act appointing the several Town-Councils in this State Boards of Health, ex officio," sec. 6.
 2. A., R. & R., Jan. 1885-May 1885, Act passed at January session 1885, ch. 495, sec. 5.
 3. T. C. R. (1835).
 4. T. C. R. (1934).
 5. T. C. R. (1936, 40).
 6. T. C. R. (1835, 1934, 36, 40).
 7. Ibid.
 8. G. L., 1896, ch. 91, sec. 5, p. 305; G. L., 1909, ch. 107, sec. 5, p. 390; G. L., 1923, ch. 119, sec. 5, p. 548; G. L., 1938, ch. 601, sec. 5, p. 1142.
 9. A., R. & R., Jan. 1885-May 1885, Act passed at January session 1885, ch. 495, sec. 5.

Health Officer; Chief of Police

(Next entry 86, p. 44)

To date, the several health officers appointed in the town have had no occasion to make or keep records. The present health officer, however, files a weekly report with the State Department of Health concerning the presence or absence of reportable diseases in the town, although neither he nor his predecessors have had any cause to report to the town council as required by law.

XIII. CHIEF OF POLICE

From the time the machinery of town government was first established and set into motion in West Greenwich, until the comparatively recent year of 1922, the task of enforcing those laws and ordinances designed for the preservation of the peace and good order of the community devolved principally upon the town sergeant, regular and special constables, and occasionally upon the sheriff of Kent County and his deputies.¹

Not until June 24, 1922 did the town deem it necessary to choose a full-time, paid police officer for the town. The town council at this time appointed Frederic C. Fish to the office.² No further appointment to the office is recorded until June 30, 1925, when a chief was again chosen, apparently for a year term.³ From 1926 to the last recorded appointment, however, the chief of police has been chosen biennially in the month of November.⁴ Appointments to the office have all been made by the town council.⁵

In the performance of the duties of his office, which are nowhere defined generally in the local records,⁶ and only in special instances throughout the statutes,⁷ the chief, occasionally aided by one or more police constables or by the town sergeant, among other things, conducts investigations of offences committed within the town, makes arrests, prepares criminal complaints, serves warrants, and prosecutes complaints to final disposition.⁸

Police constables, regularly chosen biennially by the town council, and at such other times as the circumstances require, are appointed upon the request and recommendation of the chief of police.⁹ The council records further reveal that a deputy chief of police was appointed "Upon request of the Chief of Police . . . " on July 26, 1930; and that further appointments to the office of deputy chief were made in 1930, 1932, and for the last time in 1934.¹⁰

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1. T. C. R. (1741-1922).
 2. T. C. R. (1922).
 3. T. C. R. (1925).
 4. T. C. R. (1926--).
 5. T. C. R. (1922, 1925--).
 6. T. C. R. (1922, 1925--).
 7. Index to G. L. of R. I., 1938, Police, pp. 304-305, passim.
 8. Record of Arrests (1926--).
 9. T. C. R. (1922, 1925--).
 10. T. C. R. (1930, 32, 34).

Chief of Police - Records;
Constables

(86, 87)

West Greenwich maintains no jail, lock-up, or other place of confinement. The local officers, however, whenever the necessity for the use thereof occasionally arises, have access to the cell rooms of the Hope Valley barracks of the State Police, located off the Nooseneck Hill Road in the town of Richmond, and to those of the West Warwick police station situated at 1182 Main Street in the village of Arctic.

All the chief's records are housed in the living room of the present chief of police, John H. Potter, Nooseneck Hill Road, Nooseneck.

Records

86. RECORD OF ARRESTS, 1926--. 2 vols.

Police blotter, showing name of person arrested; time and date of trial; disposition of case; record of breaks, list and quantity of articles stolen, summary of police investigation; warrants issued; accident reports. Arr. chron. by date of entry. No index. Hdw. 100 pp. 14 x 9 x 1.

87. (CASES TRIED AND CLOSED), 1935. 1 box.

Case histories of motor law violators and criminal offenders brought to trial, showing name and residence of defendant, nature of violation or offense, operator's license number, vehicle registration number, State in which registered, disposition of case, special arraignment costs, fine, costs, total amount of costs. Arr. alpha. by surname of defendant. No index. Hdw. and typed cards. $3\frac{1}{2}$ x $5\frac{1}{2}$ x 3.

XIV. CONSTABLES

Under provisions of laws then in effect, two constables were elected when the freemen of West Greenwich met and chose their first slate of officers in 1741.¹ The office remained elective until June 30, 1900,² when, for the first time, a constable was chosen by the town council for a full-time term.³

The following year the constable was chosen again in town meeting.⁴ In 1902 the town council made the selection;⁵ and in 1903 and 1904 the town meeting resumed the responsibility for selecting constables.⁶ From 1905 to date, the constable has been chosen exclusively by the town council.⁷

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1. T. M. R. (1741).
 2. T. M. R. (1741-1900).
 3. T. C. R. (1900).
 4. T. M. R. (1901).
 5. T. C. R. (1902).
 6. T. M. R. (1903-4).
 7. T. C. R. (1905--).

Constables; Police Constable

(Next entry 88, p. 48)

Constables were chosen for one-year terms from the establishment of the office in the town to and including the year 1913.⁸ Subsequent appointments to the office are recorded in the council records of 1914, 1916, 1917, 1918, 1920, 1922, and 1925.⁹ From 1926 to date, the constables have been chosen regularly every two years.¹⁰ The number of constables chosen for each term has varied from time to time, ranging from one to as many as eleven.¹¹

Responsibility for law enforcement in the town was for many years following its incorporation committed almost solely to the several constables and the town sergeant.¹² With the appointment of special constables, particularly of police constables in 1880,¹³ and of a chief of police in 1922,¹⁴ together with the Department of State Police in 1925,¹⁵ the constable has been relieved of most of his active duties in connection with the enforcement of the law.

Sunday and First-Day Constables

On May 25, 1790, after choosing the regular constables, the freemen voted "That Robert Carr, William Richmond, David Straight, and Allen James all (be) chosen first-day constables for the ensuing year".¹⁶ In each year following the first selection, until 1814, these constables were chosen as "first-day or Sunday" constables.¹⁷ In other towns this officer is sometimes referred to as the "tithing-man".

The constable keeps no records.

XV. POLICE CONSTABLE

Pursuant to an act of 1862,¹ the town council of West Greenwich on June 26, 1880, appointed William F. Matteson and Curnel H. Andrews, police constables.² No further appointment to the office is noted in the records until 1891 when the council chose one police constable.³ The tenure of the office remained at one year until 1914 when the council for the first time chose police constables for a two-year term.⁴ Henceforth, the general appointments

8. T. M. R. (1741-1900, 1901, 3-4); T. C. R. (1900, 1902, 5-13).

9. T. C. R. (1914, 16-18, 20, 22, 25).

10. T. C. R. (1926--).

11. T. M. R. (1741-1900, 1901, 3-4); T. C. R. (1900, 1902, 5-13).

12. T. M. R. (1741-1880).

13. T. M. R. (1880).

14. T. C. R. (1925).

15. P. L., Jan. 1925, ch. 588, sec. 1.

16. T. M. R. (1790).

17. T. M. R. (1741-1814).

1. P. L., Jan. 1862, ch. 401, sec. 1; Gen. Stat., 1872, ch. 35, sec. 27, p. 99.

2. T. C. R. (1880).

3. T. C. R. (1891).

4. T. C. R. (1880-1914).

Police Constable;
Pound-Keeper

(Next entry 88, p. 43)

have been made biennially.⁵ Many interim selections have been made, such intervening appointments being based on recommendations made by the chief of police from 1931 to date.⁶

The number of police constables regularly chosen to the office, apart from the numerous interim appointments, has varied considerably, ranging from one in 1891 to forty in 1940.⁷ The office has always been appointive.⁸

Police constables are seldom called upon to perform any official duties, only occasionally being assigned to police duty by the council or the chief of police.⁹

No records have been found.

XVI. POUND-KEEPER

The freemen of West Greenwich, at their first town meeting in 1741,¹ named a pound-keeper--one Joseph Nichols, under provisions of a general law of 1730.²

The town continued to choose annually a single keeper until 1800 when two men were elected to perform the duties of the office.³ Two men regularly were chosen in each year from 1800 to 1816; one from 1817 to 1887; two from 1888 to 1938, biennially, 1914--; and one from 1940 to date.⁴

The keeper was chosen in town meeting until 1900, when the town council, for the first time, appointed the officer.⁵ In 1901, the town meeting again made the selection,⁶ and in 1902 the council resumed responsibility for the appointment.⁷ In 1904, the electors in town meeting chose the pound-keepers;⁸ and in 1905, they were appointed by the council.⁹ From 1907 to date the keeper has been chosen exclusively by the town council.¹⁰

5. T. C. R. (1914--).

6. T. C. R. (1931--).

7. T. C. R. (1880--).

8. Ibid.

9. Ibid.

1. T. M. R. (1741).

2. Acts and Laws (Digest 1730), p. 16.

3. T. M. R. (1741-1800).

4. T. M. R. (1800-1900, 1901, 4); T. C. R. (1900, 1902, 5, 1907--).

5. T. C. R. (1900).

6. T. M. R. (1901).

7. T. C. R. (1902).

8. T. M. R. (1904).

9. T. C. R. (1905).

10. T. C. R. (1907--).

Pound-Keeper; Appraiser of Damage
Done by Dogs; School Committee

(Next entry 88, p. 48)

The title of the office has remained unchanged.¹¹

The pound-keeper keeps no records.

XVII. APPRAISER OF DAMAGE DONE BY DOGS

Pursuant to an act passed by the general assembly in January 1869, the town council of West Greenwich voted "That Charles E. Potter and Venum Weaver be appointed appraisers to appraise damage done to sheep and other animals by Dogs."¹

The number of appraisers chosen to perform the duties of the office has varied from time to time from one to three.² Appointments were made annually from 1869 to 1927; and from 1928 to date, every two years.³

Prior to 1908 no precise or uniform title was given to the office, but from 1908 to date, the appointments have been almost invariably designated as appraisers of damage done by dogs.⁴ The office has always been appointive.⁵

The appraiser keeps no records.

XVIII. SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Pursuant to an act passed by the general assembly in January 1828,¹ the freemen of West Greenwich assembled in town meeting on May 27th of the same year and chose nine persons to organize and conduct the affairs of the town's first school committee.²

All members of the school committee were chosen annually until 1873.³ In the year 1873, following the election of three committee members, the school committee, pursuant to a change in the law,⁴ fixed by lot the tenure of the members at three years, two years, and one year, respectively.⁵

11. T. M. R. (1800-1900, 1901, 4); T. C. R. (1900, 1902, 5, 1907--).

1. T. C. R. (1869).

2. T. C. R. (1869--).

3. Ibid.

4. T. C. R. (1908--).

5. T. C. R. (1869--).

1. A., R. & R., Jan. 1828, "An Act to establish Public Schools," sec. 3, p. 10.

2. T. M. R. (1828).

3. T. M. R. (1828-73).

4. Gen. Stat., 1872, ch. 47, sec. 4, p. 117.

5. School Committee Records (Minutes of Proceedings) (1840--).

Upon the expiration of each of these terms, however, a committeeman was chosen in town meeting to serve for a period of three years. This system continued in effect through 1913, one member of a committee of three being chosen annually during this period, 1874-1913, for a three-year term.⁶ Since 1914, West Greenwich at each biennial election has chosen one or two members of a committee of three for four-year terms.⁷

Prior to 1864, the number of persons chosen to committee membership varied from three to as many as thirteen.⁸ From 1864 to date, West Greenwich invariably chose a school committee of three members.⁹ Vacancies in committee membership were filled prior to 1872 by the committee itself;¹⁰ from 1874 to date by the town council.¹¹ The office has always been elective.¹²

With the exception of the limited control exercised by the trustee under the district system, the school committee, sub-committees thereof, its officers or agents have performed all necessary local duties concerning the government of public schools in the town.¹³

Since 1840, the school committee, upon organizing, chose a chairman and a clerk, also designated during the earlier period as president and secretary respectively.¹⁴ The chairman presides at all meetings, and the clerk, under the direction of the committee, keeps a journal of the proceedings.¹⁵

Unless otherwise indicated, all records are housed in the residence of Clara L. Potter, Superintendent of Schools, Nooseneck Hill Road, West Greenwich.

Proceedings

88. SCHOOL RECORD (Record of School Committee Meetings), 1840--.
2 vols. (1-2).

Minutes of the meetings of the school committee, showing date, time, and place of meeting, names of members present, committee officers selected, approval of minutes of previous meetings, actions of the committee on matters coming before it, and signature of clerk. Arr. chron. by date of meeting. No index. Hdw. 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 8 x 1. Res. Edith M. Fish, Clerk, Weaver Trail Road.

For related record of printed annual reports, see entry 93.

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6. T. M. R. (1873-1913).
 7. T. M. R. (1914-30); Record of Elections (1930--).
 8. T. M. R. (1828-64).
 9. T. M. R. (1864-1930); Record of Elections (1930--).
 10. School Committee Records (Minutes of Proceedings) (1840--).
 11. T. C. R. (1874--).
 12. T. M. R. (1828-1930); Record of Elections (1930--).
 13. School Committee Records (Minutes of Proceedings) (1840--).
 14. Ibid.
 15. Ibid.

School Committee - Census; Accounts
and Orders; Records and Reports

(89-93)

Census

89. SCHOOL CENSUS, 1931--. 1 bdl.

Annual record, showing name of town, child's name, address, sex, age, grade, record of school attendance, physical or mental handicaps, name of parent or guardian. Arr. chron. by school year. No index. Hdw. 10 x 6 x 4.

For superintendent's census record, see entry 104; for prior related printed record, see entry 93.

90. SCHOOL CENSUS REPORT, 1933--. 8 sheets.

Copies of tabulated report of school census submitted to State Board of Education, showing name of town, date of report, name, sex, and age of child, record of school attendance, signature of superintendent of schools. Arr. chron. by year. No index. Hdw. $8\frac{1}{2}$ x $3\frac{1}{2}$ x $\frac{1}{4}$.

For prior and coextensive printed report on school census, see entry 93.

Accounts and Orders

91. BILLS - SCHOOL DEPARTMENT, 1932--. 6 bdls.

Original bills of school department allowed and paid, showing date of invoice, name and address of vendor, description, itemized list of merchandise, amount of invoice. Arr. chron. by school year. No index. Hdw. and typed. $8\frac{1}{2}$ x $3\frac{1}{2}$ x $\frac{1}{2}$. Res. Edith M. Fish, Clerk, Weaver Trail Road.

92. SCHOOL DEPARTMENT ORDERS (Stubs), 1930--. 4 vols.

Stubs of school department orders drawn on town treasurer for payment, showing order number, date of order, name of payee, description and amount of order, appropriation chargeable. Arr. chron. by date of order. No index. Hdw. 500 pp. 13 x 9 x 1. Res. Edith M. Fish, Clerk, Weaver Trail Road.

For related record, see entry 77-c.

Records and Reports

93. ANNUAL REPORT OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE, 1862-1903, 1933--. 25 pamphlets, 4 vols. (dated).

Annual reports of the school committee submitted to the electors at town meeting, covering in condensed form, items of business transacted at regular and special meetings during the fiscal year, consisting of statistical summary of the enumeration of children of school age and of those attending school; summary of returns to school committee by school district trustees, 1864-71; statistical analysis of school registration and attendance, 1881-93; comments and criticisms on District Schools Nos. 1-12, 1862, 1864-65, 1869, 1883; itemized statement of public school fund receipts and expenditures, 1864-1903; list of teachers, assignments, and monthly salaries, 1862-69, 1933--. Arr. chron. by years. No index. Printed. $6\frac{1}{2}$ x $3\frac{3}{4}$ x $\frac{1}{16}$. 25 pamphlets, 1862-1903, R. I. Historical Society, 52 Power St., Providence, R. I., 4 vols., 1933--., res. Edith M. Fish, Clerk, Weaver Trail Road.

School Committee - Records
and Reports

(94-98)

94. TEACHER'S REGISTER (School), 1862--. 31 vols.

Record of school enrollment and attendance by school years, showing register of pupils enrolled in public schools, record of pupils, daily record of attendance, teacher's report made out at end of each term summarizing important items in school history with data on the records of the pupils; information on the education, type of certificate held, salary, amount of self-improvement, and certification of teacher; roll of honor and visitor's record. Arr. chron. by school year, alpha. thereunder by pupil's name. No index. Hdw. 75 pp. 14 x 11 x 1/3. 26 vols., 1862-1937, res. Edith M. Fish; 1 vol., 1938--, in each of 5 schools.

95. TEXT-BOOK RECORD, 1902-27. 1 vol.

Record of text books located in Nooseneck School, showing names of pupils and list of books assigned to them. Arr. chron. by school year. No index. Hdw. 100 pp. 7 x 6 x 1/2. Res. Edith M. Fish, Clerk, Weaver Trail Road.

96. PUBLIC SCHOOL BUDGET, 1933--. 8 sheets in 2 bdl.

Copies of public school budget submitted annually prior to financial town meeting to the State Board of Education, by the superintendent of schools, showing name of town, school year, column heads with amount of revenues and expenditures for preceding year, estimate for coming year, amount of increase or decrease, balance of revenue on hand, sources, and total receipts; nature of expenditures, recapitulation of estimates, signature of superintendent of schools on behalf of school committee. Arr. chron. by years. No index. Hdw. $8\frac{1}{2}$ x $3\frac{1}{2}$ x $\frac{1}{4}$. 1 bdl., 1933-34, res. Edith M. Fish, Weaver Trail Road; 1 bdl., 1935--, res. Clara L. Potter, Nooseneck Hill Road, West Greenwich.

For superintendent's personal record of school department expenditures, see entry 115.

97. PUBLIC SCHOOL FINANCE REPORT, 1932--. 9 sheets in 1 bdl.

Duplicate of public school finance reports submitted annually to the Director of Education, showing name of town, period covered, itemization under schedule of revenues and expenditures; annual summary of current expenditures; taxation; bonds and sinking funds; certification, date, and signature of superintendent of schools in behalf of school committee. Arr. chron. by year of report. No index. Hdw. $8\frac{1}{2}$ x 7 x $1\frac{1}{2}$.

98. ATTENDANCE IN PUBLIC DAY SCHOOLS, 1932--. 1 bdl.

Copies of reports on attendance of public day schools submitted to the Director of Education by the school committee, showing name of town, date of report, record of enrollment and attendance in each school, signature of superintendent of schools. Arr. chron. by year of report. No index. Hdw. 9 x 6 x $\frac{1}{4}$.

School Committee - Records
and Reports

(99-103)

99. SUPERVISION OF ATTENDANCE, 1932--. 1 bdl.

Record of supervision of attendance, showing name of town, date, name and salary of truant officer, detailed record of absence and truancy, disposition of case, signature of superintendent on behalf of school committee. Arr. chron. by school year. No index. Hdw. 9 x 6 x $\frac{1}{4}$.

100. PUBLIC SCHOOL PROPERTIES, 1932--. 9 sheets.

Copies of inventories of public school properties, submitted annually to the Director of Education, showing name of town, school year, number of school buildings in use, number of pupils' seats, percent of seats to enrollment, number of classrooms in building, number of new buildings in use, number of classrooms rented, number of new buildings planned and authorized, estimated value of sites and buildings, libraries, apparatus and other equipment, total valuation of all school properties, certification and signature of member of school committee, date of certification. Arr. chron. by school year. No index. Hdw. 8 x 5 $\frac{3}{4}$.

101. REPORT ON NUMBER, SIZE, AND LENGTH OF PUBLIC DAY SCHOOLS, 1932--. 9 sheets in 1 bdl.

Copies of annual reports submitted to Director of Education, showing a detailed record of number of schools in town, number of pupils in each school, average membership, number of weeks in school year, number actual school days in session, signature of superintendent of schools on behalf of school committee. Arr. chron. by school year. No index. Hdw. 11 x 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 4.

102. TEACHERS IN PUBLIC DAY SCHOOL, 1932--. 9 sheets in bdl.

Copies of statistical reports submitted annually to the Director of Education, showing name of town, fiscal year date, number of teaching positions filled by men and women, average number of teachers employed, highest, lowest, and average salary paid, record of teacher's education, class of certificate held, date of report, signature of superintendent of schools on behalf of school committee. Arr. chron. by year of report. No index. Hdw. 11 x 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ x $\frac{1}{4}$.

103. AGE AND EMPLOYMENT CERTIFICATION, 1932--. 9 sheets in 1 bdl.

Copies of annual summary and analysis of certificates issued for employment out of school time, submitted to Director of Education, showing name of town, school year, name, address, salary of certifying officer, number of certificates issued to boys and girls, number issued on birth certificates, baptismal certificates, passports, on approved evidence, certification and signature of superintendent of schools on behalf of school committee. Arr. chron. by school year. No index. Hdw. 9 x 6 x $\frac{1}{4}$.

Superintendent of Schools -
Census

(104)

XIX. SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Pursuant to an act of 1871, ¹ the school committee of West Greenwich on July 10th of the same year "Voted that John H. Edward be appointed Superintendent of Schools of the Town for the ensuing year and that he be allowed for his services the sum of Fifty dollars out of the money saved by the town." ² The following year the committee again appointed the superintendent. ³ From 1873 to and including the year 1882, however, the officer was chosen by the electors of the town in town meeting. ⁴ The superintendent was again selected by the school committee in June 1883 and the committee has by law made the selection since 1884. ⁵

In 1918, 1920, and 1922, the superintendent was chosen to serve for a period of two years. ⁶ Otherwise, tenure of the office has been uniformly one year. ⁷

All records are housed in the residence of the present superintendent of schools, Clara L. Potter, Nooseneck Hill Road, West Greenwich, and in each public school as indicated in the entry concerned.

Census

104. CENSUS CARDS, 1928--. 1 f.d.

Individual records kept by the superintendent of schools on standard cards furnished by the State Department of Education, constituting a school census, attendance, and school record of all persons aged 4 to 21 in the town, showing name and address of child, date and place of birth, whether mentally or physically incapable of attending school, illiterate, vaccinated, name, residence, and occupation of parent or guardian; year, age, census, grade, record of schools attended (public, parochial, college, etc.), whether employed. Reverse of card (school record) shows name of school, grade, room reported, date of admission, age previous to September 1st, health, conduct, scholarship, date of discharge from school. Arr. alpha. by first letter of surname of pupil. No index. Hdw. 10 x 6 x 4.

For related prior and coextensive printed report on school census, see entry 93.

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1. A. & R., Jan. 1871, ch. 923, sec. 1.
 2. School Committee Records (Minutes of Proceedings) (1873).
 3. Ibid.
 4. T. M. R. (1873-1883).
 5. School Committee Records (Minutes of Proceedings) (1883--).
 6. School Committee Records (Minutes of Proceedings) (1918, 20, 22).
 7. School Committee Records (Minutes of Proceedings) (1871--).

Superintendent of Schools -
Academic Records; Attendance
and Enrollment

(105-109)

Academic Records

105. DAILY PLAN BOOK, 1934--. 35 vols.

Submitted annually by teachers to superintendent, showing plan of studies for a school term, names of subjects to be covered during term for school years, titles of text books to be used, pages, subject matter to be covered, daily itemization of progress in each subject taught. Arr. chron. by school year. No index. Hdw. 50 pp. 12 x 14 x $\frac{1}{4}$. 50 vols., 1934-39, res. Clara L. Potter, Nooseneck Hill Road; 5 vols., 1940, 1 in each of 5 schools.

106. DAILY RECORD OF PUPILS' MARKS, 1934--. 35 vols.

Used daily by teachers in conjunction with daily plan book, submitted to superintendent at end of school year, showing grade, beginning and ending dates of term, alphabetic list of pupils, daily marks in recitations and tests by subjects, teacher's signature at end of year. Arr. chron. by school year. No index. Hdw. 50 pp. 7 x 9 x $\frac{1}{4}$. 30 vols., 1934-39, res. Clara L. Potter, Nooseneck Hill Road; 5 vols., 1940, 1 in each of 5 schools.

107. TERM AND TEACHER'S FINAL REPORTS, 1936--. 1 loose-leaf binder.

Submitted by each teacher to superintendent of schools, showing alphabetic list of pupils by grades, vaccination and Schick test records, grade to which promoted, average marks in all studies for term, number of days present and absent for term and for school year, promotion data, teacher's comments on each pupil's school citizenship and scholastic standing, list of pupils to enter grade next term, teacher's signature. Arr. chron. by school year. No index. Hdw. Approx. 170 pp. 9 x 12 x 1.

Attendance and Enrollment

108. TEACHERS' REPORTS OF ATTENDANCE IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOR SCHOOL YEAR, 1936--. 5 sheets in 1 bdl.

Annual public school attendance reports submitted by teachers to superintendent of schools, showing name of school, name of town, date of school year, number of pupils enrolled, sex, classification by ages, number previously enrolled in other schools, other towns or states, aggregate attendance and absence in days, number of actual school days, teacher's signature. Arr. chron. by school year. No index. Hdw. 9 x 12 x $\frac{1}{2}$.

109. SCHOOL YEAR (Attendance Report), 1932--. 9 sheets in 1 bdl.

Copies of annual reports submitted to the State Board of Education by superintendent of schools, showing name of town, school year, average resident enrollment, average attendance in elementary and high schools. Arr. chron. by school year. No index. Hdw. $8\frac{1}{2}$ x 11 x $\frac{1}{4}$.

Superintendent of Schools -
Clinical Reports; Teachers
and Miscellaneous

(110-114)

110. SECONDARY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE, 1932--. 9 sheets in 1 bdl.

Copies of annual reports to State Board of Education submitted by superintendent of schools, showing record of resident pupils enrolled in elementary and high schools in other towns with name of town reported, classification by ages, total to each sex. Arr. chron. by school year. No index. Hdw. $8\frac{1}{2}$ x 11 x $\frac{1}{4}$.

Clinical Reports

111. (SIGHT AND HEARING TESTS MADE BY TEACHERS), 1931-36. 10 sheets in 1 bdl.

Original reports submitted to superintendent of schools by teachers, showing date of report, name of town, number of pupils enrolled, examined, found with defective vision, diseased eyes, defective hearing, diseased ears, number of parents notified, teacher's signature. Arr. chron. by date of report. No index. Hdw. 9 x 6 x 1.

112. (REPORT OF SIGHT AND HEARING TESTS), 1931--. 10 sheets in 1 bdl.

Copies of annual reports of sight and hearing tests made to the State Board of Education by the superintendent of schools, showing date of report, name of town, number of schoolrooms, number of pupils enrolled, pupils examined, found with defective vision, diseased eyes, defective hearing, diseased ears, number of parents or guardians notified, signature of superintendent of schools. Arr. chron. by school year. No index. Hdw. 9 x 6 x $\frac{1}{4}$.

113. REPORT OF DENTAL INSPECTION, 1932--. 9 sheets in 1 bdl.

Copies of annual reports submitted to the State Board of Education by the superintendent of schools, showing date of report, name of town, number of classes inspected, children examined, number found with sound, decayed or aching teeth, treatment advised, record of previous dental treatments; results of inspection, number of fillings and extractions, total number treated by dentist, number of classes instructed in dental hygiene, signature of superintendent of schools. Arr. chron. by school year. No index. Hdw. 9 x 6 x $\frac{1}{4}$.

Teachers and Miscellaneous

114. TEACHERS' RECORDS, 1932--. 9 sheets in 1 bdl.

Annual register of teacher's individual educational histories, showing name, address, names of schools and institutions attended, degrees held, record of teaching service, and date of certification for teaching. Arr. chron. by school year. No index. Hdw. $5\frac{1}{2}$ x 8 x $\frac{1}{4}$.

Superintendent of Schools - Teachers
and Miscellaneous; Truant Officer;
School Census Enumerator

(115)

115. (SCHOOL DEPARTMENT EXPENDITURES), 1932--. 2 vols.

Record of school department expenditures kept by superintendent of schools, showing date, name, amount, and description of expenditure, total amount expended for school year. Items are transferred annually to Public School Budget, entry 96. Arr. chron. by school year. No index. Hdw. 100 pp. 11 x 10 x 1.

XX. TRUANT OFFICER

Pursuant to an act of the general assembly, the town council, on July 30, 1887, delegated to one John W. Hammond, a special constable, the duty of enforcing truancy laws in the town.¹ He was designated as the truant officer and his tenure was set at one year.²

The town council continued to make the appointment until 1902³ when the school committee, by virtue of legislative enactment, assumed the obligation of choosing the officer.⁴ Customarily, only one truant officer is chosen annually, although on several occasions two have been selected.⁵

This officer is charged with the duty of enforcing all school attendance laws.⁶

No records have been found.

XXI. SCHOOL CENSUS ENUMERATOR

In 1878, the general assembly passed an act providing, among other things, for a census of all persons between the ages of five and fifteen residing in the town.¹ In December of the same year, the town council appointed John W. Rathborn to take the census.²

The power to appoint the census enumerator remained with the town council until 1900³ when it was transferred by an act of the general assembly to the school committee.⁴ The enumerator has been chosen exclusively by the

1. P. L., Jan. 1887, ch. 649.

2. T. C. R. (1887).

3. T. C. R. (1887-1902).

4. School Committee Records (Minutes of Proceedings) (1902).

5. School Committee Records (Minutes of Proceedings) (1902--).

6. P. L., Jan. 1887, ch. 649.

1. P. L., Jan. 1878, ch. 693, sec. 1.

2. T. C. R. (1878).

3. T. C. R. (1878-1900).

4. School Committee Records (Minutes of Proceedings) (1900--).

Director of Public Welfare; Local
Director of Aid to Dependent
Children

(Next entry 116, p. 60)

school committee from the latter date.⁵ The duties of the office have been more or less entrusted to one officer who is appointed annually.⁶

No records have been found.

XXII. DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WELFARE

Among the officers chosen at the first town meeting in West Greenwich in 1741, were two overseers of the poor - William Hopkins and George Parker.¹ The overseers of the poor continued to be designated as such until 1925, when an act of the general assembly changed the title of the office to "Director of Public Aid."² In 1936, the latter name was in turn changed by legislature to its present title of "Director of Public Welfare."³

From 1741 to 1884, membership varied from one to as many as four, but from 1884 to date, a single officer has been chosen to the office.⁴

Tenure of the office remained at one year until 1914,⁵ when a special act of the general assembly fixed the term at two years.⁶ From 1914 to date, the officer has been elected biennially.⁷ The office has always been elective.⁸

No records have been found.

XXIII. LOCAL DIRECTOR OF AID TO DEPENDENT CHILDREN

In May 1932, the town of West Greenwich, acting through its town meeting, established a fund for mothers' aid¹ and the town council appointed the first director of mothers' aid - Edith M. Fish.²

In December 1936, the mothers' aid law of 1923, as amended, was changed by an act of the legislature to conform with that part of the Federal Social Security Act pertaining to aid to dependent children.³ By the terms of this

5. School Committee Records (Minutes of Proceedings) (1900--).

6. Ibid.

1. T. M. R. (1741).

2. P. L., Jan. 1925, ch. 664, sec. 1.

3. P. L., Jan. 1936, ch. 2312, sec. 1.

4. T. M. R. (1741-1930); Record of Elections (1930--).

5. T. M. R. (1741-1914).

6. P. L., Jan. 1914, ch. 1154, sec. 1.

7. T. M. R. (1914-30); Record of Elections (1930--).

8. T. M. R. (1741-1930); Record of Elections (1930--).

1. T. M. R. (1932).

2. T. C. R. (1932).

3. P. L., Dec. 1936, ch. 2437.

Supervisor of Highways

(Next entry 116, p. 60)

act, known as the "Aid to Dependent Children Act," the name of the office was changed to its present title of "Local Director of Aid to Dependent Children,"⁴ and the tenure fixed at three years,⁵ the current term.⁶

The director keeps no records.

XXIV. SUPERVISOR OF HIGHWAYS

When the freemen of the town met for the first time they chose, among other officers, twelve persons designated at this time as "Overseers of the Highways."¹ With slight variations these men continued to be designated as overseers of highways until 1814 when the title of surveyor began to be occasionally applied to them.² From the latter date to 1926 the names surveyor, overseer, and commissioner were used to designate the agency,³ but from 1927 to date the agency is referred to in the local records by the title of supervisor of highways.⁴

For the most part, the number of such officers regularly chosen was determined by the number of highway districts existing in the town, one officer being assigned to each section.⁵ Prior to 1896, the town was apparently permitted to set off as many districts as it deemed proper for during this period there were as many as thirty-nine "overseers", "surveyors", or "commissioners".⁶ In the year 1895, however, an act of the legislature restricted the number of highway districts to four in each town,⁷ and West Greenwich during the next year, in accordance with the law chose a corresponding number of surveyors.⁸

In 1900, however, the town was permitted to set off eight highway districts and to choose a surveyor for each.⁹ Further enactments in 1915 permitted the town to establish an unlimited number of districts and to appoint an equal number of surveyors.¹⁰ At present there is one supervisor in the town responsible for the care and maintenance of all roads therein.¹¹

4. P. L., Dec. 1936, ch. 2437, sec. 7.

5. Ibid.

6. G. L., 1938, ch. 58, sec. 6, p. 156.

1. T. M. R. (1741).

2. T. M. R. (1741-1814).

3. T. M. R. (1814-1876); T. C. R. (1876-1927).

4. T. C. R. (1927--).

5. T. M. R. (1741-1876); T. C. R. (1876--).

6. T. M. R. (1741-1876); T. C. R. (1876-96).

7. P. L., Jan. 1895, ch. 1382, sec. 2.

8. T. C. R. (1896).

9. P. L., Jan. 1900, ch. 774, sec. 1.

10. P. L., Jan. 1915, ch. 1328, sec. 1.

11. T. C. R. (1941).

Fence Viewers

(Next entry 116, p. 60)

From June 1876 to date appointments to the office have been made annually by the town council.¹² Prior thereto, such officers were regularly chosen in town meeting.¹³

No records have been found.

XXV. FENCE VIEWERS

On August 6, 1746, the freemen of the town chose five or more men as viewers of fence and appraisers of damages. Sam Spencer, Peter Lee, Jonathan Matteson, Henry Green, and Abraham Matteson were among the first five chosen for the year.¹

Prior to 1850, the title of the office varied somewhat from time to time, the officers being chosen as "viewers and prisers", "prizers", or "fence viewers".² From May 1850 to date, all such officers have been more or less uniformly appointed as "fence viewers".³

The number of viewers chosen has varied from four to as many as thirty-six. During the period from 1814 to 1832, when each highway overseer or surveyor was designated as viewer for his district, thirty-six were chosen in accordance with the number of highway districts existing at the time.⁴ At present there is one viewer appointed to the office.⁵

Viewers were chosen annually until 1914 but from 1914 to date, these officers have been more or less regularly chosen for two-year terms.⁶

From 1746 to 1900, the viewers were elected in town meeting.⁷ In 1900, the council made the selection for the first time.⁸ The town meeting again made the selections in 1901 and 1904; the town council in 1902 and 1903.⁹ From 1905 to date appointments to the office have been made exclusively by the town council.¹⁰

The viewer keeps no records.

12. T. C. R. (1876--).

13. T. M. R. (1741-1876).

1. T. M. R. (1746).

2. T. M. R. (1746-1850).

3. T. M. R. (1746-1900, 1901, 4); T. C. R. (1900, 1902-3, 1905--).

4. T. M. R. (1814-32).

5. T. C. R. (1941).

6. T. M. R. (1746-1900, 1901, 4); T. C. R. (1900, 1902-3, 1905--).

7. T. M. R. (1746-1900).

8. T. C. R. (1900).

9. T. M. R. (1901, 4); T. C. R. (1902-3).

10. T. C. R. (1905--).

Tree Warden; Town Forest Warden

(Next entry 116, p. 60)

XXVI. TREE WARDEN

On January 25, 1930, the town council of West Greenwich voted " . . . That Herbert T. Woodmansee be and hereby is appointed Tree Warden", in accordance with an act passed by the general assembly the previous year.¹

Pursuant to the provisions of the act, the council has annually chosen a tree warden.²

The warden's duties, in general, are the care and control of all trees and shrubs in the town except those on grounds expressly under the jurisdiction of State or other municipal agencies.³

The warden keeps no records.

XXVII. TOWN FOREST WARDEN

In 1910 the town council appointed the first forest warden - George W. Fish.¹ The council has annually chosen a warden, designated in the local records as either "Town Fire Warden" or "Town Forest Fire Warden".²

The council also appointed district fire wardens until 1928³ when a special act of the general assembly transferred the authority to make such appointments to the town forest warden.⁴ From 1928 to date, the town forest warden has apparently made the selections. Either three or four district wardens have been chosen annually.⁵

The town forest warden is required to mail a report of a forest fire to an office within the Department of Agriculture.⁶

All records are in the custody of John H. Potter, town forest warden, and are housed in his residence on Nooseneck Hill Road.

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1. T. C. R. (1930).
 2. T. C. R. (1930--).
 3. G. L., 1938, ch. 225, sec. 2, p. 483.
 1. T. C. R. (1910).
 2. T. C. R. (1910--).
 3. T. C. R. (1910-1928).
 4. P. L., Jan. 1928, ch. 1166, sec. 1.
 5. T. C. R. (1928--).
 6. G. L., 1938, ch. 224, sec. 10, p. 480.

Town Forest Warden - Permits;
Reports; Sealer of Weights
and Measures

(116-119)

Permits

116. CORN BORER PERMITS (Stubs), 1927--. 2 vols.

Stubs of permits to burn cornstalks (control and destruction of corn borer by law), issued by forest warden to property owner of his authorized agent, showing conditions to be observed; number and date of permit; name and address of applicant; signature of warden. Arr. chron. by date of issue, numer. thereunder by stub number. No index. Hdw. 150 pp. 9 x 3 x 1.

117. FIRE PERMITS (Stubs), 1927--. 3 vols.

Stubs of permits to light fires, issued by forest warden to property owner or his authorized agent, showing number, date of issue; name and residence of applicant; signature of forest warden. Arr. chron. by date of issue, numer. thereunder by stub number. No index. Hdw. 100 pp. 9 x 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 1.

Reports

118. REPORTS OF FIRES (Stubs), 1927--. 1 vol.

Stubs of reports of forest fires submitted by warden to the State Office, showing number and date of report; time of day, location and cause of fire, train number (if cause); area burned, as merchantable, non-merchantable tree growth, non-forest land; damage, as merchantable, non-merchantable growth, wood products, improvements, other damage. Expenses, showing list of fire fighters, number of hours worked by each, rate per hour, individual and total compensation; signature of forest warden. Arr. numer. by report number on stub; chron. thereunder by date of entry. No index. Hdw. 200 pp. 15 x 10 x 1 $\frac{1}{2}$.

119. (FOREST FIRE PAYROLLS), 1927--. 1 bdl.

Triplicates of payrolls submitted by forest warden, duplicates to town council, originals to State Office, showing date and location of fire; names and residences of laborers assisting wardens, special crew men, employees; number hours worked, rate per hour, individual compensation, transportation costs, equipment, supplies, provisions, total cost; signature of warden. Arr. chron. by date of payroll. No index. Hdw. and typed. 14 x 10 x 2.

XXVIII. SEALER OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

The office of town sealer of weights and measures was established when the freemen of the town chose their officers for the first time in 1741. Phillip Green was chosen as sealer and packer.¹ The original appointment was

1. T. M. R. (1741).

Sealer of Weights and Measures;
Auctioneer

(Next entry 120, p. 66)

to two offices, that of sealer of weights and measures and packer of pork and beef. This practice was continued until 1841 when the office of pork and beef was apparently abandoned.² Title of the office varied slightly. Occasionally the officer was chosen as sealer of measures, town sealer, or sealer of weights, measures and balances.³

Until 1900, all regular appointments to the office were made in town meeting.⁴ In 1900 and 1902 the sealer was chosen by the town council; in 1901, 1903, and 1904 in town meeting.⁵ In 1905 regular appointments to the office are noted in both the town meeting and the town council records.⁶ From 1906 to date, however, all appointments to the office have been made by the town council.⁷ One sealer has been chosen to the office since the establishment.⁸

Tenure remained at one year until 1914, when the term of office was increased to two years. From 1914 to date, the sealer has been chosen biennially.⁹

No records have been found.

XXIX. AUCTIONEER

When the freemen of West Greenwich met for the first time they chose, among other officers, Thomas Straight as vendue master.¹ From the establishment of the office until 1799, such officers were chosen under the original title of vendue master.² From 1800 to date, however, the title of auctioneer has been applied to the office.³

The auctioneer continued to be elected in town meeting until 1900 when the council made the appointment for the first time.⁴ In 1901, 1903, and 1905, the auctioneer was again elected in town meeting.⁵ Appointments were made by the council again in 1902 and from 1905 to date.⁶

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2. T. M. R. (1741-1841).
 3. T. M. R. (1741-1900, 1901, 3-5); T. C. R. (1900, 1902, 1905--).
 4. T. M. R. (1741-1900).
 5. T. C. R. (1900, 1902); T. M. R. (1901, 3, 4).
 6. T. M. R. (1905); T. C. R. (1905).
 7. T. C. R. (1906--).
 8. T. M. R. (1741-1900, 1901, 3-5); T. C. R. (1900, 1902, 1905--).
 9. T. M. R. (1741-1900, 1901, 3-5); T. C. R. (1900, 1902, 1905--).
 1. T. M. R. (1741).
 2. T. M. R. (1741-1799).
 3. T. M. R. (1800-1900, 1901, 3, 5); T. C. R. (1900, 1902, 1905--).
 4. T. M. R. (1741-1900); T. C. R. (1900).
 5. T. M. R. (1901, 3, 5).
 6. T. C. R. (1902, 1905--).

Auctioneer; Corder of Wood;
Sealer of Leather

(Next entry 120, p. 66)

The number of officers regularly chosen varied from one to seven. At present the town has two auctioneers.⁷ Vendue masters and their successors, the auctioneers, were chosen annually until 1914 when tenure was increased to two years. Thenceforth, auctioneers have been chosen biennially.⁸

No records have been found.

XXX. CORDER OF WOOD

In 1827, the freemen of the town designated Wanton W. Capron as corder of wood.¹ The number of corders regularly chosen varied from one to six.²

The corders were elected in town meeting until 1900 when the selection was made by the town council. The following year the town meeting again made the selection, while in 1902 they were appointed by the council. In 1903 and 1904 the corders were elected in town meeting. From 1905 to date, however, all appointments to the office have been made by the town council.³

Tenure remained at one year until 1914, when the term was increased to two years.⁴ This period of holding has been maintained down to the present.⁵

No records have been found.

XXXI. SEALER OF LEATHER

The records of the town of West Greenwich contain no evidence of the existence of this officer in the town until June 6, 1904 when a vote of the town meeting directed " . . . that David Robbins be and he thereby is elected Sealer of Leather for the ensuing year".¹ With the exception of this first selection, all appointments to the office have been made by the town council.² One sealer has been regularly chosen to perform the duties of the office.³

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7. T. M. R. (1741-1900, 1901, 3, 5); T. C. R. (1900, 1902, 1905--).
 8. T. M. R. (1741-1900, 1901, 3, 5); T. C. R. (1900, 1902, 1905--).
 1. T. M. R. (1827).
 2. T. M. R. (1827-1900, 1901, 3, 4); T. C. R. (1900, 1902, 1905--).
 3. T. M. R. (1827-1900, 1901, 3, 4); T. C. R. (1900, 1902, 1905--).
 4. T. M. R. (1827-1900, 1901, 3, 4); T. C. R. (1900, 1902, 1905-14).
 5. T. C. R. (1914--).
 1. T. M. R. (1904).
 2. T. C. R. (1905--).
 3. T. M. R. (1904); T. C. R. (1905--).

Tramp Officer; Officer to Attend
Burials of Honorably Discharged
Soldiers, Sailors, and Marines

(Next entry 120, p. 66)

From the establishment of the office in the town to 1914, tenure remained at one year,⁴ but from 1914 to date, appointments to the office have been made, for the most part, biennially.⁵

The sealer keeps no records.

XXXII. TRAMP OFFICER

In May 1880 the town council appointed Solomen W. Harrington, Searles Capwell, and John A. Brown as special constables to arrest and prosecute all tramps in their respective towns.¹ No further notation is recorded in the council records of an appointment to the office until 1904 when George W. Fish was appointed special constable for the town.² The following year the council designated this officer as the "tramp constable".³ From 1906 to date, however, all appointments have been under the present title of tramp officer.⁴

Appointments to the office were made annually until 1914 when the tenure was increased to two years.⁵ This period of holding has continued to the present time.⁶ The office has always been appointive.⁷

No records have been found.

XXXIII. OFFICER TO ATTEND BURIALS OF HONORABLY DISCHARGED SOLDIERS, SAILORS, AND MARINES

In February 1893, the town council of West Greenwich appointed Charles S. Brown to inter the body of any honorably discharged soldier, sailor, or marine according to the provisions of the law.¹ No formal or uniform title was ever assigned to the office either by law or by the appointing agency, the town council.

Although the appointment was made regularly by the council until 1925, subsequent appointments to the office have been less frequent, due no doubt

4. T. M. R. (1904); T. C. R. (1905-14).

5. T. C. R. (1914--).

1. T. C. R. (1880).

2. T. C. R. (1904).

3. T. C. R. (1905).

4. T. C. R. (1906--).

5. T. C. R. (1880-1914).

6. T. C. R. (1914--).

7. T. C. R. (1880--).

1. P. L., Jan. 1892.

Supervisors of Elections;
Gauger of Casks

(Next entry 120, p. 66)

to the fact that the services of this officer are seldom required.² Tenure has always remained at one year.³

No records have been found.

XXXIV. SUPERVISORS OF ELECTIONS

The general assembly in 1889 passed an act providing for the appointment of two supervisors of elections, for each town, one a republican - and one a democrat.¹

In February of the following year the town council appointed John A. Tillinghast and George B. Hazard as supervisors of elections under the provisions of the law.²

Two supervisors were regularly chosen until 1896, when, following an amendment to the original act four were appointed.³ The practice of choosing four supervisors continued until 1940, when, pursuant to a further change in the law six were named to the office, three from the democratic list and three from the republican list.⁴

Supervisors of elections serve only for the election for which they are appointed.⁵

No records have been found.

XXXV. GAUGER OF CASKS

In a town meeting held in June 1904, the electors chose David Robbins as gauger of casks for the ensuing year. The records fail to indicate the existence of a gauger prior to 1904.¹ With the exception of the election of the first gauger in town meeting, all subsequent appointments to the office have been made by the town council.²

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2. T. C. R. (1893-1925).
 3. T. C. R. (1893--).
 1. P. L., Jan. 1889, ch. 731, sec. 14.
 2. T. C. R. (1890).
 3. P. L., Jan. 1891, ch. 920, sec. 16.
 4. P. L., Jan. 1940, ch. 819, sec. 1.
 5. T. C. R. (1889--).
 1. T. M. R. (1904).
 2. T. C. R. (1905--).

Gauger of Casks; Packer of Fish

(Next entry 120, p. 66)

From the establishment of the office in 1904 to the year 1914, the gauger was chosen to serve for one year,³ but from 1914 to date tenure of the office has been increased to two years.⁴ Only one gauger has been appointed to perform the duties of the office.⁵

The gauger keeps no records.

XXXVI. PACKER OF FISH

This office was established in the town at one of the earliest town meetings held in 1741.¹ Philip Green was chosen as the first packer of fish and was instructed to certify the quality and quantity of fish in each container.² The title of packer of fish was not officially designated to the office until 1905 when the council made the first appointment to the office.³

A packer was appointed for a one-year term until 1914 when the tenure was increased to two years.⁴

No records have been found.

3. T. M. R. (1904); T. C. R. (1905-14).

4. T. C. R. (1914--).

5. T. M. R. (1904); T. C. R. (1905-14).

1. T. M. R. (1741).

2. Ibid.

3. T. M. R. (1741-1905); T. C. R. (1905--).

4. T. M. R. (1741-1905).

Unemployment Work Relief Bureau -
Applications

(120)

DEFUNCT OFFICES

XXXVII. UNEMPLOYMENT WORK RELIEF BUREAU
Commissioner of Public Works

Following the enactment of the "The Emergency Unemployment Relief Act of 1933" by the general assembly in January 1933, the town council of West Greenwich voted to accept the benefits of the act.¹ The council selected John I. Albro, John H. Potter, and Edna E. Woodmansee: namely, a qualified elector, the commissioner of public works, and the town treasurer as the first appointees to act as an Unemployment Relief Bureau for the town.²

Evidently the problem of caring for the unemployed was a relatively simple one for on July 28, 1934 the council voted that the Work Relief Bureau be hereby discharged from further service.³ The bureau made reports to the State Unemployment Relief Commission and to the Emergency Relief Administration.⁴

The records are stored in the attic of the town treasurer, Doris V. Andrews, Weaver Trail Road, Nooseneck.

Commissioner of Public Works

Apparently related to the organization of the local Work Relief Bureau, was the action of the town council on April 14, 1933 when it voted " . . . John H. Potter be and hereby is appointed Commissioner of Public Works," and reappointed him on March 31, 1934. As indicated above he was a member of the local⁵ Work Relief Bureau.

Applications

120. (APPLICATIONS FOR WORK RELIEF), 1933-34. 1 bdl. System established 1933; discontinued July 1934.

Applications, showing date; name, age, address, and occupation of applicant; if veteran; period of residence in town, in State; number of dependents; health, environment; names of dependents, their relationship to applicant, ages, and income, if any; last previous place of employment, date, name and address of employer, home value, amount of mortgage, name of mortgagee; if money in bank, name of bank; amount of life insurance, name of company, amount

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1. T. C. R. (1933).
 2. Ibid.
 3. T. C. R. (1934).
 4. Ibid.
 5. T. C. R. (1933-34).

Unemployment Work Relief Bureau -
Applications; Reports

(121-123)

borrowed, if any; automobile registration number; telephone number, amount of debts, interest, taxes, insurance, water bill, amount expended for rent, groceries, fuel, gas, light, milk, miscellaneous, furniture, loans, etc.; amount of aid received within past three months from public or private agency, remarks; oath and signature of applicant; signature of director of public aid. Arr. chron. by date of application. No index. Hdw. 8 x 5 x $\frac{1}{2}$.

Reports

121. (FEDERAL EMERGENCY RELIEF ADMINISTRATION REPORTS), 1933-34.

1 env. System established 1933; discontinued July 1934.

Duplicates of monthly reports prepared by administrator, work relief bureau, original to State Emergency Relief Administration, showing month and year of report, name of town; families given relief during month: home relief - number of families aided, number of persons represented, amount expended; work relief - number of families aided, number of persons represented, amount expended; total home and work relief; net number of families aided; net number of persons represented; amount; total number of families on relief rolls at end of month; single persons without dependents on relief during month: home relief - number of persons aided, amount; work relief - number of persons aided, amount, number of single persons on relief rolls end of month, net number of single persons aided. Arr. chron. by date of report. No index. Hdw. $8\frac{1}{2}$ x 11 x $\frac{1}{8}$.

122. (CASE REPORTS), 1933-34. 1 env. System established 1933; discontinued July 1934.

Duplicates of weekly reports submitted by work relief bureau to State Unemployment Relief Commission, showing week ending date, name of town; cases carried forward from previous week; numbers of new cases, reopened cases, transferred cases, total intake cases; total under care during week; numbers closed during week, transferred to other city or town, total closed and transferred; cases carried forward to next week; cases receiving relief during week; numbers on work relief, home relief, work and home relief, total cases on relief; cases not receiving relief during week; numbers of pending cases (new or inactive), staggered project cases, total cases not on relief; total carried forward to next week; numbers of increased cases on relief, decreased cases on relief; number of home visits; number of collateral calls. Arr. chron. by date of report. No index. Hdw. $8\frac{1}{2}$ x 11 x $\frac{1}{2}$.

123. (STATE UNEMPLOYMENT RELIEF COMMISSION REPORTS), 1933-34. System established 1933; discontinued July 1934.

Duplicates of monthly reports, State form 25, compiled by director of Work Relief Bureau, original to State Unemployment Relief Commission, showing name of town, month ending date; amount of local appropriation quota; cash balance at beginning of month; amount of cash received from State section number, amount available from local appropriation; totals to date; expenditures: work relief payroll (payable in cash), work relief payroll (payable in orders), home relief (orders issued), State projects, project supervision (work relief), supplies, equipment, and transportation, administration

Unemployment Work Relief Bureau -
Reports

(office salaries and expenses), total expenditures, cash balance, number of families aided: number employed on work relief (cash), number employed on work relief (order), number receiving home relief; total number of individual families aided during current month, total number of individual families aided during entire period, average number of persons to family aided; investigation report: number of applications received, number of cases investigated, number of cases approved for relief, number of persons transferred to private employment, number of persons transferred to other State work; local aid (not included above): amount expended for work relief, number of families; amount expended for home relief, number of families; remarks; signature of administrator, work relief bureau or director of public aid. Arr. chron. by date of report. No index. Hdw. $8\frac{1}{2}$ x 11 x $1\frac{1}{8}$.

* * *

The following defunct agencies of local government are also to be noted in the town records as having existed since the establishment of the town:

	Last Title	Date Established	Year Defunct
XXXVIII.	Flax and Hemp Viewer	1741	1745
XXXIX.	Measurer of Timber	1741	1811
XL.	Viewers of Freeholds	1741	1845
XLI.	Field Driver	1866	1867
XLII.	Town Solicitor	1904	1905
XLIII.	Surveyor of Land	1889	1910
XLIV.	Special Constables	1889	1920
XLV.	Justice of the Peace	1843	1938
	Trial Justice	1872	1886
XLVI.	Coroner	1884	1939

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