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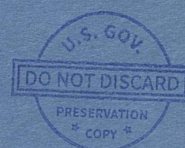
INVENTORY OF THE TOWN ARCHIVES OF NEW HAMPSHIRE



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NO. 6
HILLSBOROUGH
COUNTY VOL III
TOWN OF BEDFORD



ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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possible by a generous contribution from
Mrs. Gordon Woodbury.

INVENTORY OF THE TOWN ARCHIVES
OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

NO. 6. Hillsborough County

VOL. III. BEDFORD

Prepared by

The New Hampshire Historical Records Survey
Division of Community Service Programs
Work Projects Administration

Sponsored by

The University of New Hampshire

Manchester, New Hampshire
The New Hampshire Historical Records Survey
January 1942

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FOREWORD

The Inventory of the Town Archives of New Hampshire is one of a number of guides to historical materials prepared throughout the United States by workers on Historical Records Survey projects of the Work Projects Administration. The publication herewith presented, an inventory of the archives of the town of Bedford, is number III of the Hillsborough County series of towns.

The Historical Records Survey program was undertaken in the winter of 1935-36 for the purpose of providing useful employment to needy unemployed historians, lawyers, teachers, and research and clerical workers. In carrying out this objective, the project was organized to compile inventories of historical materials, particularly the unpublished government documents and records which are basic in the administration of local government, and which provide invaluable data for students of political, economic, and social history. The archival guide herewith presented is intended to meet the requirements of the day-to-day administration by the officials of the county, and also the needs of lawyers, businessmen, and other citizens who require facts from the public records for the proper conduct of their affairs. The volume is so designed that it can be used by the historian in his research in unprinted sources in the same way he uses the library card catalog for printed sources.

The inventories produced by Historical Records Survey projects attempt to do more than give merely a list of records—they attempt further to sketch in the historical background of the county or other unit of government, and to describe precisely and in detail the organization and functions of the government agencies whose records they list. The county, town, and other local inventories for the entire country will, when completed, constitute an encyclopedia of local government as well as a bibliography of local archives. Up to the present time more than 1,700 publications have been issued throughout the Nation.

The successful conclusion of the work of Historical Records Survey projects, even in a single town, would not be possible without the support of public officials, historical and legal specialists, and many other groups in the community. Their cooperation is gratefully acknowledged.

The Survey program was organized by Luther H. Evans, who served as Director until March 1, 1940, when he was succeeded by Sargent B. Child. The Survey operates as a Nation-wide series of locally sponsored projects in the Division of Community Service Programs, of which Mrs. Florence Kerr, Assistant Commissioner, is in charge.

HOWARD O. HUNTER
Commissioner of
Work Projects

P R E F A C E

To bring together the records of the past and to house them in buildings where they will be preserved for the use of men living in the future, a nation must believe in three things. It must believe in the past. It must believe in the future. It must, above all, believe in the capacity of its people so to learn from the past that they can gain in judgment for the creation of the future.

FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT

By authority of a Presidential Letter, the Historical Records Survey was initiated in January 1936 as a Nation-wide undertaking of the Work Projects Administration, but did not begin operations in New Hampshire until April 7. Prior to August 31, 1939, the Survey was Federally sponsored, but since that date it has been a local project sponsored by the University of New Hampshire. Until March 1940, this project was directed by Dr. Richard G. Wood. At that time Dr. Wood became State Supervisor of Research and Records Projects, and the present State Supervisor was appointed.

The purpose of the Survey is to make accessible to public officials, lawyers, historians, and students of government the records of State, county, and municipal offices. In addition, church records, including those of defunct organizations, are being inventoried so that a foundation may be laid for research in this field of social history. The present volume is the tenth in a series of inventories concerning town archives of New Hampshire. A key volume, Town Government in New Hampshire, and a volume entitled Guide to Depositories of Manuscript Collections in the United States—New Hampshire have been published. Five volumes of county archives and one volume of church records have also been issued. For a complete record of these published works of the Survey in New Hampshire, see List of Publications on page 90.

In addition to listing the records of the different town officers, the inventory sketches briefly the historical background of the town of Bedford and describes the organization of the offices whose records are listed. The essays on the individual offices present only material relating specifically to Bedford. For a history of the legal background of each office, and its State-wide implication, it is necessary to consult the key volume mentioned in the preceding paragraph. Records are described in entries whose style is formalized 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 volumes or containers, and location.

The listing of the Bedford records was made by Raymond P. Gagne and Arthur A. Blake. The recheck was completed by Perley L. Cater and Thomas E. Linehan. The forms were edited and the entries written by Samuel T. Bakus. The essays in this publication were written by Bernice M. Newell

Preface

and Joseph M. Barry. The editorial work was done by Gordon F. Palmer, State Editor. The legal research, which forms the basis for the essays, and the preparation of the index were conducted under the direction of Beatrice B. Calnan. Documentation was checked by Beatrice B. Calnan and Elizabeth M. Ryan. The maps and charts were made and the stencils were out by Kathleen E. Schragle. The mimeographing was done by Rita E. Duffley. The cover was designed by Edward F. Tilo. All clerical work was supervised by Marcellene N. O'Connor. Helpful criticism of this inventory in manuscript form was offered by Mabel B. Eisenhart, editor in charge of public records inventories, of the Central office.

The Survey wishes to express its appreciation for the cooperation given and the courtesy shown to its workers by the Bedford officials. The Survey is also indebted to the Secretary of State, the Manchester City Library, the New Hampshire State Library, and the New Hampshire Historical Society for facilities granted the Survey in its research work. Labor funds have been furnished by the Work Projects Administration. The Survey wishes to acknowledge contributions for non-labor costs by the County of Hillsborough, the City of Manchester, and other cities and towns throughout the State.

The inventory of the archives of the towns of Hillsborough County is number 6 of the New Hampshire series. The Bedford inventory is volume III of the Hillsborough series.

Copies of this inventory are distributed to Federal, State, and local governmental offices, libraries, and institutions of learning throughout the United States and its territorial possessions. Requests for information concerning the published volumes should be addressed to the State Supervisor, Administration Building, Lincoln and Silver Streets, Manchester, New Hampshire.

Frank N. Jordan
State Supervisor
New Hampshire
Historical Records Survey

Manchester, New Hampshire
January 1942

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A. TOWN OF BEDFORD AND ITS RECORDS SYSTEM

I. HISTORICAL SKETCH

Bedford was a Massachusetts grant, made in 1733, to the soldiers of King Philip's War, or their heirs. It was then known as Narragansett No. 5 and also as Souhegan East. The town remained under the control of Massachusetts until the boundary lines were set in 1741.¹ On May 10, 1750 the majority of the people being "Generally of the Presbyterian Denomination * * * having been Long Destitute of the Gospel" petitioned Governor Benning Wentworth to incorporate them as a town.² On May 18, 1750 this petition was unanimously approved by the Council, which advised the Governor to grant the charter.³ On the following day the charter was granted and the town was incorporated by the government of New Hampshire and was named in honor of the Duke of Bedford, who was at that time one of the Secretaries of State in the government of George the Second.⁴

Actual settlement had begun in the middle 1730's. A man named Sebbins or Sibbins came from Braintree, Massachusetts, in the winter of 1735, which he spent in making shingles, drawing them the following spring to the Merrimack River on a hand sled and rafting them downstream to what is now Lowell. Sebbins later disappeared and it was supposed he was drowned in one of the bogs near his camp. The first permanent settlement was made in the fall of 1737 by two brothers, Robert and James Walker, and in the spring of 1738 by Matthew and Samuel Patten, also brothers. Other settlers followed quickly.⁵

Only two of the original grantees—Zachariah Chandler and John Barnes—actually settled here.⁶ The others sold their titles to settlers from nearby Londonderry. This is why the racial strain became predominately Scotch-Irish and the religion Presbyterian.⁷

Even before the incorporation of the town the question of building a meeting-house received serious consideration, and a site was unanimously agreed upon; but when a sizable tract of land was detached from the original grant to increase the territory of the town of Merrimack, it became advisable to change the proposed location to a more central one within the reduced boundaries. A meeting of the inhabitants was held in Matthew Patten's barn, four months before the Bedford incorporation, at which it was decided to build a meeting-house at either the east or west side of Bell Hill if John Bell and John McLaughlin would give 2 acres of land with additional land for a road. An agreement could not be reached as to whether the east or west side of the hill should be used, and at a town meeting in 1752, 2 years after the incorporation of Bedford, it was voted to refer the matter to a committee of three men from Londonderry consisting

1. New Hampshire State Papers, 11:176, 177.

2. Ibid., 9:51.

3. Ibid., 6:5.

4. Ibid., 11:177.

5. History of Bedford New Hampshire From 1797 * * * (hereinafter cited as History of Bedford), p. 85.

6. Ibid., p. 95.

7. Ibid., p. 263.

of Capt. Andrew Todd, Capt. John Mitchell, and Lt. Robert Cochran. The committee reported in favor of the east side. The committee then received its dismissal and during the next 2 years was succeeded by two other committees. The third committee hewed a frame and drew it to the west side of Bell Hill, but at a meeting held April 15, 1754 in William Holmes' barn an entirely new location was discussed; this was on the land of Noah Thayer. At a meeting held September 22, 1755 it was voted to build a meeting-house on land purchased by William Moor from Noah Thayer for the town and for that purpose. As a result of that vote the building was raised on the fourteenth and fifteenth of the following October at the place designated.¹ Matthew Patten's diary, on the fourteenth, contains the following notation: "went to raising our Meeting house we Got up the plates and all the beames but two."²

In 1771 it was voted "to Repair the troughs at the Eves of the Meeting house";³ and in 1773 it was voted "to Make Wall Pew all Round the Meeting house and too pews on Each Side of the ally in the back of the Dimon." It was also voted that the pew ground be laid out, numbered, and sold to the highest bidder.⁴ No further mention is found until 1785 when the pew ground was auctioned off and the purchasers had to build their own pews of uniform size and have their names inscribed on them. Only residents of Bedford were allowed to make purchases.⁵

After having sent out three invitations to as many candidates, the town in 1756 finally succeeded in obtaining the services of John Houston as its minister.⁶ Rev. Mr. Houston enjoyed success in his parochial relations until 1768 when certain members tried to exempt themselves from the ministerial tax because of occasional communion with the church of Londonderry.⁷ In 1775 dissension broke out between the people and the minister in regard to his Loyalist views, and it was voted "that the Meeting House doors be Shut against Mr. John Houston untill * * * he * * * behave himself to the Satisfaction of the town and that he Shall have no Sallery from the town * * *."⁸ In the same year a committee was appointed to secure his dismissal.⁹ There was no decisive action taken by this committee, for in 1776 Mr. Houston was given the whole year to himself and "the town free from his Charge."¹⁰ Mr. Houston's pastoral connections were not actually severed until 1778, when he was dismissed by a trial held at the Presbytery.¹¹

For the next 26 years Bedford was destitute of a settled minister, but the pulpit was supplied from time to time and sums of money were voted for preaching.¹² The interim of supplying the pulpit with temporary preachers

1. History of Bedford, pp. 326-328.
2. Matthew Patten, The Diary of Matthew Patten of Bedford, N. H., From Seventeen Hundred Fifty-Four to Seventeen Hundred Eighty-Eight (hereinafter cited as Patten, Diary), p. 22.
3. State's Copy of [Bedford Town Records] (hereinafter cited as State's Copy), vol. 3, p. 27 (1771), see entry 6.
4. Ibid., p. 82 (1773).
5. Ibid., pp. 550-553 (1785).
6. History of Bedford, p. 281.
7. Ibid., pp. 285, 286.
8. State's Copy, vol. 3, pp. 136, 137 (1775), see entry 6.
9. Ibid., p. 144 (1775).
10. Ibid., pp. 153, 154 (1776).
11. History of Bedford, p. 291.
12. Ibid., p. 293; State's Copy, vol. 3, p. 197 (1778), et passim 1779-1804, see entry 6.

terminated in 1804. On February 20 of that year it was voted "that the Town give Mr. David McGregore a Call to the work of the Ministry."¹ Mr. McGregore accepted the call the following May; he retained the pastorate 21 years.²

In 1831 a committee was appointed to locate a site for a new meeting-house. Four sites were recommended and the town voted to build a new meeting-house between the store and burying ground. This vote, however, was reconsidered and a more satisfactory site on Houston Hill was selected. The frame was raised in 1832 and the house was dedicated on December 25, 1832.³ It continues to serve the Presbyterians of Bedford as their place of worship, and, with its Colonial porch added in 1894 by the architect Wadsworth Longfellow,⁴ contributes to the attractiveness of the village. It is this church—almost 110 years old—which furnishes the subject for the cover design of this volume.

Besides the Presbyterian which, as already indicated, was the established town church prior to the separation of church and State, there have been at least two other religious denominations in the town.

The Universalist Church came into existence in 1832, and in 1835 this group voted to build a brick meeting-house. The building was dedicated on July 13, 1836. The pews were auctioned off in August of the same year. In 1833 Rev. J. M. Wilson had become the minister. This society did not prosper any too well, and as early as 1840 it was proposed to sell the meeting-house. The house was finally sold in 1846 to Isaac Darrah and the society disbanded.⁵

A Baptist society composed of 32 members was formed in 1835. It had no meeting-house and on some occasions used the Universalist house. The first regular minister was Rev. George Evans. The society ceased to function in 1848.⁶

A curious natural phenomenon occurring in May 1780 is vividly recorded in Matthew Patten's Diary:

19th Was a Thunder shower in the morning and was followed by an uncommon darkness such as is not remembered it was so dark That one could not know a man but at a small distance and Were obliged to keep a light in the chimney to see to go about and the night was Extraordinary dark untill one o Clock that a person could not see their hand when held up nor even a white sheet of paper the day and night was cloudey the clouds in the day did not seem thick and was of a lightening up couler our almanack makers have given no account of the matter the cause unknown The works of the Lord are great and marvellous past finding out untill he Graciously pleases to Reveal them.⁷

1. State's Copy, vol. 2, p. 521 (1804), see entry 6.

2. Ibid., p. 560 (1804); History of Bedford, p. 310.

3. History of Bedford, pp. 348-350.

4. Ibid., p. 353.

5. Ibid., pp. 274, 275.

6. Ibid., pp. 275, 276.

7. Patten, Diary, p. 414.

Bedford, being a frontier town, was exposed for quite a time to Indian attacks, consequently enduring many hardships and anxieties. In spite of all this there is no recollection of more than one person being killed by the Indians.

In 1745 James McQuade and John Burns went to Penacook, (Concord) to purchase corn for their families * * * on their return homeward as far as Suncook, (Pembroke) * * * they were fired upon by a party of Indians * * * McQuade was shot dead, but Burns made his escape, by running in a zigzag direction, which method baffled the fire of his pursuers, and arrived in safety to his family.¹

During the French and Indian Wars the New England forces were, at one time, under the command of Col. John Goffe of Bedford and many citizens from the town were soldiers under his command.²

In the Revolutionary War Bedford furnished a large number of men who joined with those from other towns in resisting the oppression of Great Britain, and who were zealous in sharing the dangers and hardships so necessary to achieving independence.³ Evidently ammunition was somewhat scarce at the outbreak of hostilities, for in 1775 the town voted a sum of money to buy ammunition "if possible."⁴ In the same year the town voted "that the Select Men Inspect in to the family's of our men that is gone to the army and if they want to provid what is Necessary for them at the Towns Cost."⁵ The first group of soldiers to leave Bedford numbered 20 or more and they left on the night of April 20, 1775.⁶

In 1777 the town, in order to induce men to join the armed forces, voted "to Raise Eighty Dollars to Give as a bounty to Each Soldier that Shall Inlist in this Town for the Continental army."⁷ During this war Bedford, like many other towns, elected a committee of safety⁸ to cooperate with State and county committees. In 1775 and 1776 Matthew Patten of Bedford served as chairman of the county committee.⁹

During the War of 1812 a group of patriotic citizens went to the defence of their country and it is well to note that this group equipped themselves at their own expense.¹⁰

The Town Minute Books are missing from 1853 to 1884. These records were destroyed by fire and in them was the account of the part Bedford played in the Civil War. However, certain votes from the minutes were incorporated in the town history published before the fire and so it is

1. Thomas Savage, A Historical Sketch of Bedford, N. H., Being a Discourse Delivered Sabbath Afternoon, July 4th, 1841 * * *, p. 4.
2. W. C. Lindsay, "A Brief Sketch of Bedford", Granite Monthly, January 1898.
3. History of Bedford, p. 480.
4. State's Copy, vol. 3, p. 138 (1775), see entry 6.
5. Ibid., p. 135 (1775).
6. Patten, Diary, p. 342.
7. State's Copy, vol. 3, p. 175 (1777), see entry 6.
8. Ibid., p. 37 (1775), et passim 1776-1779.
9. History of Bedford, p. 527.
10. Ibid., p. 503.

learned that on August 12, 1862, it was voted 'that the selectmen * * * pay to every person resident of said town who has enlisted since the first day of June last, or may enlist until the first of September next * * * the sum of fifty dollars to be paid as soon as said resident shall be sworn into the United States service.' Later in the same year it was voted to pay \$200 to any man who served 9 months in the United States service, and in the following year the sum was raised to \$300. Bedford is credited with 153 enlistments to the armed forces of the country, including 14 by men who were not residing in Bedford at the time.¹

In the first World War Bedford sent its share of men and the town has appropriately honored these men by setting up a boulder with a bronze tablet inscribed with the name and rank of each man who answered the call of his country. This boulder is located in front of the town hall.²

Realizing the value and necessity of educating their children, the early settlers banded together and built two schoolhouses. One was erected about one fourth of a mile from the farm of John Orr; the other near the farm of Samuel Chandler. No record can be found of the date these schools were erected or demolished.³ The destruction of the early town minutes has eliminated this source for research work, but from a discourse delivered by Rev. Thomas Savage in 1841 it is learned that in 1754 the following vote was passed in relation to schools:

Voted to have the school kept this year, in the following manner; beginning at the south westerly corner of the town, and to continue there one month, and then to be kept at the north easterly corner one month, and so alternately one month in each of the aforementioned places, in rotation as before mentioned, until the whole 8 months be completed.⁴

In 1770 the town voted "Not to hire a town School the Ensueing year",⁵ but in 1772 the town voted to raise a sum of money to pay for "School keeping."⁶ In the latter year Matthew Patten and others hired a Mr. Stillman to keep school for a month.⁷ On July 4 of that year a new schoolhouse was built; for Matthew Patten writes, "I worked at framing the school house and we Raised it about Sun Set."⁸ This school was built by subscription, and was located at the junction of the river road and the back river road, south of Samuel Chandler's place.⁹ In 1773 a vote was passed to divide the town into seven school districts.¹⁰ The school property was evidently being damaged, for in 1774 a committee was elected "to Prosecut any person

1. History of Bedford, pp. 511-514.

2. See Records-Town of Bedford (hereinafter cited as T. M. B.), vol. 8, pp. 521, 522 (1927), see entry 5.

3. History of Bedford, p. 418.

4. Savage, op. cit., p. 11.

5. State's Copy, vol. 3, p. 5 (1770), see entry 6.

6. Ibid., p. 49 (1772).

7. Patten, Diary, p. 280.

8. Ibid., p. 286.

9. History of Bedford, p. 418.

10. State's Copy, vol. 3, p. 70 (1773), see entry 6.

or Persons that have or Shall Traspas on Said lotts."¹ There is no mention of school affairs during the period from 1775 to 1779, quite probably due to the Revolutionary War, but in 1780 the town raised 120 pounds "to hire a Town School Master the Present Season."² Although Bedford had many school masters, the first one named in the town records was John O'Neil who taught school in 1774, but for some obscure reason was not paid until 1781.³ Periodically from 1782 to 1800, the town raised money for school purposes.⁴

So rapid was the growth of the town that by 1800 six school houses had been erected. The town history presents the assumption that these school-houses were not built by the town but by the people residing in their vicinity. This system presented a great disadvantage as the people were continually sending children from one school to another according to their likes and dislikes.⁵ (The vote of 1773, mentioned above, dividing the town into school districts had not defined the bounds). To remedy this situation the town voted in 1800 "that the Select Men shall lay out the Town in School Districts."⁶ As a result the selectmen laid out nine districts and described their bounds.⁷ Each district determined the length of the school terms, chose its agent to hire teachers, and exercised control of other school matters.⁸ Money was raised to repair and erect schoolhouses, by assessing each district in proportion to its poll.⁹ It appears by a vote of 1807 that permission from the town was necessary for the withdrawal of individuals from one district to another.¹⁰

New schoolhouses were built or repaired as they were needed. In 1810 School District No. 4 was permitted to draw a sum of money from the treasury of the town, towards building a new schoolhouse.¹¹ In 1816 the selectmen were "requested to Assess the Polls and taxable property in School District No. 9 * * * for the purpose of Building a School House * * *."¹²

Bedford dissolved its multiple school districts in 1886.¹³ The town now constitutes a single school district, which is a member of Supervisory Union No. 27.¹⁴

Two years after the 1733 grant, the proprietors voted 'That their shall be a sofisent Cart Bridge Built over Souhegon River¹⁵ * * that their Shall be a sutetable High way layed through y^e town For the Benifit of our town & other towns * * *'.¹⁶ In 1740 money was voted for a highway 'between Piscataquog and souhegan.'¹⁷

1. State's Copy, vol. 3, p. 98 (1774), see entry 6.

2. Ibid., p. 311 (1780).

3. Ibid., p. 356 (1781).

4. Ibid., p. 409 (1782), et passim 1783-1800.

5. History of Bedford, p. 421.

6. State's Copy, vol. 2, p. 387 (1800), see entry 6.

7. Ibid., p. 411 (1800).

8. History of Bedford, p. 421.

9. State's Copy, vol. 2, pp. 455-459 (1802), see entry 6.

10. Ibid., vol. 3, p. 29 (1807).

11. Ibid., vol. 4, p. 142 (1810).

12. Ibid., p. 388 (1816).

13. History of Bedford, p. 431.

14. New Hampshire State Board of Education Directory * * * 1940-1941, p. 8.

15. The original grant extended to the Souhegan River.

16. History of Bedford, p. 125.

17. Ibid., p. 198.

Two highway votes were passed by the town in 1770. One related to delinquent surveyors of highways. The other relinquished "that part of a highway from Deacon Boies to Goffstown line by the Easterly end of Crosslies Meadow."¹

On November 7, 1766 a charter was granted to John Goffe of Derryfield to operate a ferry across the Merrimack River between Derryfield and Bedford. In the following year another charter for a ferry was granted to Abraham Merrell and this ferry was located about one-half mile below the present Granite Street Bridge in Manchester.²

Many attempts were made to procure a charter to connect Manchester and Milford by a railroad, but it was not until 1899 that the people of Bedford were gratified to learn that the Boston and Maine Railroad had succeeded in securing a charter. This road passed through the center of Bedford and it afforded an easier means for the people of Bedford to reach the market with their goods. This road was officially opened to traffic on December 31, 1900, with two trains running each way daily,³ and was discontinued on September 27, 1924.⁴

One of the first acts of the early settlers was to clear a plot of ground at the southeast part of the town and use it for a graveyard. In 1752 the town voted a sum of money to build a stone wall around this yard⁵ and again voted sums of money for the same purpose in 1772 and 1774.⁶

In 1776 the town voted "to purchase land as near the Meeting House as may be had for a burying place."⁷ In 1780 money was appropriated to clear the graveyard of brush and in 1781 it was voted "not to Fence The Graveyard The Present year."⁸

The West Parish (Joppa) Graveyard was located in School District No. 8. The land for this cemetery was given by Jesse Worcester, father of Joseph E. Worcester, geographer and lexicographer who was born in Bedford in 1784. This graveyard was enlarged in 1872 by a purchase of land made by the town. The first burial took place on June 9, 1789.⁹ In 1790 the town voted "to assess a Single Poll 1/2 a day and other Estate in proportion to work on the different Graveyards in Town."¹⁰

Another cemetery was the South Graveyard which was made possible by land donated by Stephen Dole for that purpose.¹¹

In 1799 a half acre of land was given by Isaac Riddle for the purpose of a graveyard, which was known as the Bedford Center Graveyard. The first interment here took place in October of that year. Another half acre of land was obtained in 1847. In 1871 additional land, adjoining this yard on the west, was purchased by the town. This cemetery had become badly

1. State's Copy, vol. 3, p. 5 (1770), see entry 6.

2. History of Bedford, pp. 216, 228.

3. Ibid., pp. 220, 221.

4. Information obtained by George H. Lewis from diary of William V. Fiske, New Boston, retired engineer, who drove the last train over this road.

5. History of Bedford, p. 382.

6. State's Copy, vol. 3, p. 54 (1772), p. 107 (1774), see entry 6.

7. Ibid., p. 154 (1776).

8. Ibid., p. 311 (1780), p. 357 (1781).

9. History of Bedford, p. 387.

10. State's Copy, vol. 2, p. 6 (1790), see entry 6.

11. History of Bedford, p. 387.

neglected and in the summer of 1873, the town appropriated money to improve it.¹ During the year ending January 31, 1941 this cemetery received \$288.78 from town appropriations and town trust funds.² The town keeps up the newer section of this cemetery but the older section is cared for by the Bedford Center Old Cemetery Association.

The first settlers of Bedford were forced to take their grain to Dunstable (Nashua) to have it ground, but in 1735 the proprietors voted to build a mill, and pursuant to this vote a mill to grind grain was erected on the Souhegan River, then within the limits of Narragansett No. 5 (Bedford).³

About 1745 Col. John Goffe who had been living at Goffe's Falls in Derryfield (Manchester) moved his residence to Bedford. He built a forge with a trip hammer and wrought large amounts of iron. The ore was obtained locally. Colonel Goffe also built a gristmill which was patronized by the people from surrounding towns. The property was purchased from Colonel Goffe's grandson in 1843 by Jonas B. Bowman, who remodeled the mill. Fire destroyed its top structure in 1845. It was rebuilt and operations continued until 1910 in which year the gristmill business struck the doldrums and the mill was abandoned. The frame was razed in 1933 as a safety measure. For a long time the remaining fragments of the mill were looked upon as merely relics of days that were. But now the mill is again in operation. George Woodbury, a descendent of Colonel Goffe, in the seventh generation, has rebuilt the mill on its original foundation, excavating the old waterwheel and other machinery from the ruins; and repairing the original dam, which is 12 feet thick at the base. The mill runs its daily course, grinding corn, wheat, rye, buckwheat, and oatmeal in the old fashioned way. It is a stone mill using upright stones which became popular after excessively large flat stones went out of favor. The equipment includes a home-built windlass for hoisting the grain and a fan mill for cleaning the grain and screening the flour. There is a second section serving the purpose of a sawmill. By this means Mr. Woodbury is able to balance the work, the fall and winter being the principal seasons for grinding, and the spring and summer the principal seasons for sawing. A journalist has described Mr. Woodbury's mill as "a genuine old-time mill with howling, growling waterwheel!" It is situated on Bowman Brook near the Manchester line. The experiment is unique, and may point the way for similar experiments in other New Hampshire communities.⁴

From time to time, in the early days of Bedford, different mills were erected, such as fulling mills, bark mills, and cider mills. There were tannaries and shops of wheelwrights, blacksmiths, coopers, and hat makers. The means by which the people earned their livelihood included shoe making, and the spinning and weaving of wool and linen thread into cloth. Home weaving prevailed for a time, but was superseded by the power loom.⁵

1. History of Bedford, pp. 383-387.

2. Annual Reports of the Town of Bedford, New Hampshire, p. 63 (1941), see entry 29.

3. History of Bedford, p. 238.

4. See Ibid., pp. 238-240; Manchester Leader, March 8, 1941; Boston Sunday Post, March 30, 1941; Boston Sunday Globe, September 28, 1941.

5. History of Bedford, pp. 238-255.

A great curiosity of these early days was the silk worms raised by Mrs. Theodore A. Goffe. They were fed on the leaves of mulberry trees raised specifically for this purpose. The thread obtained from these cocoons was knitted into stockings.¹

For the first half of the nineteenth century brickmaking was an important business, and at one time there were from 20 to 30 brickyards in operation. Millions of bricks were made a year. Bricks were supplied for Lowell and Lawrence, Massachusetts, as well as for Nashua, New Hampshire. These yards not only gave employment to many workers, but made an excellent market for the wood of nearby farmers, as large quantities of wood were consumed in firing the brick kilns. Soon after 1842 brickmaking slowly disappeared from the town, as rich clay beds had been found at Hooksett, near the Nashua-Concord Railroad. The cost of transportation was much less from this locality, and the Bedford brickmakers were forced out of business by competition.²

By an act of 1845 the Piscataquog Steam Mill was established in Bedford. This corporation was permitted to "carry on the manufacture of lumber, iron, cotton, wool, and other materials, and erect mills, works, and buildings * * *."³

At the present time dairying, the raising of poultry, and general farming furnish the people of Bedford with their principal means of livelihood.

The original bounds of Narragansett No. 5, as granted by Massachusetts in 1733,⁴ included a much larger territory⁵ than that included within the bounds of present day Bedford. The incorporation of Bedford occurred May 19, 1750;⁶ on the following June 5, a tract of land about 4 1/2 miles long and 3 miles wide was detached from Bedford and added to the town of Merrimack, the northerly bounds of which had been, until then, the Souhegan River.⁷ In 1853 an act was passed by which Bedford lost some land to Manchester.⁸ Bedford is bounded on the north by Goffstown, on the east by Manchester and Litchfield,⁹ on the south by Merrimack, and on the west by New Boston and Amherst.

1. History of Bedford, p. 255.

2. Ibid.

3. New Hampshire Laws of 1845, ch. 294, secs. 1, 2.

4. New Hampshire State Papers, 24:13.

5. See map (January 9, 1738) by Stephen Hosmer and James Chandler, surveyors. Copy of this in pocket of town history, 1903 edition, in Manchester City Library.

6. New Hampshire State Papers, 24:13.

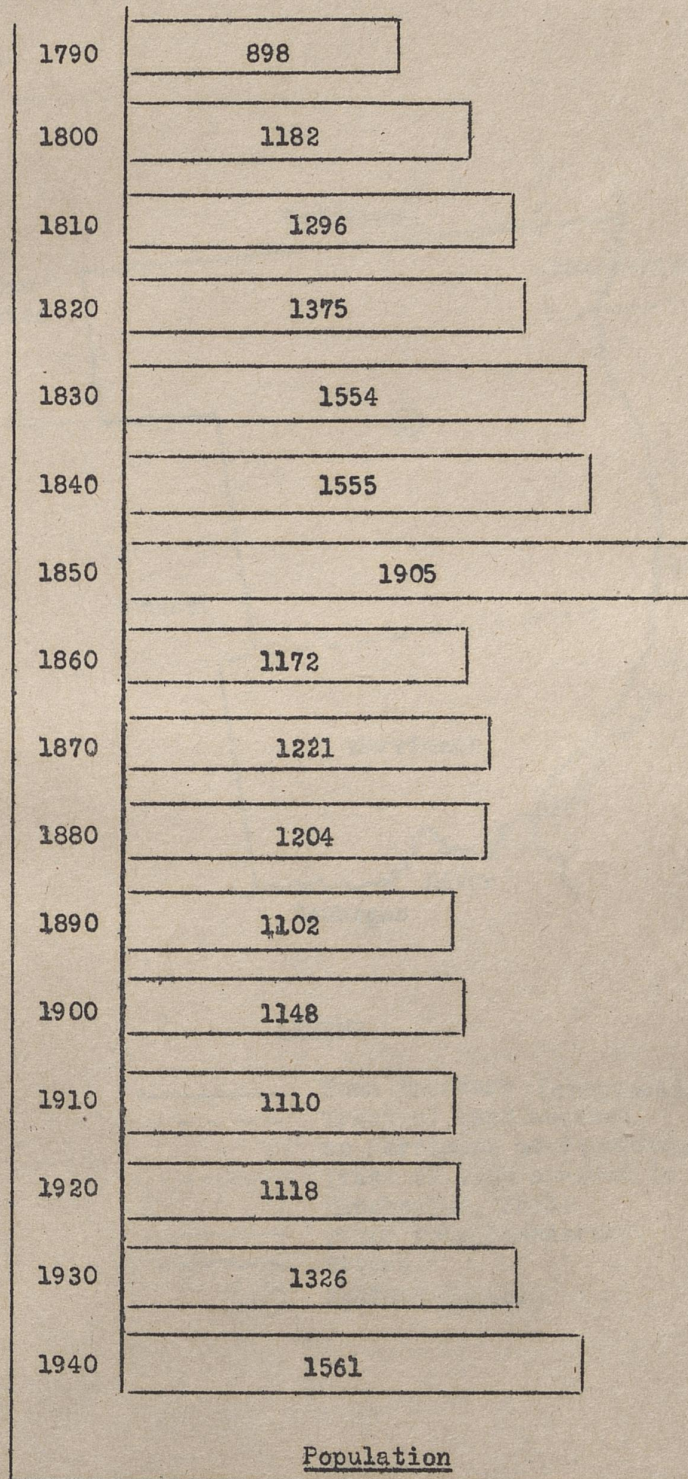
7. Ibid., 25:336-338. Note the sketch on p. 338.

8. New Hampshire Laws of 1853, ch. 1406.

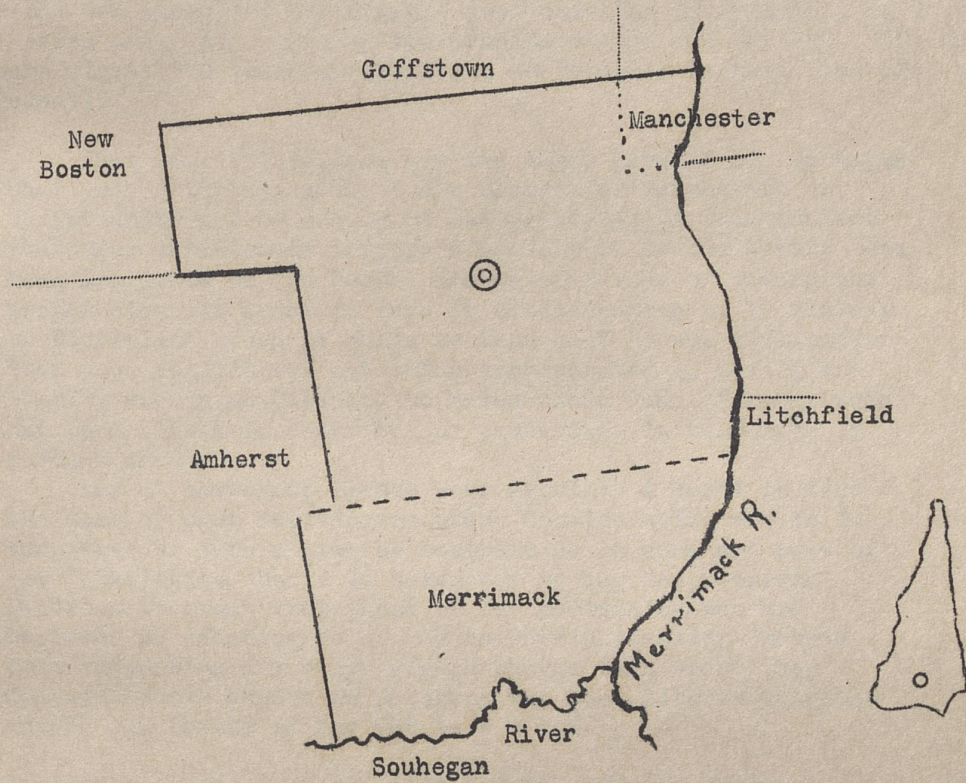
9. The Merrimack River intervenes on the Litchfield section of the eastern boundary. The river is not bridged at this section.

BEDFORD POPULATION GRAPH

Based on N. H. Manual for the General Court



MAP OF BEDFORD SHOWING TRANSITIONS SINCE 1750



LEGEND

- Town boundary (original).
- - - - - Tract of land annexed to Merrimack as recorded, June 5, 1750.
- Tract of land annexed to Manchester, 1853.
- Other town boundaries.
- ~~~~~ Rivers.
- ⊙ Bedford Center.

2. GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION AND RECORDS SYSTEM

Massachusetts in 1733 granted a tract of land, known as Narragansett No. 5 and later as Souhegan East, to the surviving veterans of King Philip's War and to the heirs of deceased soldiers of that war; but when the New Hampshire-Massachusetts boundary was adjusted in 1741, this region was included within the bounds of New Hampshire.¹ Its incorporation as a town, under the New Hampshire government, was motivated by religion, as in many other cases among the towns of the Granite State. On May 10, 1750, 42 subscribers signed the following petition to Governor Benning Wentworth and his Council:

That your Petitioners are the Major part of sd. Souhegan that your Petitioners as to our particular persuasion in Christianity are Generally of the Presbyterian Denomination That your petitioners through a variety of Causes having been Long Destitute of the Gospel are now Desirous of taking the proper steps in Order to have it Settled among us in the way of Discipline which we judge to tend most to our Edification That your Petitioners not being incorporated by Civill authority are in no Capacity to Raise those Sums of money which may be needfull in order to our proceeding in the above Important affair.

May it therefore Please your Excell'y & Hon^{rs} to take the Case of your Petitioners under Consideration and to Incorporate us into a town or Destrict or in case any part of our Inhabitants should be taken off By any Neighbouring Destrict to grant that those of our persuasion who are Desirous of Adhering to us may be Notwithstanding Excused from supporting any other Parish Charge than where they Consciencously adhere we Desiring the Same Liberty to those within our Bounds if any yet be * * *.²

A meeting of the Council, summoned by Governor Wentworth, occurred 8 days later in Portsmouth. John Goffe and Samuel Patten presented the petition as agents for Souhegan East. Joseph Blanchard appeared on behalf of the town of Merrimack and boundaries were discussed. Upon being questioned Mr. Goffe and Mr. Patten declared that the only purpose of the petitioners was to be incorporated with the same privileges possessed by other towns. The Council unanimously advised the Governor to grant the requested incorporation.³ This was done the following day. The charter described the bounds of the new town and enfranchised it with full town privileges. All suitable white pine was reserved for masts in the royal navy. The right to divide the town at some future time was specifically retained. It was made plain that the private ownership of the soil was in no way affected by the charter. John Goffe was appointed to call the first town meeting.⁴

1. New Hampshire State Papers, 11:176-178; New Hampshire Manual for the General Court, 1941, p. 146.

2. New Hampshire State Papers, 9:51, 52.

3. Ibid., 6:5.

4. History of Bedford, pp. 111, 112.

The town was named Bedford in honor of the Duke of Bedford.¹

From the town history it is learned that at the first town meeting Samuel Patten, Robert Walker, and Thomas Chandler were elected selectmen; Fergus Kennedy, constable; and John McLaughlin, clerk. John Goffe was the first moderator.² It is quite possible that other officers were also elected at this 1750 meeting, but due to the loss by fire of the early town records this has not been determined.

The surviving recorded minutes do not begin until 1770, but original minutes have been found for 1765 and 1766, and, therefore, it is learned that in 1765 there were elected one moderator; one town clerk; three selectmen, who acted also as fence viewers, appraisers, and assessors; one constable; five surveyors of highways; two tythingmen; one sealer of leather; four hogreeves; two field drivers; one clerk of the market; three surveyors of lumber; and a three-member committee to examine selectmen's accounts.³

Of the officers elected at the 1765 town meeting, the moderator, clerk, and selectmen have survived to the present day. The office of fence viewer, combined with that of selectman in 1765, later became a separate office; it eventually disappeared. The tax collecting duties of the constable are now cared for by the tax collector; the law enforcing duties, by the police. Highway surveyors have given way to road agents. Duties once performed by committees to examine accounts are now performed by auditors. The offices of tythingman, sealer of leather, hogreeve, field driver, clerk of the market, and surveyor of lumber have disappeared. Offices added subsequent to the 1765 meeting, but not coming to date, are those of town counter; surplus revenue agent; committee to examine schools; committee to visit schools; superintending school committee; dog constable (dog officer); legal agent; liquor enforcement (prohibition) officer; fireward; weigher of hay; sealer of weights and measures; surveyor of wood and lumber; surveyor of wood, hay, and lumber; culler of staves; corder of wood; measurer of bark; culler of hoops and hoop poles; pound-keeper; haward; fish ward; fish and game warden; deer keeper; sexton; and caretaker of meeting-house.

At the present time the voters of Bedford at each annual town meeting elect, for a 1-year term, a town clerk, one tax collector, one treasurer, two auditors, three road agents, and two police officers; and, for a 3-year term, one selectman, one trustee of trust funds, one cemetery trustee, and one library trustee. The Bedford voters, at each biennial November election, choose a moderator and three supervisors of the check-list.

The selectmen biennially appoint four election inspectors, two of whom are designated by the moderator to act as ballot clerks. The selectmen recommend the health officer, who is appointed by the State Board of Health; and the forest fire warden, who is appointed by the State Forester.

The moderator annually appoints two members of the budget committee for a 3-year term. In addition one selectman and one member of the school board serve on the budget committee.

The Governor and Council appoint the justice of the municipal court who in turn appoints the clerk.

1. History of Bedford, p. 106.

2. Ibid., pp. 784-794.

3. [Minutes of Town Meetings], see entry 4. (This entry is for documents found at the home of Mrs. Gordon Woodbury).

Governmental Organization and
Records System

(First entry, p. 28)

The Bedford Volunteer Fire Department has a chief, deputy chief, clerk, treasurer, and steward. Each of the two companies has a lieutenant and a captain. All officers are elected at the annual meeting of the department.

The Bedford Center Old Cemetery Association, at its annual meeting, elects a president, first vice-president, second vice-president, treasurer, clerk, and fourteen trustees.

The Bedford School District, at each annual meeting, elects one moderator, one clerk, one treasurer, and one member of the three-member school board. The superintendent of schools is appointed by the State Board of Education, on the recommendation of the Bedford school board and the other school boards comprising Supervisory Union No. 27.

From the historical viewpoint, the most important records preserved by New Hampshire towns are the recordings of the warrants and minutes of proprietors' and town meetings. The original proprietors' warrants and minutes for Bedford have been destroyed by fire. However, the town history of Bedford has verbatim proprietors' records of warrants for 1763, 1765-66, 1771-73, and 1782, and of minutes for 1733-40, 1743, 1748-49, 1763, 1765-67, 1771-72, 1774, and 1782. Records for 1749-62 were lost before the publication of the town history. With the proprietors' minutes--in addition to votes taken and officers elected--are included appointments and reports of committees; a list of Narraganset grantees; the record of lots drawn for settlers and non-settlers; the division of lots in second and third divisions; the layout of roads and bridges; diagrams of plats, lots, and plans; the sale of lots; examination of treasurer's accounts; the leasing out of the privilege of building a saw mill; notice of auction sale, and sale, of standing timber; and petition for town meeting. These proprietors' records were copied into the town history before their destruction by fire.¹

A volume of the proprietors' tax book, 1739-43, and three undated loose papers showing grantees' list of lots are located at the residence of Mrs. Gordon Woodbury.

There are six volumes in the Town Meeting Book series--the series of original volumes containing primarily the warrants and minutes of the town meetings. Five volumes, 1736-1853, 1855, are at the New Hampshire Historical Society; and one volume, 1884--, is in the safe at the selectmen's office. Records, 1856-83, have been destroyed by fire. The reason for the first inclusive date being 1736, 14 years before the incorporation of Bedford, is that early recordings of family records are included. The warrants begin in 1769 and the minutes in 1770. Besides warrants, minutes, and family records, the Town Meeting Books contain a varied assortment of recordings. These include, among others, certifications of posting warrants; appointments, oaths, bonds, and resignations of town officers; bills of sale; list of college graduates; assessments of Colony, Continental, Province, State, county, town, schoolhouse, school, graveyard, ministerial, and soldiers' taxes; biennial and presidential elections; fence divisions and agreements; highway, invoice, meeting-house, schoolhouse, school, ministers', pew, poor, militia, stray, and surplus revenue records; liquor and tavern licenses; perambulations of town lines; pole petitions and permits; found notices; sheep and cattle marks; tax abatements and redemptions; tax sale notices

1. For copies of Proprietors' warrants and minutes, see History of Bedford, pp. 117-213.

and tax sales; and collectors' and constables' tax warrants. Copies of these records are kept at the Secretary of State's office vault, Concord, for 1736-1847.

Original warrants, 1801, and minutes, 1765-66, 1771-73, are at the residence of Mrs. Gordon Woodbury.

Among the duties of New Hampshire clerks is that of keeping a record of vital statistics. The Bedford town clerk fully complies with this requirement. Among the Bedford vital statistics are four volumes in which there is a combined record of births, marriages, and deaths. The births go to date in this combined record, but the marriages and deaths go to date in separate volumes. The town clerk also has kept a separate record of intentions of marriage since 1928; this record also contains laboratory blood tests since September 1, 1938. Beginning with January 1938 there is a loose-leaf volume containing birth certificates, marriage intention certificates, marriage certificates, and death certificates. The records and certificates of vital statistics, therefore, run concurrently since 1938. A record of burial permits has been kept by the town clerk since 1937.

The town clerk also keeps records of receipts and payments, involving motor vehicle permits and dog licenses; invoices; appointments and oaths of office; dog licenses; stubs of dog licenses; permits for registration of motor vehicles; writs of attachment; personal mortgages and their index; conditional sales; a record of fires; check-lists; highway surveyors' warrants; and miscellaneous papers.

The administrative officials of the town—the selectmen—issue the town reports which, in addition to their own, contain the reports of the town clerk, including vital statistics; tax collector; treasurer; trustees of trust funds; cemetery trustees; library trustees; librarian; school board; auditors; school district treasurer; and superintendent of schools. These documents, printed annually, contain also such items as a list of town officers, copy of town and school warrants, town budget, summary of town inventory, statement of appropriations and expenses, financial report, statement of debt, and schedule of town property.

The selectmen keep a record of receipts and payments and other financial records. The duties of the selectmen as assessors are represented by blotter books and invoice records. Some early taxation records, credited to the selectmen, and kept at the residence of Mrs. Gordon Woodbury, include invoice records, tax lists and warrants, and selectmen's orders on the constable.

Among other records of the selectmen are returned receipts of tax sale notices, relief records, jury records, militia records, and miscellaneous documents.

The budget committee keeps a record of minutes of its meetings.

The tax collector keeps account and warrant books, cash books, tax sale notices, the record of tax sales and of property acquired through tax collector's deeds, tax redemptions, memoranda of paid taxes, and records of unpaid taxes.

The treasurer keeps a cash book, orders on the treasurer, receipt stubs, duplicating deposit slips, bank statements, canceled checks, and a bank deposit book.

The auditors keep a copy of their report to the State Tax Commission. The trustees of trust funds keep complete financial records. The cemetery trustees keep plans, maps, and a current report. The Bedford Center Old

Governmental Organization and
Records System

(First entry, p. 28)

Cemetery Association keeps minutes and financial records.

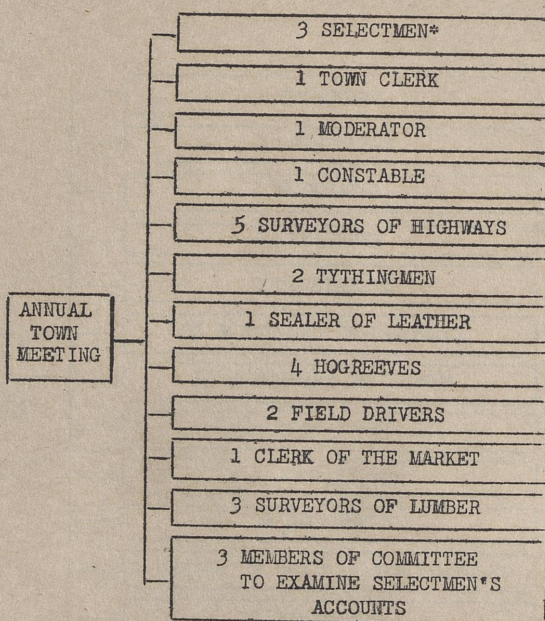
Records pertaining to the school district consist of district and board minutes; financial records; general fund-loan fund records, vouchers, and bills; records of the Stevens-Buswell School; and miscellaneous papers. The Supervisory Union keeps school registers.

The library trustees keep minutes of meetings, and copies of reports sent to the Public Library Commission. The librarian's records consist of data in regard to books and magazines loaned, accession records, and a card catalog of books.

The health officer keeps records of his accounts and within this record are found highway agents' accounts. The road agent keeps weekly time books and duplicates of payrolls. The municipal court keeps court dockets and complaints and warrants. The forest fire warden keeps copies of permits to kindle fires. Minutes of meetings and paid bills are kept by the volunteer fire department.

The Appendix lists a roll of the Bedford Grenadiers, deeds, plans, plats, maps, and the Levi Woodbury Papers.

It is fortunate that Bedford has such a complete town history. Much information relating to the early history of the town is thereby preserved which otherwise would have been lost when important records were destroyed by fire.



LEGEND

Elected _____
*Acted as fence viewers,
appraisers, and assessors

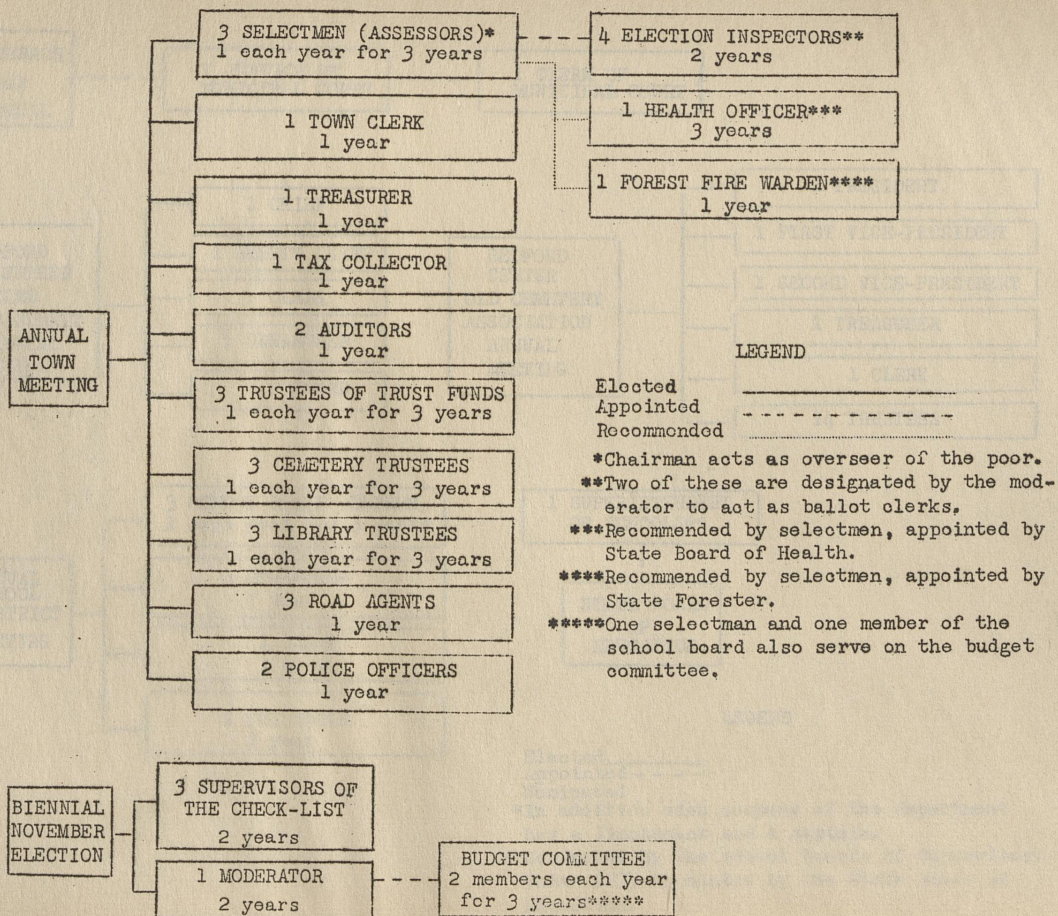
ANNUAL
TOWN
MEETING

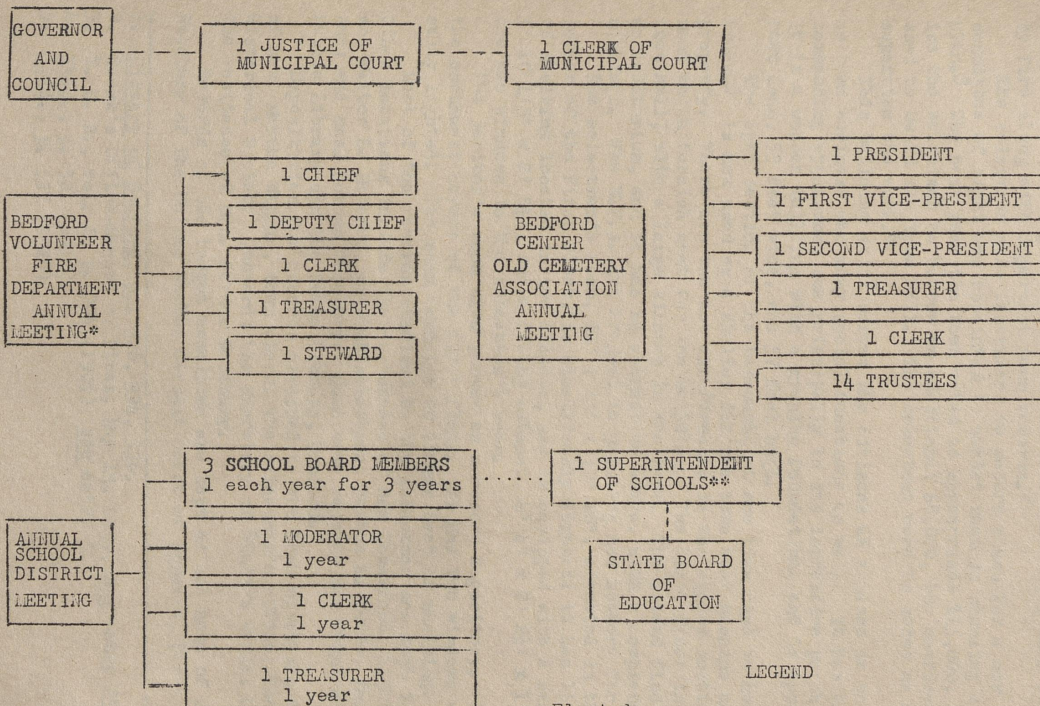
3 SELECTMEN
1 TOWN CLERK
1 MODERATOR
1 TREASURER
2 CONSTABLES
31 SURVEYORS OF HIGHWAYS
13 SURVEYORS OF LUMBER
3 CULLERS OF STAVES
1 POUNDKEEPER
6 HOGREEVES
1 SEALER OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES
7 FIREWARDS
2 WEIGHERS OF HAY
18 CORDERS OF WOOD

3 SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL
COMMITTEE MEMBERS

LEGEND

Elected. _____
Appointed. - - - - -





LEGEND

Elected _____
 Appointed - - - -
 Nominated
 *In addition each company of the department has a lieutenant and a captain.
 **Nominated by the school boards of Supervisory Union #27; appointed by the State Board of Education.

CHART OF BEDFORD MUNICIPAL COURT, FIRE DEPARTMENT,
 CEMETERY ASSOCIATION AND SCHOOL OFFICERS

3. HOUSING, CARE, AND ACCESSIBILITY OF THE RECORDS

The first town house in Bedford was erected in 1755 for the dual purpose of a meeting-house for the town and a place of worship for the Presbyterians. From 1832, in which year the Presbyterians erected their present church building, until 1876 the old meeting-house served solely as a town house. In that year it was torn down and a new one erected on the same site.¹ This meeting-house served the town until 1909 when it was destroyed by fire along with important town records.²

The selectmen were instructed to secure plans for a new town hall and a committee of eight was appointed to assist them in choosing a suitable plan.³ The next year the town voted to appropriate \$15,000, and to authorize the selectmen to borrow an additional \$8,000, the combined amount to be used to build the town hall. The selectmen were to serve as a committee to supervise the work.⁴

This building still serves the citizens as a place in which to carry on town business and many social functions as well. It has an unusually commanding appearance due principally to its impressive porch and pillars. It is a wooden building with a granite foundation, and is approximately 95 feet long, 53 feet wide, and 57 feet high.

The open section of the basement, at one time used to house the fire truck,⁵ is now used as a shelter for the town road machine and other town property. There are two hot air furnaces in the closed section of the basement which furnish heat for the building. The first floor includes a banquet hall, with a large kitchen in the rear. The second floor is used as an auditorium, and it has an attractive stage, with a complete set of furnishings. The W.P.A. Art Project is painting new scenery for this stage.

The selectmen's room, 17' x 13' x 10' 10", situated in the southwest corner of the first floor, is electrically lighted; it has 15 linear feet of shelving located in two closets, and is equipped with a safe, 5' 5" x 3' 10 1/3" x 2' 5 1/4", and a filing cabinet, 4' 4" x 2' 2 1/2" x 1' 2 1/2". There are two windows in the selectmen's room.

The janitor's room also serves as a record depository. It occupies the northwest corner of the first floor. It has two windows and is electrically lighted. The room contains 60 linear feet of shelving.

Most of the records credited to the selectmen are kept in their office. Other locations include the residences of Rae Comerford, Gillis French, and Walter S. Melendy, present selectmen; Burton E. Davis, former selectman; and Mrs. Gordon Woodbury. Some town reports are found at the Bedford Public Library and the State Library, Concord.

Depositories for records credited to the town clerk are the residence of Mrs. Martha Wiggin, town clerk; the selectmen's office; the New Hampshire Historical Society, Concord; the Secretary of State's vault, Concord; and the residence of Mrs. Gordon Woodbury.

Records of the budget committee are kept at the home of Justice Peter Woodbury of the United States Circuit Court of Appeals, First Circuit, who

-
1. History of Bedford, pp. 328, 334, 336.
 2. Clerk's Office-Record of Fires, May 13, 1909, see entry 25.
 3. T. M. B., vol. 8, p. 294 (1909), see entry 5.
 4. Ibid., p. 301 (1910).
 5. Ibid., p. 537 (1928).

is a member of the budget committee. Tax collector's records are located in the residences of Roy E. Jenkins, tax collector; George D. Soper, former tax collector; and the selectmen's office. Most of the treasurer's records are kept in the home of the treasurer, Burton E. Davis, but some are found in the selectmen's office.

Mrs. Osman Clapp, one of the auditors, keeps an auditors' report at her residence. All records of trustees of trust funds, except bank books, are kept at the residence of Charles F. Shepard, treasurer of trustees. The bank books are kept at two Manchester banks. The home of Albert C. Hodgman, caretaker, and the selectmen's office are the depositories for records credited to cemetery trustees.

Records of the Bedford Center Old Cemetery Association are located at the residences of Willis B. Kendall, clerk, Manchester, and Miss Martha E. Woodbury, treasurer, Bedford.

Records pertaining to the Bedford School District are kept at the residences of Mrs. George T. Wiggin, school district clerk; Mrs. Helen Barnard, school board clerk; Henry A. Blood, school district treasurer; and Mrs. Etta May Hodgman, chairman of school board; and in the selectmen's office and janitor's room, town hall. Supervisory Union records (school registers) are kept at the superintendent's office, Hudson.

Mrs. Abbie C. Sargent, treasurer of the library trustees, has minutes of trustees' meetings. Other library records are kept at the library. The one health officer's record is kept at the residence of Lyman M. Kinson, health officer. The road agents' records are located in the residences of the three incumbents, Ralph M. Wiggin, Ernest K. Wheeler, and Richard Ramig.

Municipal Court records are kept in the selectmen's office and the home of Mrs. Martha F. Wiggin, clerk of court. The one forest fire warden's record is kept at the home of the warden, Ernest K. Wheeler. Records of the Bedford Volunteer Fire Department are kept at the residences of Charles F. Shepard, clerk, and Frank H. Barnard, treasurer.

Recommendations. The time it would take to prepare a thorough index for the Town Minute Books would be time well spent, since their contents are valuable historically. There is a volume of vital statistics, 1846, 1850-78, which could be indexed to advantage.

Additional fireproof protection ought to be provided for the town's records. The safe now in the selectmen's office affords protection up to a certain point, but its capacity is not sufficient to store all of the records which should be safeguarded. The construction of a fireproof vault is recommended. In this connection it is worth pointing out that there have been two fires in Bedford in which records have been destroyed—the 1909 fire which destroyed the town hall¹ and the 1923 fire which destroyed the town clerk's store.²

1. Clerk's Office—Record of Fires, May 13, 1909, see entry 25.

2. Ibid., January 28, 1923.

4. ABBREVIATIONS, SYMBOLS, AND EXPLANATORY NOTES

alph.		alphabetically
approx.		approximately
arr.		arranged
aver.		average
bdl(s).		bundle(s)
caps		capitals
Capt.		Captain
ch(s).		chapter(s)
chron.		chronologically
Col.		Colonel
<u>et passim</u>		and here and there
f. b.		file box(es)
f. d.		file drawer(s)
hdw.		handwritten (in ink)
<u>ibid.</u>		<u>ibidem</u> (in the same place)
Lt.		Lieutenant
N. H. H. S.		New Hampshire Historical Society
no.		number
numer.		numerically
off.		office
<u>op. cit.</u>		<u>opere citato</u> (in the work cited)
p(p).		page(s)
<u>passim</u>		here and there
ptd.		printed
res.		residence
Rev.		Reverend
rm.		room
sec(s).		section(s)
sel.		selectmen
State's Copy		[State's Copy of] Bedford Town Records
T. M. B.		Records-Town of Bedford (Town Meeting Books)
v.		vault
vol(s).		volume(s)
x		by (in dimension items)
---		to date

Titles: Exact titles of records are written in solid capitals without brackets, as entry 1. In the absence of titles, descriptive titles have been assigned, which are written in solid caps and enclosed in brackets, as in entry 3. If a record title is not descriptive of the record, an assigned explanatory title, written with initial caps and enclosed in brackets, has been added, as in entry 6. Titles of artificial entries (those procured from another entry) are written in solid caps and enclosed in brackets, as in entry 55. In the master entry, the subtitle, referring to the artificial entry, is neither enclosed in brackets nor capitalized

Abbreviations, Symbols, and
Explanatory Notes

(First entry, p. 28)

(see entry 43-w); in some descriptions, as in entry 24-t, the title of the entry referred to (see entry 36) is inverted to correspond with alphabetical sequence. When regular entries are referred to in the description of other entries, the exact title of the regular entry is not used, but merely a phrase descriptive of the records, as in entry 5-e, unless the exact title is brief and descriptive, as in entry 24-bq.

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 1891-98 (see entry 13). Lapses in the records are indicated by commas between the groups of inclusive dates, as 1765-66, 1771-73 (see entry 4). Current dates are indicated by two hyphens, as 1938--. When the dates of a record cannot be ascertained, the expression "undated" is used, as in entry 2.

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: Figures or letters in parentheses, following the number of volumes, file boxes, or other types of containers, 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 definitely established 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.

Last Entry: If a record is still open but has no recent entries, the statement "Last entry (date)" is used, as in entry 71. In such a case, the date item of the entry indicates that the record is current.

Description of Records: The description item of each entry indicates, in order, the nature of the record, its purpose and use (if not obvious), and the information it contains. The description applies only to the current or most recent record unless change in contents is actually shown in the record entry.

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.

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

Condition of Records: Records are in good condition unless otherwise stated.

Dimensions: When a series consists of more than one volume, it is understood that the pagination of the majority of the volumes or that of the

current volume is given. The same rule applies to measurements of file boxes, file drawers, etc. Dimensions are always given in inches, unless otherwise indicated, and, therefore, the symbol for inches ("") has been 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 in each individual entry.

Cross References: Title-line cross references are used to show the continuity of a record series which has been kept separately for a period of time and with other records for different periods of time. An example is that in entry 10: "1846, 1850-78, 1894-1939 in Record of Marriages Births and Deaths, entry 7-b." They are also used in all artificial entries, those set up to cover records which must be shown separately under their proper office even though they are kept in files or records appearing elsewhere in the inventory, as, for example, the title-line cross reference in entry 55, or in those set up for a record which is never kept separately but is found in two or more records of miscellaneous content, such as entry 19. In both instances, the description in the master entry shows the title in lower case and entry number of the record from which the cross reference is made, as for example this description in entry 43-w "Orders on treasurer, selectmen's 1937--, entry 55." Dates shown in the description of the master entry or entry of miscellaneous content are only for the part or parts of the record contained therein, and are shown only when they vary from those of the master entry.

Separate third-paragraph cross references from entry to entry, and See also references with subject headings are used to show prior, subsequent, or closely related records which are not parts of the same series. Third-paragraph references cross, but See also references do not cross.

Footnotes: The copies of the Bedford records in the Secretary of State's vault, Concord (see entry 6) are numbered contrary to their chronological order. Therefore references to these volumes in the footnotes will, in some instances, show a higher numeral for a certain volume than for some other volume which follows it in time sequence.

B. TOWN OFFICES AND THEIR RECORDS

I. TOWN CLERK

Bedford was incorporated in 1750,¹ and John McLaughlin was elected town clerk. The office has appeared regularly from that time to the present.² The clerk is elected annually.

Records are kept at the residences of the town clerk, Mrs. Martha F. Wiggin, and Mrs. Gordon Woodbury; the New Hampshire Historical Society; the Secretary of State's vault, Concord; and the selectmen's office, town hall.

Early Proprietary Records

1. A TAX BOOK OF THE PROPRIETORS OF NARAGANSET NO. 5,
Jan. 2, 1739-Oct. 19, 1743. 1 vol.

Names of original proprietors on Merrimack River and present settlers (persons granted rights); numbers of home lots; lot numbers; date of levy; minister's, meeting-house, non-settler's, bridge, and highway taxes; past charges; total tax assessed each taxpayer; and total. Arr. by names of original proprietors and present settlers. No index. Hdw. 4 pp. 16½ x 6½ x 1/16. Res. Mrs. Gordon Woodbury.

2. A LIST OF THE GRANTEES OF THE LOTS IN N[aragansett]
No. 5, undated. 3 papers.

A list of grantees' lots in Narragansett No. 5, showing lot numbers, names of grantees, location of lots, and in some cases vendue of lots with amount paid. Arr. numer. by lot no. No index. Hdw. 8½ x 7½. Res. Mrs. Gordon Woodbury.

Warrants and Minutes

3. [WARRANTS FOR TOWN MEETINGS], 1801. 2 papers.
Warrants showing information as in entry 5-a. Hdw. 12½ x 8. Res. Mrs. Gordon Woodbury.

4. [MINUTES OF TOWN MEETINGS], 1765-66, 1771-73. 9 papers.
Minutes of town meetings showing information as in entry 5-c. Arr. chron. by date of meeting. No index. Hdw. 12½ x 8. Res. Mrs. Gordon Woodbury.

5. RECORDS—TOWN OF BEDFORD, 1736-1853, 1855, 1884--.
6 vols. (1736-1855, 5 vols., 1-5; 1 vol., 1884--, 8).
1856-83 destroyed by fire May 13, 1909. Title
varies slightly.

Contains:

- a. Warrants for town meetings, 1769-1852, 1884--, showing names of State, county, and town; date, place, and time of meeting; articles to be voted upon; date of warrant; and names of signers—selectmen. For originals, 1801, see entry 3; for originals, 1843-49, see entry 24-bp.

1. New Hampshire State Papers, 11:176, 177.

2. History of Bedford, p. 794; State's Copy, 1770-1831, passim, see entry 6; T. M. B., 1832-1852, passim, 1885--, see entry 5.

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- b. Certifications of posting warrants, 1769-1852, 1884--, showing date and places posted, names of signers--selectmen or constable-- and attest and signature of town clerk.
- c. Minutes of meetings, 1770-1852, 1884--, showing date, time, and place of meeting; votes taken; names of officers elected and appointed; money appropriated; and signature of town clerk. For originals, 1765-66, 1771-73, see entry 4.

Also contains:

- d. Agreements of town with town officers, 1834, 1836, 1885-89, showing date; names of town, county, State, officer, and selectmen; duties of officer; consideration involved; names of signers--selectmen and officer--; and attest and signature of town clerk.
- e. Appointments and oaths of office, scattered dates 1803-52, 1884-- , entry 18.
- f. Articles of agreement, 1846, showing date, names of town and parties concerned, conditions and limitations, names of signers--parties concerned-- , date received and recorded, and attest and signature of town clerk.
- g. Articles of incorporations, 1821, showing date; names of association, State, county, and town; purpose; conditions and limitations; names of incorporators; dates received and recorded by Secretary of State and town clerk; name of signer--Secretary of State; and signature of town clerk.
- h. Bedford Center Old Cemetery Association, establishment of, Aug. 9, 1901.
- i. Bills of sale, 1844-45, 1849-51, 1855, showing date, names of buyer and seller, articles sold, consideration, name of signer--seller --, date recorded, and attest and signature of town clerk. For original bill of sale, 1875, see entry 24-f.
- j. Bonds of town officers, 1850, 1885-89, 1940, showing information as in entry 19.
- k. Bridge tax, assessment of, 1770, 1779-82, 1795, 1797, showing date; names of Province or State, town, and taxpayer; amount assessed each taxpayer; certification of assessment by selectmen; and attest and signature of town clerk.
- m. Church membership certificate, 1793, showing date, name of member, name and location of church, certification of contributions to support of gospel, name of town in which certified, and names of signers--church wardens.
- n. Claim for damages done to domestic animals by dogs, 1890, showing date; names of State, county, town, and claimant; reasons; value and number of animals injured by dogs; amount claimed; name of signer--claimant--; date received and recorded; and signature of town clerk.
- o. College graduates, list of, scattered dates 1791-1843, showing names of graduates and colleges, and occasionally date of death.
- p. Colony tax, assessment of, 1776, showing date, reason, names of town and taxpayers, amount assessed each, certification by selectmen, and attest and signature of town clerk.
- q. Continental army, assessment of tax for beef for, 1780, showing date, reasons, names of town and taxpayers, amount assessed each, certification by selectmen, and attest and signature of town clerk.

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- r. Continental tax, assessment of, 1779-81, 1786, showing date, reasons, names of town and taxpayer, amount assessed each, certification by selectmen, and attest and signature of town clerk.
- s. County tax, assessment of, scattered dates 1771-1820, showing date, reasons, names of town and taxpayer, amount assessed each, certification by selectmen, and attest and signature of town clerk.
- t. County tax receipts, 1793, 1799, 1831-34, showing date, names of collector and county treasurer, name of signer—county treasurer—, amount, and attest and signature of town clerk.
- u. Elections, biennial, 1884--, showing date; votes taken for State, county, and town officers; total votes; and signature of town clerk.
- v. Elections of church elders, 1786, showing date of meeting, names of moderator and elders elected, and attest and signature of town clerk.
- w. Electors, presidential, 1792-1852, 1884--, showing names of State, county, and town; date, time, and place of meeting; names of candidates; number of votes cast for each; total votes; and signature of town clerk. For original election of presidential electors, 1872, see entry 24-r.
- x. Family records, scattered dates 1736-1851, showing family name; names of persons concerned; and date, place, and time of event.
- y. Fence divisions and agreements, scattered dates 1799-1853, 1899, 1926. Division of fences between land owners showing date; names of town and land owners; location of land; bounds of disputed lines; and results: amount of fence to be built by each land owner, amount of fees, names of signers—fence viewers or selectmen—, and jurat. Agreements between adjacent land owners for maintenance of fences showing date, location and bounds, names of land owners, amount of fence to be cared for by each, and names of signers—parties concerned. For original fence divisions, 1842-75, see entry 24-s.
- z. Fireworks, regulations for sale of, 1931.
- aa. Found notices, 1795, 1814, showing date, description and value of article found, place found, and name of signer—finder.
- ab. Granite Bridge Corporation, list of stockholders in, 1846.
- ac. Graveyard tax, assessment of, 1772, 1774, 1780, showing date, reasons, names of town and taxpayers, amount assessed each, certification by selectmen, and attest and signature of town clerk.
- ad. Highway agreement, 1825, showing date, names of town and land owners concerned, location of road, names of signers—land owners—, and attest and signature of town clerk.
- ae. Highway alterations, scattered dates 1770-1851, showing date, location of highway, alterations to be made, votes taken, and metes and bounds.
- af. Highway damage awards, scattered dates 1773-1852, 1896, showing names of town and land owners, amount of compensation, names of selectmen, and attest and signature of town clerk.
- ag. Highway damage claims, scattered dates 1801, 1892-1915, showing date, name of claimant, amount of claim, and amount paid. For originals, 1849, 1882, 1895-96, see entry 24-w.

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- ah. Highway discontinuance, petition to Supreme Judicial Court for, 1899, showing date; names of town, county, petitioners, and county commissioners; name and place of court; description of highway; reasons; and disposition. For original, 1871, see entry 24-y.
- ai. Highway districts, layouts of, scattered dates 1771-1852, 1899, showing date, name of town, number of districts, and metes and bounds.
- aj. Highway districts, report of committee to lay out, 1824, showing date; names of surveyors for each district, committeemen, and district taxpayers; amounts of money assessed and to be expended; location of districts; number of each district; names of signers—committeemen—; and date recorded by and signature of town clerk.
- ak. Highway, exchange of land for, scattered dates 1771-1825, showing date, location of existing road, proposed location of new road, location of lands to be exchanged, and names of owners.
- am. Highway layouts, scattered dates 1770-1852, 1896-97, showing date, description of highway, metes and bounds, acceptance by town, names of signers—selectmen—, date received and recorded, and attest and signature of town clerk. For originals, 1844-82, see entry 24-z.
- an. Highway petitions, scattered dates 1846-52, 1890-1906, showing date, names of town and petitioners, location of highway, reasons, names of signers—petitioners—, and action taken by selectmen. For originals, 1847-96, see entry 24-aa; 1929, see entry 43-o.
- ao. Highway surveyors' commitments, 1787, showing names of surveyors, amount committed each, total amount assessed, date, and attest and signature of town clerk.
- ap. Highway tax, assessment of, 1821-23, showing date, names of taxpayers, property taxed, amount, names of signers—selectmen—, and attest and signature of town clerk.
- aq. Indenture for land damages, 1798, showing names of town, land owners, committeemen, and selectmen; date; conditions; amount involved; names of signers—committeemen—; and attest and signature of town clerk.
- ar. Inventory of town, 1783, showing number of polls and negro slaves; number of acres of orchard, tillage, mowing, and pasture lands; number of horses, oxen, cows, and cattle; number and value of mills, dwelling houses, and unimproved lands; stock in trade; money on hand and at interest; names of signers—selectmen—; jurat; and signature of town clerk.
- as. Invoice records, 1792-1834, entry 17.
- at. Jury warrants and minutes, 1771-1853, 1884--. Warrants show names of town, county, and State; date, time, and place of meeting and court; number of jurors to be drawn; certification of posting warrant; and attest of town clerk. Minutes show names of town, county, and State; date, time, and place of meeting; name, term, and place of court; number of jurors drawn; and attest and signature of town clerk. For original jury warrants, 1852-99, see entry 24-ao; for list of jurors, 1901--, see entry 41.
- au. Liquor and tavern licenses, scattered dates 1793-1846, showing date, name and address of licensee, tenure of license, conditions and limitations, place of business, and names of signers—selectmen.

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- av. Marriage publishment (intention), 1832, showing date, names and residences of intending bride and groom, and attest and signature of town clerk. For subsequent related records, 1928--, see entry 9.
- aw. Marriage returns, scattered dates 1769-1853, showing date and place of marriage, names of bride and groom, name of clergyman or justice making return, and attest and signature of town clerk.
- ax. Meeting-house accounts, 1799, showing date, names of selectmen and town, kind of service rendered (finishing meeting-house), amount, and name of signer--committeeman. This appears to be the record of the final payments on the completion of the 1755 meeting-house.
- ay. Meeting-house lots, vendue of, 1812, showing date, amount of bid per acre, total amount, name of signer--purchaser--, and attest and signature of town clerk.
- az. Militia enrollment, 1885, showing information as in entry 42.
- ba. Militia training band, election of officers of, 1793, showing date, time, and place of meeting; name of town; officers elected; and names of signers--selectmen.
- bb. Ministerial land leases, vendue of, 1802, showing date, name of town, location and description of land, names of vendue master and successful bidders, amounts of bids, total amount received, specie of payment, tenure of lease, terms and conditions of payment, gross and net receipts, cost of sale, names of signers--committeemen to vendue leases--, and attest and signature of town clerk.
- bc. Ministerial tax, assessment of, 1770-74, 1792-1820, showing date; names of town, Province or State, and taxpayers; amount assessed each; certification by selectmen; and attest and signature of town clerk.
- bd. Ministerial tax exemptions, 1801-2, showing names of town and person exempted, date, and names of signers--selectmen.
- be. Minister's receipts, 1816, showing date, names of town and minister, amount, purpose, order on treasurer, and name of recipient--minister.
- bf. Minister's settlement, 1804, showing date, name and address of minister, acceptance of call, terms and conditions, and name of signer--minister.
- bg. Obligations, assignment of, 1850, showing date; names of town, county, State, debtor, assignee, and assignor; amount involved; conditions and limitations; names of signers--assignor and witnesses--; date received and recorded; and attest and signature of town clerk.
- bh. Partnership agreement, 1898, showing date; names of town, county, State, and partners; names of signers--partners--; date received and recorded; and attest and signature of town clerk.
- bi. Perambulations of town lines, scattered dates 1793-1848, 1889--, showing date, names of towns concerned, established boundaries, names of signers--selectmen of towns concerned--, and attest and signature of town clerk. For originals, 1841-98, see entry 24-ar.
- bj. Personal contract for support, 1855, showing date; names of town, county, State, and contracting parties; consideration involved;

conditions and limitations (support of individuals during natural lives and payment of ministerial tax); names of signers—contracting parties and witnesses—; and attest and signature of town clerk.

- bk. Pews, bids for repair of, 1794, showing date, names of vendue master and successful bidder, amount of bid, and terms.
- bm. Pews and pew grounds, vendue of, 1785, 1802-4, 1813, showing date, names of town and successful bidders, amount of bid, name of signer—vendue master—, and attest and signature of town clerk.
- bn. Piscataqua Bridge, report of committee to build, 1796, showing date, names of town and river, examination of bridge construction, acceptance of bridge, names of signers—committeemen—, and attest and signature of town clerk.
- bo. Pole petitions, scattered dates 1891--. Last entry 1939. Date; names of town, county, State, and petitioner; proposed location of poles; and name of signer—official of utility company. For original, 1910, see entry 43-y.
- bp. Pole permits, scattered dates 1891--. Last entry 1939. Date, name of utility company, number and location of poles, terms and conditions, names of signers—selectmen—, date received and recorded, and attest and signature of town clerk.
- bq. Police regulations, 1849.
- br. Poor, agreement for care of, 1791, showing date, names of person caring for child and selectmen, compensation, and attest and signature of town clerk.
- bs. Poor, bequest for support of, 1783, showing name of person making bequest, date of will, purpose, amount and manner of expenditures, and attest and signature of town clerk.
- bt. Poor farm tax, assessment of, 1790, showing date; names of town, taxpayers, and seller; purpose (purchase of town farm); amount assessed; and total.
- bu. Poor, vendue of, scattered dates 1803-21, showing date, names of person vendued and lowest bidder, amount and terms of bid, and attest and signature of town clerk.
- bv. Poor, vendue of doctoring of, 1828-32, showing date, name of physician bidding, amount of bid, and terms.
- bw. Price regulations, 1777-78, showing date and names of committeemen with duties prescribed for regulation of prices.
- bx. Princeton's Great Gun, explosion of, Feb. 28, 1844, showing date, and names of persons killed (Abel P. Upshur, Secretary of State; Thomas W. Gilmer, Secretary of Navy; Colonel David Gardiner; Virgil Maxcy; and Commodore Kennon). The U.S.S. Princeton was on a trial trip with President John Tyler, his cabinet, and others aboard.
- by. Province tax, assessment of, 1771-74, 1776, showing date; reason; names of Province, town, and taxpayers; amount assessed each; certification by selectmen; and attest and signature of town clerk.
- bz. Resignations of town officers, 1850, 1890, 1896, 1911, showing date; names of town, office, and officer; reasons; name of signer—officer resigning—; date received and recorded; and attest and signature of town clerk. For original papers, 1850, 1853, 1896, see entry 24-at.

- oa. School districts, division of, scattered dates 1773-1848, showing date, and number and location of districts.
- ob. Schoolhouse location, report on, 1811, showing date, name of town, school district number, location of schoolhouse, names of signers—selectmen—, and attest and signature of town clerk.
- oc. Schoolhouse lot, report on, 1829, showing date, names of town and petitioners for schoolhouse lot, date of petition, metes and bounds, dimensions of lot, amount of land damages awarded to landowners, names of signers—selectmen—, and attest and signature of town clerk.
- od. Schoolhouse tax, assessment of, scattered dates 1802-34, showing date, name of town, school district number, amount, purpose (build or repair), names of taxpayers, names of signers—selectmen—, and attest and signature of town clerk.
- oe. School land leases, vendue of, 1802, showing date, name of town, location and description of land, names of vendue master and successful bidders, amount of bids, total amount received, specie of payment, tenure of lease, terms and conditions for payment, gross and net receipts, cost of sale, names of signers—committeemen—, and attest and signature of town clerk.
- of. School petitions, scattered dates 1899-1913, showing date, name of town, reasons, names of signers—petitioners—, and action taken. For original school petitions, 1845, 1848, 1898-99, see entry 24-aw.
- og. School regulations, 1890. For original, 1890, see entry 24-ax.
- oh. School tax, assessment of, scattered dates 1773-1820, showing date, reason, names of town and Province or State, names of taxpayers, amount assessed each, total, and certification by selectmen.
- oi. Settlement of non-resident, petition to establish, 1780, showing date; names of town, county, State, justice of peace, selectmen, and persons involved; reason; action taken by justice of peace; and attest and signature of town clerk.
- oj. Sheep and cattle marks, 1795, 1798, 1802, 1818, showing date, name of owner, location of mark, kind of mark used, date recorded, and attest and signature of town clerk.
- ok. Soldiers' bounties, scattered dates 1776-97, showing date, name of fort at which stationed, and amount of bounty paid. For originals, 1862-63, see entry 24-ba.
- om. Soldiers' tax, assessment of, 1780-82, showing date, reason, names of town and taxpayers, amount assessed each, total, certification by selectmen, and attest and signature of town clerk.
- on. Soldiers' families, assessment of tax for, 1780, showing date, reason, names of town and taxpayers, amount assessed each, total, certification by selectmen, and attest and signature of town clerk.
- oo. Spendthrift, petition for guardian for, 1836, showing date; reason; names of town, county, State, court, judge of probate, petitioner, and spendthrift; names of signers—selectmen—; and attest and signature of town clerk. For copy 1852, 1865, see entry 24-be.
- op. State tax, assessment of, scattered dates 1777-1820, showing date, reasons, names of town and taxpayers, amount assessed each,

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- total, certification by selectmen, and attest and signature of town clerk.
- cq. State tax receipts, 1799, 1831-34, showing date; names of town, State, and collector; name of signer—State Treasurer—, and attest and signature of town clerk.
 - cr. Stray animal regulations, 1791.
 - cs. Stray animal notices, scattered dates 1794-1836, 1851, 1895, showing date, place animal found, name of finder, description of animal, conditions for recovery, and attest and signature of town clerk. For original notice, 1884, see entry 24-bf.
 - ct. Surplus revenue, 1837, 1839, 1841. Action taken at town meetings for receipt and expenditure of surplus revenue.
 - cu. Tax abatements, applications for, 1824-26, 1833, showing date; names of town, tax collector, and applicant; name of signer—applicant—; and attest and signature of town clerk.
 - cv. Tax abatements, scattered dates 1770-1836, 1848, showing date, name of taxpayer, and kind of tax abated.
 - cw. Tax exemptions for industries, 1894, showing date, name of owner, kind and location of industry, and length of exemption.
 - cx. Tax redemptions, 1834, 1891, 1899, entry 50.
 - cy. Tax sale notices, scattered dates 1829, 1832, 1885-1907, showing information as in entry 47.
 - cz. Tax sales, scattered dates 1829, 1833, 1885-1926, entry 48.
 - da. Tax warrants, collectors' and constables', 1770-1834, showing date; names of State, town, constable or collector, and taxpayers; purpose of tax; amount assessed each; total taxes to be collected; penalties for non-payments; names of signers—selectmen—; and attest and signature of town clerk.
 - db. Text-books, adoption of, 1887.
 - dc. Town meeting, petition for, 1797, 1804, 1813, showing date, name of town, reason, names of signers—petitioners—, and attest and signature of town clerk. For original petition, 1878, see entry 24-bo; 1932, see entry 43-ap.
 - dd. Town tax, assessment of, 1770-74, 1776-1820, showing date; names of town, Province or State, and taxpayers; amount assessed each; certification by selectmen; and attest and signature of town clerk.
 - de. Town tax receipts, 1795, 1831-34, showing date; names of town, tax collector, and taxpayer; amount; names of signers—selectmen—; and attest and signature of town clerk.
 - df. War charges, assessment of taxes for, 1783, showing date, names of taxpayers, location of property, amount taxed, and names of signers—selectmen.
 - dg. Warrant, petition to insert article in, 1804, showing date, name of town, reason, and names of signers—petitioners.
 - dh. Water right, agreement for use of, 1895.
 - di. Weights and measures, vendue of town, 1806.
 - dj. World War resolution assuring President support in war with Germany, 1918.
- Arr. chron. by date of entry. Table of contents. Hdw. 1 vol., 484 pp. 12½ x 8 x 2; 1 vol., 450 pp. 11¾ x 8 x 2; 1 vol., 450 pp. 12¾ x 8 x 2; 1 vol., 450 pp. 16½ x 10½ x 2; 1 vol., 462 pp. 16¾ x 11 x 2½; 1 vol., 800 pp.

16 x 11½ x 3½. 5 vols., 1736-1853, 1855, N. H. H. S.; 1 vol., 1884--, sel. off.

For copy of town records, 1769-1834, and family records, 1736-1847, see entry 6.

6. [State's Copy of] BEDFORD TOWN RECORDS, 1736-1847.

4 vols. (numbered 1-4, but not in chron. order).

Contains copy of town records, 1769-1834, and family records, 1736-1847, showing information as in entry 5. Arr. chron. by date of entry. Table of contents. Hdw. Aver. 640 pp. 14½ x 9 x 2½. Secretary of State's v., Concord.

Vital Statistics

7. RECORD OF MARRIAGES BIRTHS AND DEATHS, 1846, 1850-78, 1894--. 4 vols. Prior records missing; 1879-93 destroyed by fire May 13, 1909. Title varies slightly.

Contains records of:

a. Births, 1850-77, 1894--. 1850-77 shows name of town; name, date of birth, sex, and color of child; names and residence of parents; and attest and signature of town clerk. 1894-- adds living or stillborn and number of child; color, birthplaces, ages, and occupations of parents; and name of person reporting birth. For selectmen's record of births, 1872, see entry 24-h.

b. Marriages, 1846, 1850-78, 1894-1939, entry 10.

c. Deaths, 1850-77, 1894-1931, entry 11.

Arr. chron. by date of entry. 1 vol., 1846, 1850-78, no index; 3 vols., 1894--, indexed alph. by names of groom and bride, and persons born or deceased. Hdw. on ptd. forms. 1 vol., 1846, 1850-78, 200 pp. (50 used) 15½ x 10 x ¾; 3 vols., 1894--, aver. 250 pp. 17 x 11 x 1 3/8. 1 vol., 1846, 1850-78, sel. off.; 3 vols., 1894--, res. town clerk.

8. VITAL STATISTICS BEDFORD, N. H., 1938--. 1 loose-leaf vol. System began 1938.

Contains original certificates of:

a. Births, showing date, place, and time of birth; names of county and town; whether plural births; premature or full term; sex and color of child; names, residence, color or race, ages, birthplaces, and occupations of parents; and number of children of this mother born alive and now living, born alive and now dead, and stillborn. Certificate of attending physician or midwife shows date, statement of attendance at time of birth, and signature and address of person reporting birth. Also date birth filed, name of town clerk, date given name added, and signature of town clerk. For physicians' certificates of birth returns, 1872, 1895-1900, see entry 24-g.

b. Marriage intentions and marriages. Marriage intentions showing date; names, ages, color, and marital status of contracting parties; names, ages, residence, living or dead, occupations, and birthplaces of parents; date of receipt of physician's statement and record of blood test; and attest and signature of town clerk. Marriages showing date and place of marriage; official designation, residence, and signature of person performing ceremony; date filed; signature of town clerk; and register number. For record of intentions of marriage, 1928--, see entry 9;

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for record of marriages, 1846, 1850-78, 1894--, see entry 10;
for related papers, 1876-99, see entry 24-ae.

- c. Deaths, showing name, residence, place of death, name of war if veteran, social security number, sex, color or race, marital status, date of birth, age, birthplace, and occupation of deceased; names (maiden name of mother) and birthplaces of parents; signature and address of informant; date and place of burial, cremation, or removal; signature and address of funeral director and countersignature of town clerk; and date received by and signature of town clerk. Medical certificate shows date of death, certification by physician as to last time he saw deceased alive and time death occurred, immediate causes, other conditions, major findings, external cause, signature and address of physician, and date signed. Medical referee's description when name and address of deceased cannot be ascertained, showing sex, color or race, apparent age, height, weight, complexion, hair, eyes, nose, face, teeth, clothing, etc. For record of deaths, 1850-77, 1894--, see entry 11; for physicians' returns of death certificates, 1872, 1893, 1895-1900, see entry 24-m.

Arr. chron. by date of entry. Indexed alph. by names of parties concerned.
Typed on ptd. forms. 500 pp. 11½ x 9¼ x 2½. Res. town clerk.

9. INTENTION OF MARRIAGE, 1928--. 1 vol. Prior records missing.

Record of intentions of marriage, showing names, residences, ages, color, occupations, birthplaces, number of marriage, and marital status of intending parties; names, residences, ages, living or dead, color, occupations, and birthplaces of parents; date and place intention filed; and signature of town clerk.

Also contains:

Record of standard laboratory blood test, Sept. 1, 1938--. Statement by physician concerning person examined showing names of town, State, and applicant; date of application; certification of health status; address of physician; and signatures of applicant and physician. Record from New Hampshire State Laboratory of Hygiene, showing date, names of director and serologist, citation of law, kind of test (Hinton and Kline), names and addresses of physician and applicant, certification of license and registration of physician, signature of serologist, name of town, and date filed by and signature of town clerk.

Arr. chron. by date of entry. Indexed alph. by names of intending parties.
Hdw. on ptd. forms. 200 pp. 11 x 8½ x 1½. Res. town clerk.

For original certificates of intentions of marriage, 1938--, see entry 8-b; for prior related record, 1832, see entry 5-av.

10. RECORD OF MARRIAGES, 1940--. 1 vol. 1846, 1850-78, 1894-1939 in Record of Marriages Births and Deaths, entry 7-b.

1846, 1850-78 shows name of town; date; names, ages, birthplaces, and addresses of bride and groom; name of person performing ceremony; and attest and signature of town clerk. 1894--, adds color, occupations, number of

Town Clerk - Licenses, Permits,
Receipts and Payments

marriage, and marital status of bride and groom; date intentions filed; names, ages, color, birthplaces, occupations and residence of parents; and residence of person performing ceremony. Arr. chron. by date of entry. Indexed alph. by names of groom and bride. Hdw. on ptd. forms. 100 pp. 17 x 11 x $\frac{1}{2}$. Res. town clerk.

For original certificates of marriages, 1938--, see entry 8-b; for marriage returns, 1876-81, see entry 24-af.

11. [RECORD OF DEATHS], 1932--. 1 vol. 1850-77, 1894-1931

in Record of Marriages Births and Deaths, entry 7-c.

1850-77 shows name, age, occupation, residence, date and cause of death, and place of birth of deceased; and attest and signature of town clerk. 1894-1931 adds sex, color, marital status, and place of burial of deceased; names, birthplaces, and occupations of parents; and name and address of physician or person reporting death. 1932-- adds name of town; place of death, length of residence, previous residence, date of birth, and occupation and duration of illness of deceased; name of cemetery; and name and address of undertaker. Arr. chron. by date of entry. Indexed alph. by name of deceased. Hdw. on ptd. forms. 100 pp. 17 x 11 x $\frac{1}{2}$. Res. town clerk.

For original certificates of death, 1938--, see entry 8-c; for selectmen's record of deaths, 1871, see entry 24-n.

12. REGISTRARS MEMORANDA [of Burial Permits], 1937--.

2 vols. Prior records missing.

Names of deceased, undertaker, and cemetery; date and place of interment; date of death; age of deceased; and date and number of permit. Arr. chron. by date of permit. No index. Hdw. on ptd. forms. 25 pp. 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 5 $\frac{1}{4}$ x $\frac{1}{4}$. Res. town clerk.

For burial permit, 1896, see entry 24-j.

Licenses, Permits, Receipts and Payments

13. [RECORD OF DOG LICENSES], 1891-98. 2 vols. (1 vol., 1891-95, numbered I; 1 vol., 1895-98, unnumbered). Subsequent records not kept.

Date, number of license, name and address of owner, name of town, name and description of dog, amount of fee, date of expiration, and signature of town clerk. Arr. chron. by date of entry. 1 vol., 1891-95, no index; 1 vol., 1895-98, indexed alph. by name of owner. 1 vol., 1891-95, 140 pp. 13 x 8 x $\frac{1}{2}$; 1 vol., 1895-98, 192 pp. 14 x 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ x $\frac{3}{4}$. Sel. off.

14. [Stubs of] DOG LICENSES, 1936--. 3 vols. Prior records missing.

Date of issue; name and address of owner; license number; name, sex, age, breed, and color of dog; and amount of fee. Arr. chron. by date of issue and thereunder numer. by license no. No index. Hdw. on ptd. forms. 100 pp. 4 x 6 x $\frac{3}{4}$. Res. town clerk.

15. [Stubs of] PERMIT FOR REGISTRATION OF MOTOR VEHICLES, 1937--. 72 stub books in 1 box and 1 drawer. Prior records missing.

Date; name and address of owner; permit and serial numbers; make, kind, list price, color, and year of car; amount received; and signature of town clerk.

Town Clerk - Invoices; Town
Officers

(16-18)

Arr. chron. by date of permit and thereunder numer. by permit no. No index. Hdw. on ptd. forms. Stub books, 5 x 3½ x 3/8; box, 11 x 10½ x 9; drawer, 4 x 16½ x 12. Res. town clerk.

16. [RECORD OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS], 1926--. 2 vols. Receipts show date, from whom, source (automobile and dog license fees), amount, and total; payments show date, to whom, purpose, and amount; and totals and balances for each fiscal year. Arr. chron. by date of entry. No index. Hdw. on ptd. heads, 300 pp. 16 x 11½ x 1½. Res. town clerk.

Invoices

17. [INVOICE RECORDS], 1835-1902, 6 vols. Subsequent records not kept by town clerk. 1792-1834 in Records--Town of Bedford, entry 5-as. Town clerk's record of resident and non-resident taxes. Resident, 1792, shows date; names of town and taxpayers; number of polls; number of acres of arable, pasture, orchard, and wild land; number of tons of hay, horses, oxen, cows, and mills; State notes; total amount assessed each taxpayer; and State, county, town, school, and highway taxes assessed. 1793 adds stock in trade and total assessment. 1795 adds money at interest. 1798 adds value of buildings and lands. 1799 omits State notes. 1804 adds value of carriages. 1808 adds bank shares. 1809 adds income of mills. 1812 adds carding machines and their income. 1816 omits carding machines and their income. 1823 adds school district numbers. 1831 adds number of sheep. 1833 adds number and value of neat stock, coaches, and chaises. 1849 adds number of shares in other corporations, and reduced value. 1866 adds dog tax. 1868 adds number and value of hogs, names of signers--selectmen--, and attest and signature of town clerk. Non-resident, 1812, shows date; names of State, town, and non-resident taxpayers; lot, range, and division numbers; number of acres of orchard, arable, pasture, and wild land; number of tons of hay; value of lands and buildings; total; and amount of county, town, school, and highway taxes. 1813 adds State tax. 1822 adds number of oxen, cows, and other neat stock. 1827 adds schoolhouse tax. 1828 omits schoolhouse tax. 1833 omits number of acres of arable, pasture, and wild lands; number of tons of hay; and value of buildings; and adds value of real estate and improved and unimproved lands. 1835 adds names of signers--selectmen--, and attest and signature of town clerk. 1866 adds stock in trade. Arr. chron. by date of invoice and thereunder alph. by name of taxpayers within numer. arr. districts. No index. Hdw. on ptd. heads. 1 vol., 1835-48, 300 pp. 13½ x 16½ x 2½; 1 vol., 1849-65, 300 pp. 17½ x 11 x 2; 1 vol., 1866-73, 400 pp. 14 x 8½ x 1½; 3 vols., 1874-1902, aver. 600 pp. 16 x 10½ x 3. Sel. off.

For selectmen's records of invoices, 1866-79, 1913--, see entry 32.

Town Officers

18. [RECORD OF APPOINTMENTS AND OATHS OF TOWN OFFICERS], Dec. 10, 1886--. 2 vols. 1803-52, 1884-- in Records--Town of Bedford, entry 5-e. Appointments show date; names of town, officer, and office; term of office; and names of signers--selectmen. Oaths show date, name of officer, jurat,

Town Clerk - Attachments,
Mortgages, Conditional Sales

(19-23)

and attest and signature of town clerk. Arr. chron. by date of entry. No index. Hdw. on ptd. forms. 1 vol., Dec. 10, 1886-Oct. 8, 1894, 200 pp. $10\frac{3}{4} \times 8 \times 1\frac{1}{2}$; 1 vol., Apr. 1894-- , 300 pp. $14 \times 9 \times 1\frac{1}{2}$. 1 vol., Dec. 10, 1886-Oct. 8, 1894, sel. off.; 1 vol., Apr. 1894-- , res. town clerk.
For original papers, 1844-98, see entry 24-c.

19. [BONDS OF TOWN OFFICERS], 1847-1917, 1922-25, 1934-- ,
1847-1917 in [Miscellaneous Papers], entry 24-i; 1922-
25, 1934-- in [Miscellaneous Documents], entry 43-d.
Date; names of State, county, town, sureties, office, and parties concerned;
amount; term; names of signers--witnesses and selectmen; date received and
recorded; and attest and signature of town clerk.
For records, 1850, 1885-89, 1940, see entry 5-j.

Attachments, Mortgages, Conditional Sales

20. WRITS OF ATTACHMENT, 1922-- . 60 writs. 1844-1909
in [Miscellaneous Papers], entry 24-bq.
Date; names of plaintiff, defendant, and county; date and court returnable;
amount of and reason for attachment; jurat; order for defendant to appear
in court; and sheriff's return showing date, particulars, expenses, and
signature of sheriff or deputy. Arr. chron. by date of writ. No index.
Hdw. and typed on ptd. forms. $8\frac{1}{2} \times 3\frac{1}{2}$ (folded). Res. town clerk.

21. [PERSONAL MORTGAGES], 1844-- . 6 vols. Prior records
destroyed by fire.
Date; names of town, county, and State; names and addresses of mortgagor and
mortgagee; consideration involved; description of articles; conditions;
signatures of mortgagor and mortgagee; jurat; and attest of town clerk.
Also contains: Conditional sales, 1887-90, 1934-38, entry 23. Arr. chron.
by date of mortgage. 4 vols., 1844-55, 1887-- , indexed alph. by name of
mortgagee; 2 vols., 1855-90, no contained index; for separate index, 1866-90,
see entry 22. Hdw., and hdw. on ptd. forms. 3 vols., 1844-66, 1931-- ,
400 pp. $14 \times 8\frac{1}{2} \times 2$; 1 vol., 1866-90, 356 pp. $13\frac{1}{4} \times 8\frac{1}{2} \times 1\frac{1}{2}$; 1 vol., 1887-
1931, 500 pp. $16 \times 10\frac{1}{4} \times 2$; 1 vol., 1917-39, 200 pp. $14 \times 10 \times 2$. 3 vols.,
1844-90, sel. off.; 3 vols., 1887-- , res. town clerk.
For original papers, 1869-89, see entry 24-as.

22. [INDEX TO PERSONAL MORTGAGES], 1866-90. 1 vol.
Index to personal mortgages, entry 21, showing names of mortgagee and mortga-
gor, names of buyer and seller, and page number. Arr. alph. Hdw. 24 pp.
 $11\frac{1}{2} \times 3\frac{3}{4} \times 1/8$. Sel. off.

23. CONDITIONAL SALES, 1923-34, 1938-- . 3 vols. 1887-90,
1934-38 in [Personal Mortgages], entry 21.
Date, names and addresses of buyer and seller, quantity and description of
article sold, amount of sale and down payment, balance with terms of pay-
ment, signatures of seller and buyer, and jurat. Arr. chron. by date of
sale. Indexed alph. by name of buyer. Hdw. on ptd. forms. Aver. 200 pp.
 $15\frac{1}{2} \times 9\frac{1}{2} \times 3$. Res. town clerk.

Miscellaneous

24. [MISCELLANEOUS PAPERS], scattered dates 1832-1917.
Approx. 1,650 papers in 11 bdls. in 1 box.

Contains:

- a. Affidavit regarding injury to domestic animals by stray dogs, 1890, showing date; names of State, county, town, and claimant; nature and extent of damages; losses sustained; jurat; and signature of claimant.
- b. Annexation of portion of Bedford and Goffstown to Manchester, petition for, 1852, showing date, names of petitioners, reasons, and attest and signature of town clerk.
- c. Appointments and oaths of office, 1844-98, showing information as in entry 18.
- d. Assignment of wages, 1874-75, showing date; names of State, county, town, assignee, and assignor; amount; and signatures of assignor and witnesses.
- e. Ballot receipts, 1873, 1876, showing date, names of State and town, statement that returns have been made, and signature of Secretary of State.
- f. Bill of sale, 1875, showing information as in entry 5-i.
- g. Birth certificates, physicians' returns of, 1872, 1895-1900. 1872 shows name, sex, color, living or stillborn, and date and place of birth of child; names, residence, color, occupations, and birthplaces of parents; date and place of return; and signature of physician. 1895-1900 adds number of child, ages of parents, and maiden name of mother. For original birth certificates, 1938--, see entry 8-a.
- h. Birth record kept by selectmen, 1872, showing name, sex, color, living or stillborn, and date and place of birth of child; names, residence, color, occupations, and birthplaces of parents; and signatures of selectmen. For town clerk's record of births, 1850-77, 1894--, see entry 7-a.
- i. Bonds of town officers, 1847-1917, entry 19.
- j. Burial permit, 1896, showing date; names of town and permittee; name, age, date of death, and cause of death of deceased; place of interment; and signature of official issuing permit. For stubs of burial permits, 1937--, see entry 12.
- k. Check-lists, 1870-72, entry 26.
- m. Death certificates, physicians' returns of, 1872, 1893, 1895-1900. 1872, 1893 shows name, age, sex, color, occupation, marital status, and birthplace of deceased; place and cause of death; names and birthplaces of parents; place and date of return; and signature of physician. 1895-1900 adds maiden name of mother, occupation of father, date and place of burial, and name of undertaker. For death certificates, 1938--, see entry 8-c.
- n. Death record kept by selectmen, 1871, showing name, sex, color, marital status, age, occupation, places of birth and death, and cause of death of deceased; names and birthplaces of parents; and signature of selectmen. For town clerk's record of deaths, 1850-77, 1894--, see entry 11.
- o. Deeds, warranty and quit claim, 1863-1906, showing date; names of State, county, town, and principals; description of property

- conveyed; consideration involved; conditions and particulars; signatures of principals and witnesses; jurat; and probate action. For deeds to real property, 1885, 1898, 1904, 1920-39, see entry 43-g.
- p. Dog killer, warrant to, 1893, showing date; names of State, county, town, and constable (dog killer); citation of law; and signatures of selectmen.
- q. Dog owners, list of, 1891, showing date, names of town and owners, district number, number of dogs owned, and signatures of selectmen.
- r. Electors, presidential, 1872, showing information as in entry 5-w.
- s. Fence divisions, 1842-75, showing information as in entry 5-y.
- t. Financial condition of town, reports of, 1854, 1896, entry 36.
- u. Health regulations, 1853, 1876.
- v. Highway damage award, demand for, 1852, showing date; names of State, county, and town; amount demanded as awarded by road commissioners and confirmed by court of common pleas; and signature of person demanding award.
- w. Highway damage claims, 1849, 1882, 1895-96, showing information as in entry 5-ag.
- x. Highway damages, assessment of, 1847-52, 1874, showing date; names of State, county, town, and petitioners; location of road; amount assessed; and signature of chairman of road commissioners.
- y. Highway discontinuance, petition for, 1871, showing information as in entry 5-ah.
- z. Highway layouts, 1844-82, showing information as in entry 5-am.
- aa. Highway petitions, 1847-96, showing information as in entry 5-an.
- ab. Insurance policy, fire, 1898. For related papers, 1916, 1922, 1931--, see entry 43-p.
- ac. Jury warrants, 1852-99, showing information as in entry 5-at.
- ad. Lien claim, 1894, showing date, names of town and person owing debt, reason, description of property, and signature of claimant.
- ae. Marriage intentions and marriage, certificates of, 1876-99, showing information as in entry 8-b.
- af. Marriage returns, 1876-81, showing names of contracting parties, date and place ceremony performed, and signature of person performing ceremony. For record of marriages, 1846, 1850-78, 1894--, see entry 10.
- ag. Military exemption, 1863, showing date; names of State, county, town, and person exempted; reason, and term of exemption; and signatures of members of board of enrollment.
- ah. Military pension certificate issued by Department of the Interior, 1909.
- ai. Military quota, town's, 1863.
- aj. Military substitute, 1865, 1871, showing date, names of town and substitute, consideration involved, jurat, and signature of person furnishing substitute.
- ak. Military substitute, transfer of bounty to conscript by, 1863-64, showing date; names of town, substitute, and conscript; date of draft; amount of bounty; amount agreed upon; signatures of substitute and witnesses; and certification of muster into service.
- am. Military service record including certification of enlistment and discharge, and oath of identity, 1862-63.

- an. Militia enrollment, 1858-80, showing information as in entry 42.
- ao. Mortgage discharge, 1851, showing date, names of mortgagor and mortgagee, discharge, and signature of mortgagee.
- ap. Oath of appraisal taken by selectmen before appraising property for taxes, 1841.
- aq. Pauper claims by other towns, 1848, 1850, showing date, names of paupers and towns concerned, services rendered, amount, and signatures of officials claiming payment (selectmen).
- ar. Perambulations of town lines, 1841-98, showing information as in entry 5-bi.
- as. Personal mortgages, 1869-89, showing information as in entry 21.
- at. Resignations of town officers, 1850, 1853, 1896, showing information as in entry 5-bz.
- au. Resolutions, 1890, 1898-99.
- av. School committee reports on distribution of school money, 1883-84, showing date, names of committeemen and town, results, and signatures of committeemen.
- aw. School petitions, 1845, 1848, 1898-99, showing information as in entry 5-of.
- ax. School regulations, 1890. For record, 1890, see entry 5-og.
- ay. Settlement, declaration to retain, 1872, showing date; names of State, county, town, and person making declaration; period of absence; declaration of intention to vote at town election; signature of declarant; and attest of town clerk.
- az. Soldiers' absentee ballots, 1864, showing names of State, town, and soldier; branch of service; residence of soldier; and attest and signature of Secretary of State.
- ba. Soldiers' bounties, 1862-63, showing information as in entry 5-ek.
- bb. Soldiers' bounties, money due for, 1864, showing date, name of town, amount of first installment of national bounty, number of volunteers, amount due each, and total bounty due town.
- bo. Soldiers' bounties, town notes for, 1862, 1864, showing date, names of town and payee, amount, term, signatures of selectmen, and record of payment.
- bd. Soldiers' bounty receipts, 1862-65, showing date, name of town, amount, and signature of soldier.
- be. Spendthrift, copy of petition for guardian for, 1852, 1865, showing information as in entry 5-co.
- bf. Stray animal notice, 1884, showing information as in entry 5-es.
- bg. Tax collectors' agreements with selectmen, 1866, 1880-94, showing date, names of town and tax collector, consideration, terms, and signatures of selectmen and tax collector.
- bh. Tax collector, warrants to, 1881, 1883, showing information as in entry 45.
- bi. Tax sale notices, 1853-99, entry 47.
- bj. Tax sales, 1853-99, 1936-37, showing information as in entry 48.
- bk. Tax redemptions, 1832-99, showing information as in entry 50.
- bm. Town grant, report of search for, 1858, showing date, name of agent, findings, and signature of agent.
- bn. Town hall, report of building committee on, approx. 1876, showing contract, amount received for old hall, and signatures of building committeemen.

- bo. Town meeting petition, 1878, showing information as in entry 5-de.
- bp. Warrants for town meetings, 1843-99, showing information as in entry 5-a.
- bq. Writs of attachment, 1844-1909, entry 20.
- br. Writs, trustee, 1844-1909, showing date; name and place of court; names and addresses of defendant, trustee, and plaintiff; and return of writ: date and place of return, time attachment made and summons served, name of trustee, amount of fees, and signature of sheriff or deputy.

No obvious arr. No index. Hdw., typed, and hdw. and typed on ptd. forms. Bcls., 9 x 4 x 4½; box, 7½ x 15 x 21. Sel. off.

25. CLERK'S OFFICE - RECORD OF FIRES, 1900--. 1 vol.

Last entry 1939. Prior records destroyed by fire.

Building: description (wood, brick, stone), how occupied, value, names of owner and occupants, damages, and insurance; contents: damage, insurance, and total or partial loss; date of fire; cause; and remarks. Arr. chron. by date of fire. No index. Hdw. on ptd. heads. 32 pp. 12 x 9½ x ½. Res. town clerk.

26. [CHECK-LISTS], 1918, 1920-26, 1928, 1930--. 55 check-lists in 4 rolls. 1870-72 in [Miscellaneous Papers], entry 24-k.

Alphabetical list of legal voters showing names of voters and party designation. Arr. chron. by date of list and thereunder alph. by name of voter. No index. Hdw. and ptd. Lists, 36 x 24; 2 rolls, 26½ x 1½; 2 rolls, 27 x 3½. 2 rolls, 1918, 1920-26, 1928, 1930--, res. town clerk; 2 rolls, 1920-22, 1934, 1940, sel. off.

27. [HIGHWAY SURVEYORS' WARRANTS], 1794, 1803, 1805, 1849. 5 papers.

Date; names of State, county, town, and surveyor; list of persons and amount to be taxed each or worked out; total amount; penalties for refusal to work out tax; and signatures of selectmen. Arr. chron. by date of warrant. No index. Hdw., and hdw. on ptd. forms. 12 x 7½. Res. Mrs. Gordon Woodbury.

28. [RECORDS OF CENTER SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 1], 1801-3. 4 papers.

Contains:

- a. Articles of sale of old schoolhouse and vendue of bids for new schoolhouse, 1802. Sale shows date, terms and conditions, and signature of school district clerk. Vendue shows date, terms and conditions for building new schoolhouse, and signature of school district clerk.
- b. List of subscriptions for building schoolhouse, 1802-3, showing date, names of town and subscribers, amount subscribed by each, total, and signatures of selectmen or committeemen.
- c. Minutes of school district meeting, 1801, showing date and place of meeting, officers elected, articles discussed, and action taken on school matters.
- d. Order by school committee on selectmen, 1802, showing date, purpose ("bording and shingling"), to whom, amount, name of district, and signatures of committeemen.

Selectmen - Printed Reports;
Taxation

Arr. chron. by date of paper. No index. Hdw. 12 x 7. Res. Mrs. Gordon Woodbury.

II. SELECTMEN

The first selectmen of the town of Bedford were Samuel Patten, Robert Walker, and Thomas Chandler.¹ There are three members on this board at the present time. One is elected each year for a 3-year term in accordance with a law of 1921.²

Unless otherwise stated records are to be found in the selectmen's office, town hall.

Printed Reports

29. ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE TOWN OF BEDFORD, 1848--. 763 vols., 81 of which are bound in 3 vols., 1848-1928 (dated).
List of town officers; copy of town and school warrants; town budget; inventory of town; statement of appropriations and expenses; financial report; statement of debt; schedule of town property; reports of town clerk, tax collector, treasurer, selectmen, trustees of trust funds, cemetery trustees, library trustees, librarian, school board, auditors, school district treasurer, superintendent of schools, and school nurse; and vital statistics. Early reports less detailed. Arr. departmentally. No index. Ptd. 75 pp. 9 x 6 x $\frac{1}{2}$; bound vols., aver. 1,300 pp. 9 x 6 x $\frac{1}{2}$. 81 vols., bound in 3 vols., 1848-1928, and 13 vols., 1929--. Bedford Public Library; 89 vols., 1848, 1850-51, 1854-55, 1857, 1859--. State Library, Concord; 580 vols., 1910-13, 1915, 1917-20, 1922-27, 1929--. sel. off.

Taxation

30. [BLOTTER BOOKS], 1929-33, 1935--. 22 vols. (dated).
Prior records missing.
Selectmen's blotter books showing information as in entry 32. Arr. chron. and thereunder alph. by name of taxpayer. No index. Hdw. on ptd. heads. 7 vols., 1929-33, 100 pp. 14 x 8 x $\frac{3}{4}$; 15 vols., 1935--. 150 pp. 14 x 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 1. 4 vols., 1929-31, 1935, res. Burton E. Davis; 8 vols., 1930-33, 1936-37, 1940--. res. Walter S. Melendy; 6 vols., 1936--. res. Gillis French; 4 vols., 1938--. res. Rae Comerford.

31. [INVOICE RECORD], 1776, 1802. 2 papers.
Date; names of taxpayers; number of polls, horses, colts, oxen, and cows; value of arable, mowing, pasture, and orchard lands; money at interest; value of smocks and sleeves; total valuation; amount assessed each taxpayer; and total assessment. Hdw. 12 x 8. Res. Mrs. Gordon Woodbury.

32. INVENTORY BOOK-BEDFORD, N.H., 1866-79, 1913--. 6 vols. (undated, 2 vols., 1866-79; dated, 4 vols., 1913--).
Title varies slightly.
Selectmen's record of resident and non-resident taxes. Resident, 1866,

1. History of Bedford, p. 784.
2. New Hampshire Laws of 1921, ch. 9.

shows date; names of town and taxpayers; number of polls; school district number; description, value, and number of acres of improved and unimproved lands and buildings; number and value of horses, asses, mules, cows, oxen, other neat stock, sheep, stocks in banks and other corporations, and carriages; value of stock in trade; money on hand, at interest, or on deposit; value of mills and carding machines; number of dogs; reduced value; total value; and State, county, town, school, and highway taxes. 1868 adds number of hogs and portable mills. 1913 adds number and value of fowl and vehicles. 1914 adds value of wood and lumber not stock in trade. 1917 adds number and value of boats and launches. 1922 adds value of stock in national banks in State, and automobiles, and omits value of stocks in banks and other corporations. 1935 adds number and value of gasoline pumps. Non-resident, 1913, shows description and value of improved and unimproved lands and buildings, value of stock in trade, total valuation, and total amount of taxes. 1914 adds value of wood and lumber not stock in trade, and number and value of portable mills. 1915 adds State, school, county, and town taxes. 1916 adds number and value of horses. 1918 adds number and value of vehicles, but this is omitted in 1919. 1924 adds number and value of gasoline pumps and tanks. 1925 adds number and value of boats and launches. 1928 adds number and value of machinery and tools. 1931 adds number and value of fur-bearing animals. 1933 adds number and value of fowl. Both resident and non-resident lists show signatures of selectmen. Arr. chron. and thereunder alph. by name of taxpayer. No index. Hdw. on ptd. heads. 1 vol., 1866-73, 300 pp. 14 x 8½ x 2; 1 vol., 1874-79, 300 pp. 16 x 10½ x 2; 4 vols., 1913-- , 400 pp. 17½ x 15 x 2½.

For town clerk's record of invoices, 1792-1902, see entry 17; for blotter books, 1929-33, 1935-- , see entry 30.

33. [TAX LISTS AND WARRANTS], 1778, 1785, 1788, 1795. 9 lists. Lists show date; names of taxpayers; amount of tax assessed; State, county, and town taxes; and interest on continental securities. Warrants to constable for collection of taxes show date; names of State, town, and constable; citation of constable's duties; and signatures of selectmen. Arr. chron. by date of list and thereunder by names of taxpayers. No index. Hdw. 13 x 8½. Res. Mrs. Gordon Woodbury.

34. RETURN RECEIPT [of Tax Sale Notice], 1935-- .
Approx. 100 cards.

Return of receipt of tax sale notice showing date, signature of recipient, date of delivery, and name of office returned to (selectmen's). Arr. chron. by date of receipt. No index. Hdw. on ptd. forms. 5 x 3. Safe.

Finance

35. RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS, 1928-- . 3 vols. Prior records missing.

Receipts show date, total, from whom, source, and amount; payments show date, to whom, purpose, amount, and total; and balance. Arr. chron. by date of entry and thereunder numer. by voucher no. No index. Hdw. on ptd. heads. 100 pp. 10 x 16 x 1.

For prior related record of receipts, 1895-1930, see entry 39.

Selectmen - Jury List,
Militia Enrollment

36. [REPORTS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION OF TOWN], 1854, 1896, 1934, 1936--. 1854, 1896 in [Miscellaneous Papers], entry 24-t; 1934, 1936-- in [Miscellaneous Documents], entry 43-i.
1854, 1896 shows date, name of town, financial statement, and signatures of committeemen. 1934, 1936--, shows date; names of State, county, and town; assets and liabilities; receipts and payments with totals; schedule of town property with value; and signatures of selectmen and treasurer.
37. [RECORD OF NOTES], 1937--. 1 vol. in 1 f. d.
Prior records missing.
Names of State and town, date, number of note, amount of interest, date due, rate of interest, date of authorization, where payable, and signatures of selectmen and treasurer. Arr. chron. by date of entry. No index. Hdw. on ptd. forms. 100 pp. 10 x 16 x $\frac{3}{4}$; f. d., 12 $\frac{1}{4}$ x 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 26 $\frac{1}{2}$.
38. [SELECTMEN'S ORDER ON CONSTABLE], 1774. 1 paper.
Order on constable to pay town expenses showing date; names of Province, county, town, constable, and parties concerned; amount; and signatures of selectmen. Hdw. 8 x 7 $\frac{1}{2}$. Res. Mrs. Gordon Woodbury.
39. RECEIPT BOOK-TOWN OF BEDFORD, N. H., 1895-1930.
7 vols. Prior records missing. Discontinued.
Receipts for orders drawn on treasurer showing date, receipt number, purpose, name of town, amount, and signature of recipient. Arr. chron. by date of receipt and thereunder numer. by receipt no. No index. Hdw. on ptd. forms. 300 pp. 14 x 9 x 1 $\frac{1}{2}$.
For record of receipts and payments, 1928--, see entry 35.
40. [TOWN AND COUNTY RELIEF CARD RECORD], 1935--.
Approx. 500 cards on 1 steel filing board in 1 f. d.
Name and address of recipient, kind of aid, by whom reimbursed, date, order number, articles furnished, amount, case number, amount of budget, and number in family; employables, single, and receiving work relief. Arr. alph. by name of recipient. No index. Hdw. on ptd. forms. Steel filing board, 16 $\frac{1}{4}$ x 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 1 $\frac{1}{2}$; f. d., 12 $\frac{1}{4}$ x 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 26 $\frac{1}{2}$.

Jury List, Militia Enrollment

41. JUROR BOOK, 1901--. 1 vol. Prior records missing.
List of persons liable for jury duty, showing date, names of persons liable to be drawn, and date drawn. Arr. chron. by date of list. No index. Hdw. 200 pp. (75 used) 8 x 5 x $\frac{3}{4}$.
For record of jury warrants and minutes, 1771-1853, 1884--, see entry 5-at.

42. [Militia] ENROLLMENT, 1879-81. 1 vol. (dated).
Enrollment of able-bodied males between the ages of 18 and 45, showing date; name, number, marital status, age, and occupation of enrollee; and signatures of selectmen. Arr. chron. by date of enrollment and thereunder alph. by name of enrollee. No index. Hdw. on ptd. heads. 24 pp. 13 $\frac{1}{4}$ x 8 x $\frac{1}{4}$.

For related record, 1885, see entry 5-az; for enrollment papers, 1858-80, see entry 24-an.

Miscellaneous

43. [MISCELLANEOUS DOCUMENTS], scattered dates 1885--.
Approx. 21,000 papers in 51 envelopes, 37 bdl.,
4 filing boards, 9 folders; and 4 stub books, 9
pads, and 7 rolls—all in 4 f. d., 1 trunk, 1 safe,
2 closets, 1 chest of drawers.

Contains:

- a. Accident claims against town, 1919, 1927, showing name of town; date, time, and place of accident; defects claimed; nature of accident; amount of damage; request for payment; signature of person notifying selectmen; and jurat.
- b. Agreements between town and individuals, 1921, 1928-30, showing date, names of town and parties concerned, conditions and limitations, consideration involved, and signatures of selectmen and parties concerned.
- c. Bank stock returns, 1909, 1934-35, showing name and address of bank, capital stock, number and value of shares, names of shareholders, amount of shares held by each, signature of bank official, date, and jurat.
- d. Bonds of town officers, 1922-25, 1934--., entry 19.
- e. Correspondence, incoming, 1910-11, 1920--., showing date, from whom, particulars, and signature of correspondent.
- f. Dam construction, authorization from Public Service Commission for, 1935, showing date, name of person building dam, size and location of dam, conditions, and signature of secretary of Public Service Commission.
- g. Deeds to real property, copies of, 1885, 1898, 1904, 1920-39, showing information as in entry 24-o.
- h. Executrix notice to legatees, 1918, showing date; names of State, county, town, and deceased; statement that town is named as legatee; and signature of executrix.
- i. Financial condition of town, reports of, 1934, 1936--., entry 36.
- j. Fire engine test, report on, 1932, showing date and place test made, by whom supervised, kind of engine, and kind of tests made.
- k. Fire payroll, 1935, showing name of worker, kind and location of work, number of days worked, total time, rate, amount due, and signature of worker.
- m. Fires, copies of permits to kindle, 1937, entry 102.
- n. Forest fire bills, 1935-36, showing name of worker; service rendered; hours worked; rate; amount; expense of trucks used; and signatures of forest fire warden, selectmen, and town treasurer.
- o. Highway petition, 1929, showing information as in entry 5-an.
- p. Insurance policies, fire, 1916, 1922, 1931--. For related papers, 1898, see entry 24-ab.
- q. Inventory of town equipment, 1938.
- r. Land damage, agreement for, 1909, showing date, consideration involved, terms and conditions, and signatures of parties concerned.

- s. Lease, 1933, showing date; names of State, county, town, lessor, and lessee; description of property; conditions; and signatures of parties concerned and witnesses.
- t. Mortgage notations, 1903-36, showing names of mortgagor and mortgagee, date, description of property, and amount.
- u. Mortgages, list of, 1933, 1940. List of mortgages submitted by register of deeds showing date, names of mortgagor and mortgagee, description of property, volume and page number where recorded, and signature of register of deeds.
- v. Old age assistance, reports on applications for, 1939--, showing name and address of applicant, statement of eligibility, amount to be received, and signature of supervisor.
- w. Orders on treasurer, selectmen's, 1937--, entry 55.
- x. Pistol and revolver licenses, copies of, 1923--, showing date; name, address, personal description, and signature of applicant; selectmen's acknowledgement that applicant is suitable person to receive permit; and signatures of selectmen.
- y. Pole petition, 1910, showing information as in entry 5-bo.
- z. Receipt stubs, 1934-35, showing date, to whom, purpose, and amount.
- aa. Register of probate, reports from, 1936, 1938-39, showing date, names of town and deceased, amount of property owned by deceased, and date of death.
- ab. Relief applications, 1937--, showing date, name and address of applicant, financial status, previous record of relief, reasons, number in family, jurat, and signature of applicant.
- ac. Relief orders, duplicate county, 1934--, showing date, order number, kind of relief, names and addresses of recipient and vendor, kind of service rendered, names of county commissioners, and signatures of selectmen.
- ad. Relief orders, duplicate town, 1935--, showing date, order number, kind of relief, names and addresses of recipient and vendor, kind of service rendered, and signatures of selectmen.
- ae. Soldiers' exemption claims, 1932--, showing date, names of town and applicant, dates of enrollment and discharge, service branch and pension certificate numbers, value of personal and real property, jurat, and signature of applicant.
- af. Street lighting agreement, 1912, showing date; names of town, county, and State; name and address of utility company, number of lights; rated candlepower; consideration involved; conditions and terms of agreement; and signatures of witnesses, selectmen, and officials of company.
- ag. Surplus commodities, orders for, 1936-38, showing date, names of town and recipient, number in family, kind and amount of commodity, and signatures of recipient and selectmen.
- ah. Sunday permits, 1932--, showing date, names of town and permittee, kind of business, term, conditions, and signatures of selectmen.
- ai. Tax inventory lists for State Tax Commission, 1935, 1940, showing names of State, county, and town; description of property; valuation; amount of taxes to be committed to tax collector; average rate of taxation; and amount exempted to soldiers.
- aj. Tax memoranda, undated, showing name of person liable for taxation and description of property.

- ak. Tax returns, individual, 1929, 1932--, showing names of State and town; name and address of taxpayer; description and value of real estate; poll tax; number and value of portable mills, boats and launches, horses, oxen, cows, other neat stock, sheep, hogs, fowl, fur-bearing animals, vehicles, and gasoline pumps and tanks; stock in trade; wood and lumber not stock in trade; property in trust; number of dogs; railroad stock shares; and jurat.
 - am. Tax sale notices, 1935--, entry 47.
 - an. Tax warrants, county, 1939, showing names of State, county, and town; date; amount of taxes to be raised; and signature of county treasurer.
 - ao. Town hall, agreements, bids, and painting estimates for, 1909, 1933.
 - ap. Town meeting, petition for, 1932, showing information as in entry 5--dc.
 - aq. Town notes, canceled, 1931, 1935, 1937, showing names of town, State, and bank; date; number of note; amount of interest; date loan authorized by town; signatures of selectmen and bank treasurer; and date of cancelation.
 - ar. Treasurers' monthly reports to selectmen, 1939--, showing date, name of town, from whom, source, amount, cash on hand at end of month, and signature of town treasurer.
 - as. Treasurers' receipts, 1921--, showing name of town, date, amount, purpose, and signature of treasurer.
 - at. Unredeemed property, 1934, showing date, name of owner, amount of property, amount of taxes and costs, and signature of register of deeds.
 - au. Vouchers and bills, 1907--. Vouchers show date, names of town and State, number, to whom paid, purpose, and amount; bills attached show names and addresses of recipient and vendor, date, quantity, articles, price, and total.
 - av. Work Projects Administration, certificate of eligibility for employment on, 1935--.
 - aw. Work Projects Administration, cancelation of certificates of eligibility for employment on, 1937--.
- No obvious arr. No index. Hdw., typed, and hdw. and typed on ptd. forms and heads. Envelopes, 7 x 10½ x 1½; bdls., aver. 8 x 5 x 2; filing boards, 14½ x 9 x ½; folders, aver. 9 x 12 x 1½; stub books, 3 x 10 x ½; pads, 3 x 8 x ½; rolls, 10 x 4; f. d., 12¼ x 13½ x 26½; trunk, 8 x 10½ x 20; safe, 65 x 46½ x 29½; 1 chest of drawers, 8 x 22 x 36; 1 closet, 36 x 45 x 49; 1 closet, 54 x 41 x 22.

III. BUDGET COMMITTEE

In accordance with the Municipal Budget Act of 1935,¹ Bedford elected in that year a budget committee of six.²

At the present time, two members are annually appointed by the moderator to serve a 3-year term. In addition one selectman and one member of the school board serve on the budget committee, thus making an eight-member personnel.

1. New Hampshire Laws of 1935, ch. 9.

2. T. M. B., vol. 8, p. 643 (1935), see entry 5.

Assessors, Town Counters;
Tax Collector

(44)

Records are at the residence of Justice Peter Woodbury.

44. [MINUTES OF MEETINGS], 1935--. 1 loose-leaf vol.

Date, time, and place of meeting; matters discussed; votes taken; explanation of budget as proposed; and signature of secretary.

Also contains:

Copies of town budget showing date, source of revenue, actual revenue for previous year, estimated revenue for ensuing year, increase or decrease, total revenue from all sources except property taxes, purpose of expenditures, actual expenditures for previous year, estimated expenditures for ensuing year, total, increase or decrease, and total increase or decrease.

Arr. chron. by date of meeting. No index. Hdw., typed, and hdw. on ptd. forms. 75 pp. 9½ x 7½ x ¾.

IV. ASSESSORS, TOWN COUNTERS

Bedford elected three town counters in 1766,¹ and three assessors in 1896.² It may be assumed that the selectmen have assessed taxes in all years in which counters or assessors have not been elected.

For invoice records, see entries 5-as, 17, and 30-32.

V. TAX COLLECTOR

The town history states

It would appear in the early history of the town an accepted duty of the constable, duly chosen, was the collection of taxes, as for many years the same man performed the duties of both positions. From 1779 to 1799 there were two constables formally chosen each year, and a tax list was committed to each of them, one for the 'easterly' part and one for the 'westerly' part.³

In 1799 appeared the office of tax collector as such. The first incumbent was Samuel Barr.⁴ Methods of filling the office, since its introduction, have consisted of election, appointment, and vendue, but since 1930 the method of election has been regularly used.⁵ The office is filled annually.

Records are at the residences of George D. Soper, former tax collector and Roy E. Jenkins, present tax collector; and in the selectmen's office, town hall.

1. [Minutes of Town Meetings], March 26, 1766, see entry 4.

2. T. M. B., vol. 8, p. 134 (1896), see entry 5.

3. History of Bedford, p. 794.

4. Ibid.

5. Ibid., pp. 794, 795; State's Copy, 1799-1831, passim, see entry 6; T. M. B., 1832-1852, 1885--, passim, see entry 5.

Tax Collector

(45-50)

45. NEW HAMPSHIRE TAX COLLECTORS BOOK, 1915--.

27 vols. Prior records missing.

Tax collector's warrants showing date, names of town and tax collector, total amount of taxes to be collected, and to whom payable. Collection of taxes showing names of taxpayers, description of property, amount of property and poll tax, total tax, date paid, interest accrued, discount or abatement allowed, amount collected, and auditors' certification. Arr. chron. by date of entry and thereunder alph. by name of taxpayer. No index. Hdw. on ptd. forms. 21 vols., 1915-36, 150 pp. 7 x 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ x $\frac{3}{4}$; 6 vols., 1937--, 200 pp. 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 6 x $\frac{3}{4}$. 26 vols., 1915-40, res. George D. Soper; 1 vol., 1941--, res. Roy E. Jenkins.

For related papers, 1881, 1883, see entry 24-bh.

46. WHEELER & CLARK'S 2400 NAME CASH BOOK, JULY 16,

1941--. 1 vol. Prior records missing.

Tax collector's cash book showing date, name of taxpayer, total cash received, property tax (current, previous), poll tax (current, previous), and interest. Arr. chron. by date of entry. No index. Hdw. on ptd. heads. 200 pp. 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ x $\frac{3}{4}$. Res. Roy E. Jenkins.

47. [TAX SALE NOTICES], 1938--. 12 papers. 1853-99

in [Miscellaneous Papers], entry 24-bi; 1935-- in

[Miscellaneous Documents], entry 43-am.

Date; names of State, county, town, and taxpayer; description of property; taxes due; amount of interest and costs; total; date, time, and place of sale; and certificate of posting notice showing date, places posted, jurat, and signature of tax collector. Arr. chron. by date of notice and thereunder alph. by name of taxpayer. No index. Hdw. and typed on ptd. forms. 11 x 8 $\frac{1}{2}$. Res. George D. Soper.

For record of tax sale notices, 1829, 1832, 1885-1907, see entry 5-cy.

48. [RECORD OF TAX SALES], 1925--. 1 vol. 1829, 1833,

1885-1926 in Records--Town of Bedford, entry 5-cz.

Date, name of taxpayer, amount of taxes due, total, amount of interest and costs, description of property, to whom sold, date and by whom redeemed, and total amount received. Arr. chron. by date of sale. No index. Hdw., and hdw. on ptd. forms. 100 pp. 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ x 4 x $\frac{1}{2}$. Res. George D. Soper.

For original tax sales, 1853-99, 1936-37, see entry 24-bj.

49. RECORD OF PROPERTY ACQUIRED THROUGH TAX COLLECTOR'S

DEED, 1931--. 1 vol. Prior records missing.

Date, name of property owner, description of property, date of collector's sale and deed, amount due at time of deed, costs of making and recording deed, and volume and page number in register of deeds' record. Arr. alph. by name of property owner. No index. Hdw. and typed. 200 pp. (14 used) 11 x 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 1. Sel. off.

50. [TAX REDEMPTIONS], 1934--. 5 vols. System began
1934. 1834, 1891, 1899 in Records--Town of Bedford,
entry 5-cx.

Date; names of county, town, and property owner; description of property; date of sale; total tax and costs; by whom redeemed; and date and amount

Treasurer

(51-55)

paid. Arr. chron. by date of redemption. No index. Hdw. on ptd. forms. 50 pp. 10 x 4 x $\frac{1}{4}$. Res. George D. Soper.

For original tax redemptions, 1832-99, see entry 24-bk.

51. [MEMO OF PAID TAXES], July 16, 1941--. Approx.

350 papers on 1 spindle. Prior papers missing.

Name of taxpayer, amount and by whom paid, date, and remarks. Arr. chron. by date of payment. No index. Hdw. on ptd. forms. $3\frac{1}{4}$ x 2. Res. Roy E. Jenkins.

52. [RECORD OF UNPAID TAXES], 1927-36. 30 cards.

Isolated record.

Name of taxpayer, year of levy, amount of tax, interest, costs, and total. Arr. chron. by date of levy. No index. Hdw. 5 x 3. Sel. off.

53. [LIST OF UNPAID TAXES], 1937. 1 vol.

Isolated record.

List of unpaid taxes for 1937 showing date, names of delinquent taxpayers, amount due (in some cases date paid), certification as to correctness, and signature of tax collector. Arr. alph. by name of delinquent taxpayer. No index. Hdw. 50 pp. 7 x $4\frac{1}{4}$ x $\frac{1}{2}$. Sel. off.

VI. TREASURER

This office appeared in Bedford at an early date. Robert Walker was chosen to the office in 1752.¹ From that time to the present, with few exceptions, a treasurer has been annually elected.²

Unless otherwise stated, records are at the residence of Burton E. Davis, town treasurer.

54. TOWN TREASURER'S CASH BOOK, 1876-77, 1922--. 4 vols.

Prior records destroyed. Untitled, 1 vol., 1876-77.

1876-77 shows copy of tax collector's warrant: date; names of town, treasurer, and tax collector; amount of taxes to be collected and paid to treasurer by tax collector; conditions of collection; names of signers—selectmen—; and attest and signature of treasurer. 1876-77, 1922-- shows receipts: date, from whom, source, and amount; payments: date, order number, to whom, and amount; balance; and certification by selectmen or auditors as to correctness of accounts. Arr. chron. by date of entry. No index. 1876-77, hdw.; 1922--, hdw. on ptd. heads. 1 vol., 1876-77, 570 pp. (18 used) 13 x $8\frac{1}{2}$ x 2; 2 vols., 1922-41, 150 pp. 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ x $8\frac{1}{2}$ x $1\frac{1}{4}$; 1 vol., 1941--, 200 pp. 11 x 9 x $1\frac{1}{2}$. 2 vols., 1876-77, 1922-34, sel. off.; 2 vols., 1934-- res. Burton E. Davis.

55. [ORDERS ON TREASURER], 1937--. In [Miscellaneous Documents], entry 43-w.

Selectmen's orders on treasurer show date; names of town, State, bank, and payee; order number; amount; signatures of selectmen; countersignature of

1. History of Bedford, p. 788.

2. Ibid., p. 789; State's Copy, 1770-1831, see entry 6; T. M. B., 1832-1852, 1885-- see entry 5.

treasurer; endorsement; and bank cancelation stamp.

56. RECEIPT BOOK [Stubs], 1939--. 4 stub books.

Prior records missing.

Date, from whom, purpose, and amount. Arr. chron. by date of receipt. No index. Hdw. on ptd. forms. 1 stub book, 1939-40, 50 pp. 11 x 3 x $\frac{1}{2}$; 3 stub books, 1939-- , 50 pp. 8 x 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ x $\frac{1}{2}$.

57. DUPLICATING DEPOSIT SLIPS, 1938--. 4 vols.

Prior records destroyed.

Names of town, bank, and treasurer; date and amount of deposit (currency or check); number, origin, and amount of check; and total deposit. Arr. chron. by date of deposit. No index. Hdw. on ptd. forms. 50 pp. 8 x 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ x $\frac{1}{4}$. 3 vols., 1938-40, sel. off.; 1 vol., 1940-- , res. Burton E. Davis.

58. [BANK STATEMENTS AND CANCELED CHECKS], Feb. 1941--.

153 papers in 3 envelopes. Prior papers missing.

Bank statements showing date; names of town and treasurer; name and address of bank; and amounts of deposits, withdrawals, service charge, and balance. Canceled checks showing date, names of town, State, bank, and payee; order number; amount; signatures of selectmen; countersignature of town treasurer; endorsement; and bank cancelation. Arr. chron. by date of statement or canceled check. No index. Hdw. and typed on ptd. forms. Envelopes, 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ x $\frac{1}{2}$.

59. [Bank Deposit Book] TOWN OF BEDFORD, N.H., 1937--.

1 vol. Prior records missing.

Names of town and bank, and date and amount of deposits. Arr. chron. by date of entry. No index. Hdw. on ptd. heads. 50 pp. 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ x $\frac{1}{4}$.

VII. AUDITORS

From 1765 to 1797, with some exceptions, committees consisting of from three to five men were elected to examine accounts.¹ These committees undoubtedly served in the capacity of the present day auditors. The office of auditor did not appear until 1821, when three were elected.² In the following year the same number was elected; in 1838 and 1840 two were elected; during 1847-1849 three received office by election.³ The next mention in the extant minutes occurs in 1888, from which year to the present, except for 1891, the annual election of two auditors is recorded.⁴

The one record is kept at the residence of Mrs. Osman Clapp, one of the auditors.

60. REPORT OF TOWN AUDIT, TAX COLLECTOR'S ACCOUNTS,

LEVY OF 1940, Jan. 31, 1941. 1 paper.

Copy of town audit for fiscal year ending January 31, as filed with the State Tax Commission. Questionnaire with answers regarding financial

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1. [Minutes of Town Meetings], March 27, 1765, see entry 4; State's Copy, vol. 3, p. 66 (1773), et passim 1774-1797, see entry 6.
 2. State's Copy, vol. 1, p. 50 (1821), see entry 6.
 3. Ibid., p. 103 (1822); T. M. B., vol. 6, p. 178 (1838), p. 213 (1840), et passim 1847-1849, see entry 5.
 4. T. M. B., vol. 8, p. 54 (1888), et passim 1889-- , see entry 5.

records of town officers. Statement of tax collector's account: amount of warrant with added taxes, interest collected, abatements allowed, amount uncollected, and total payments to town treasurer. Condition of previous levies with amount uncollected as of February 1, and balance of taxes still uncollected. Town treasurer's account: balance as of February 1, receipts to January 31, payments in the fiscal year, outstanding checks, and reconciliation of bank balance. Town clerk's account: total motor vehicle permits issued, inclusive numbers, amount of fees, remittances to town treasurer, and cash on hand; and dog licenses: total amount received, remittances to town treasurer, and amount of fees deducted. Trustees of trust funds account: receipts from investments and other sources, payments, and balance on hand. Condition of town officers' bonds; remarks; date of audit; and signatures of auditors. Typed on ptd. form. 14 x 8½.

VIII. TRUSTEES OF TRUST FUNDS

The State legislature of 1915 enacted into law the provision that trust properties received by the town should be administered by a board of three trustees who were to be chosen by ballot at the annual meeting in March 1916—one for 1 year, one for 2 years, and one for 3 years. Annually thereafter, one was to be elected for a 3-year term.¹

Bedford complied with this law in 1917, for in that year three trustees of trust funds were elected. One has been annually elected from 1918 to date.²

Prior to the creation of trustees of trust funds, the various funds given to the town in trust were managed by the selectmen. Records of trust funds prior to 1915 were at one time selectmen's records, but they are now trustees' records.

Unless otherwise stated, records are at the residence of Charles F. Shepard, treasurer of trustees.

61. RECORD OF TRUST FUNDS, 1888--. 2 vols.

Date fund created, name of donor, purpose, amount of principal, how invested, rate of interest, income and expenditures during year, and balance on hand at beginning and end of year. Arr. chron. by date fund created. No index. Hdw. on ptd. heads. 1 vol., 1888-1935, 120 pp. 11½ x 7½ x ½; 1 vol., 1935-- , 155 pp. 12¼ x 7½ x 1.

For Bedford Center Old Cemetery Association trust fund records, 1901-25, see entry 69-d.

62. [BANK STATEMENTS], 1939--. 5 statements.

Destroyed periodically.

Names and addresses of bank and trust fund treasurer, previous balance, dates and amounts of checks drawn and deposits, and present balance. Arr. chron. by date of statement. No index. Typed on ptd. forms. 10 x 9½.

63. [BANK BOOKS], 1888--. 69 vols.

Bank books for each individual fund showing name and purpose of fund, number of book, name and address of bank, amount, withdrawals, interest, and

1. New Hampshire Laws of 1915, ch. 162.

2. T. M. B., vol. 8, p. 370 (1917), et passim 1918-- , see entry 5.

Cemetery Trustees; Bedford Center
Old Cemetery Association

(64-68)

balance. Arr. chron. by date of entry. No index. Hdw. on ptd. heads. 50 pp. 6 x 3½ x ¼. 66 vols., 1888--., Amoskeag Savings Bank, Manchester; 3 vols., 1902, 1924, Manchester Savings Bank, Manchester.

64. [CANCELED CHECKS], 1917--. Approx. 150 checks in 1 bdl.

Date; names of town, bank, and payee; number and amount of check; signature of treasurer; endorsement; and bank cancelation stamp. Arr. chron. by date of check and thereunder numer. by check no. No index. Hdw. on ptd. forms. 6½ x 2½ x ¾.

65. [CHECK STUBS], 1917--. 3 check books. Dates and amounts of deposits and checks drawn, check number, to whom, and balance. Arr. chron. by date of check and thereunder numer. by check no. No index. Hdw. on ptd. forms. 7 x 3 x ¼.

IX. CEMETERY TRUSTEES

From one to three cemetery trustees have been elected from 1898 to date.¹ At the present time one trustee is elected annually for a 3-year term. (See also X. Bedford Center Old Cemetery Association).

Unless otherwise stated, records are at the residence of Albert C. Hodgman, caretaker.

66. [Plan of Lots in] BEDFORD CENTER CEMETERY, 1930--. 1 vol. Prior records missing.

Number and size of lot, name of owner, date purchased, names of persons interred, and dates of death and interment. Arr. numer. by lot no. No index. Hand drawn and typed. 42 pp. 11½ x 9 x ¾.

67. REPORT OF BEDFORD CENTER CEMETERY LOTS, 1941. 1 report.

Receipts show from whom, lot number, and amount; payments show to whom, purpose, and amount; balance; and date of report. Typed. 10½ x 8.

68. PLAN SHOWING ADDITION TO CEMETERY IN BEDFORD, N. H., 1931. 2 maps.

Physical maps showing location, number, and size of lots; avenues; and names of selectmen. Artists, Gay and Dowst, Civil Engineers, Manchester, N. H. Blueprints. Scale, 1" : 20'. 32½ x 29½. 1 map, res. Albert C. Hodgman; 1 map, sel. off.

X. BEDFORD CENTER OLD CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

This Association was formed in 1901, its object being "to provide for the care of the ground known as the Bedford Center Old Cemetery." Frances E. Woodbury was named to call the first meeting of the Association.²

1. T. M. B., vol. 8, p. 161 (1898), et passim 1899--., see entry 5.
2. Ibid., p. 205 (1901), see entry 5.

At present the Association takes care of the old part of the cemetery at Bedford Center; the new part is cared for by the town through the cemetery trustees.

The officers of the Association consist of a president, first vice-president, second vice-president, treasurer, clerk, and 14 trustees, all elected at the annual meeting of the Association.

Records are kept at the residences of Willis B. Kendall, clerk, Manchester; and Miss Martha E. Woodbury, treasurer, Bedford.

69. [MINUTES OF MEETINGS], Aug. 9, 1901--. 2 vols. Articles of incorporation, 1901, showing date, names and addresses of incorporators, name and purpose of Association, and names of signers--incorporators. Bylaws adopted, 1901. Minutes of meetings showing date, time, and place of meeting; officers elected; business transacted; and action taken.

Also contains:

- a. Newspaper clippings, scattered dates 1902-38, showing items pertaining to activities of Association.
 - b. Oaths of office, showing date, names of office and officer, and jurat.
 - c. Treasurers' reports, copies of, showing information as in entry 70.
 - d. Trust fund records, scattered dates 1901-25, and undated, showing name and amount of fund, lot number to be cared for, name of bank in which deposited, and bank book number. For records of trustees of trust funds, 1888--., see entry 61.
- Arr. chron. by date of entry. No index. Hdw. and ptd. 1 vol., 1901-27, 144 pp. $10\frac{1}{2} \times 8 \times \frac{3}{4}$; 1 vol., 1928--., 298 pp. $10\frac{1}{4} \times 8\frac{1}{2} \times 1$. Res. Willis B. Kendall.

70. [RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS], 1901--. 1 vol. and approx. 150 loose papers.

Receipts show date, from whom, source, amount, and total; payments show date, to whom, purpose, and amount; and balance. Arr. chron. by date of transaction. No index. Hdw. Vol., 100 pp. $8\frac{1}{2} \times 7\frac{1}{2} \times \frac{1}{2}$; papers, 11 x 8. Res. Martha E. Woodbury.

For treasurers' reports, 1901--., see entry 69-c.

71. [BANK BOOKS], scattered dates 1902--. 18 books in 18 envelopes (labeled by number of book). Last entry 1940.

Names and addresses of bank and Association, name of fund, dates and amounts of deposits and withdrawals, interest, total, balance, and verification by bank. Arr. chron. by date of entry. No index. Hdw. on ptd. forms. Books, 12 pp. $6 \times 3 \times \frac{1}{4}$; envelopes, 6×4 . Res. Martha E. Woodbury.

XI. SURPLUS REVENUE AGENT

The town voted in 1837 to receive its proportion of the surplus revenue and chose Thomas Chandler to be the agent to receive same from the State

Moderator; Supervisors of the
Check-List; Inspectors of
Elections, Ballot Clerks;
School District

(Next entry 72, p. 59)

Treasurer.¹ The records show the annual election of a surplus revenue agent from 1838 through 1840.²

For records of surplus revenue, see entry 5-cs.

XII. MODERATOR

Bedford's first moderator (1750) was the famous Col. John Goffe. The moderator was elected annually until 1892; since that year he has been elected biennially.³

The moderator keeps no records.

XIII. SUPERVISORS OF THE CHECK-LIST

Three supervisors of the check-list have been elected biennially from 1884 to date.⁴

They keep no records. For check-lists of legal voters, see entries 24-k, 26.

XIV. INSPECTORS OF ELECTIONS, BALLOT CLERKS

The selectmen in all New Hampshire towns biennially appoint four election inspectors, two of whom are selected by the moderator to act as ballot clerks.⁵

No records are kept.

XV. SCHOOL DISTRICT

Bedford early turned its attention to common school education, for previous to the incorporation of the town, certain lots were set off, the income from which was to be used for school purposes.⁶ In 1754 it was voted that the school should rotate among various sections of the town.⁷ In 1773 it was voted to divide the town into 7 school districts and to raise 15 pounds to hire a schoolmaster.⁸ The following year a like sum was voted and the number of districts was decreased to 4 but each district was subdivided.⁹ However, the boundaries were not established until 1800 when the selectmen divided the town into 9 districts and definitely described the

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1. T. M. B., vol. 6, p. 152 (1837), see entry 5.
 2. Ibid., 1838-1840, passim.
 3. History of Bedford, p. 792; State's Copy, 1770-1831, passim, see entry 6; T. M. B., 1832-1852, 1885--, passim, see entry 5.
 4. T. M. B., vol. 8, p. 13 (1884), et passim 1886--, see entry 5.
 5. Public Laws of New Hampshire, ch. 26, secs. 25, 31 (1926).
 6. History of Bedford, p. 417.
 7. Savage, op. cit., p. 11.
 8. State's Copy, vol. 3, pp. 70, 71 (1773), see entry 6.
 9. Ibid., p. 98 (1774).

School District - District and
Board Minutes

(72)

limits of each.¹ These districts by change and subdivision were gradually increased to 14. In 1885 the existing school districts were abolished, the town becoming a single school district, in accordance with a State law of that year.²

Beginning in 1809 and continuing through 1822, from 1 to 12 persons were elected annually to act with the selectmen as a committee to examine the schools.³ A committee of 10 was elected in 1821 to visit schools and in 1827 one person was elected for this purpose.⁴ School district committees of from 10 to 19 were elected in 1827, 1828, and 1829.⁵ A superintending school committee of 5 was appointed in 1829⁶ and in 1835 the selectmen served as a committee to "locate school district."⁷ In 1885 a superintendent of schools was elected.⁸

At the present time Bedford has a school board comprised of three members, one member elected annually at the school district meeting, for a term of 3 years. One of the members is appointed by the board to act as its clerk. Also at the annual district meeting the voters elect a clerk for the district, a treasurer, and a moderator. A superintendent of schools is nominated by the several school boards of the Supervisory Union and is then appointed by the State Board of Education. Bedford is a member of Supervisory Union #27 with headquarters in Hudson.⁹

Records are at the residences of Mrs. George T. Wiggin, clerk of school district; Mrs. Helen Barnard, clerk of school board; Mrs. Etta May Hodgman, chairman of school board; and Henry A. Blood, school district treasurer; and at the selectmen's office and janitor's room, town hall.

District and Board Minutes

72. RECORD [of School District Minutes], 1886--. 2 vols. Warrants for and minutes of school district meetings. Warrants show date of warrant; date, time, and place of meeting; articles to be voted upon; and names of signors--school board members. Certifications of posting warrants show date and places posted, names of signers--school board members--jurat, and attest by school district clerk. Minutes show date, time, and place of meeting; votes taken; articles discussed; money appropriated; officers elected and appointed; and signature of school district clerk. Arr. chron. by date of entry. No index. Hdw. and typed. 1 vol., 1886-1925, 210 pp. 10 x 8 x $\frac{3}{4}$; 1 vol., 1926--, 200 pp. 14 $\frac{1}{4}$ x 9 x $\frac{3}{4}$. 1 vol., 1886-1925, janitor's rm., town hall; 1 vol., 1926--, res. Mrs. George T. Wiggin.

1. State's Copy, vol. 2, pp. 411, 412 (1800), see entry 6.
2. New Hampshire Laws of 1885, ch. 43.
3. State's Copy, vol. 4, p. 108 (1809), et passim 1810-1822, see entry 6.
4. Ibid., vol. 1, p. 51 (1821), p. 400 (1827).
5. Ibid., p. 400 (1827), p. 463 (1828), p. 515 (1829).
6. Ibid., p. 522 (1829).
7. T. M. B., vol. 5, p. 128 (1833), see entry 5.
8. Ibid., vol. 8, p. 17 (1885).
9. New Hampshire State Board of Education Directory * * * 1940-1941, p. 6.

School District - General Fund—
Loan Fund; Cash Books; Bank
Records

(73-78)

73. [MINUTES OF SCHOOL BOARD], 1886-1903, 1912--. 3 vols.
Date and place of meeting, votes taken, appointment of teachers, awarding
of bus contracts, other matters discussed, money appropriated, and signa-
ture of school board clerk. Arr. chron. by date of meeting. No index.
Hdw. 1 vol., 1886-1903, 150 pp. $6\frac{3}{4}$ x $8\frac{1}{4}$ x $\frac{1}{2}$; 1 vol., 1912-30, 250 pp. 7 x
 $8\frac{1}{2}$ x $\frac{3}{4}$; 1 vol., 1929--, 300 pp. $8\frac{1}{2}$ x $7\frac{1}{4}$ x 1. 2 vols., 1886-1903, 1912-30,
janitor's rm., town hall; 1 vol., 1929--, res. Mrs. Helen Barnard.

General Fund—Loan Fund

74. SCHOOL DISTRICT—GENERAL FUND RECORD—LOAN FUND
RECORD, 1920--. 7 vols. (3 vols., 1920-30, num-
bered I-III; 4 vols., 1930--, unlabeled). Prior
records missing.

Record of receipts and payments. Receipts show date, from whom, source,
and amount; payments show date, to whom, purpose, and amount; and certifica-
tion of accounts by auditors. Arr. chron. by date of entry. No index.
Hdw. on ptd. forms. 65 pp. $14\frac{1}{4}$ x $8\frac{3}{4}$ x $\frac{3}{4}$. 3 vols., 1920-30, janitor's rm.,
town hall; 3 vols., 1930-40, res. Mrs. Etta May Hodgman; 1 vol., 1940--,
res. Mrs. Helen Barnard.

75. [GENERAL FUND VOUCHERS AND BILLS], 1919-34, 1937--.

Approx. 5,000 papers in 31 bdls. Prior papers missing.

Vouchers show date, name of school district, voucher number, to whom payable,
purpose, and amount; bills attached show date, name of vendor, merchandise
or service rendered, quantity, price, and amount. Arr. chron. by date of
voucher or bill. No index. Hdw., and hdw. on ptd. forms, $9\frac{1}{2}$ x $6\frac{1}{2}$ x $1\frac{1}{2}$.
15 bdls., 1919-34, 1937-39, janitor's rm., town hall; 11 bdls., 1938-40,
res. Mrs. Etta May Hodgman; 5 bdls., 1940--, res. Mrs. Helen Barnard.

Cash Books

76. TREASURER'S CASH BOOK, 1929--. 2 vols. Prior
records missing.

Receipts showing date, from whom, source, and amount; payments showing date,
to whom, check number, purpose, and amount; balance; and deposits showing
date and amount. Arr. chron. by date of entry. No index. Hdw. on ptd.
forms. 98 pp. $10\frac{1}{2}$ x $8\frac{1}{2}$ x $\frac{3}{4}$. Res. Henry A. Blood.

Bank Records

77. [BANK BOOK], 1932--. 1 vol. Prior records missing.

Name and address of bank, name of school district, and dates and amounts of
deposits. Arr. chron. by date of entry. No index. Hdw. on ptd. forms.
50 pp. $6\frac{1}{2}$ x $3\frac{1}{2}$ x $\frac{1}{4}$. Res. Henry A. Blood.

For related record, 1938-39, see entry 81-a.

78. [CANCELED CHECKS], 1931--. Approx. 3,500 papers in
22 bdls. Prior papers missing.

Date, names of school district and payee, check number, amount, signature
of school district treasurer, endorsement, and bank cancelation. Arr.

School District - Orders;
Stevens-Buswell School

(79-83)

chron. by date of check and thereunder numer. by check no. No index. Hdw. on ptd. forms. 9 x 3 x 2. Res. Henry A. Blood.

For related papers, 1939, see entry 81-c.

79. [BANK STATEMENTS], 1932--. Approx. 100 papers.

Prior papers missing.

Names and addresses of school district treasurer and bank, name of school district, dates and amount of deposits and withdrawals, and balance. Arr. chron. by date of statement. No index. Typed on ptd. forms. 9½ x 10. Res. Henry A. Blood.

For related papers, 1938-39, see entry 81-b.

Orders

80. [SCHOOL BOARD ORDERS ON TREASURER], 1932--. Approx.

3,800 papers in 10 bdl. Prior papers missing.

Date, order number, amount, signatures of school board members, and name and address of payee. Arr. chron. by date of order and thereunder numer. by order no. No index. Hdw. on ptd. forms. 9 x 1½ x 2. Res. Henry A. Blood.

For related orders, 1939, see entry 81-d.

Stevens-Buswell School

81. [STEVENS-BUSWELL SCHOOL ACCOUNTS], 1938-39. 52

papers in 1 bdl., and 1 vol.

Contains:

- a. Bank book, Dec. 22, 1938-June 16, 1939, showing information as in entry 77.
- b. Bank statements, Dec. 22, 1938-June 20, 1939, showing information as in entry 79.
- c. Canceled checks, Jan. 4, 1939-June 15, 1939, showing information as in entry 78.
- d. School board orders on treasurer, Jan. 4, 1939-June 15, 1939, showing information as in entry 80.

No obvious arr. No index. Hdw. and typed on ptd. forms. Bdl., 9½ x 4 x ¼; vol., 6½ x 3½ x ¼. Res. Henry A. Blood.

82. SPECIFICATIONS FOR [Stevens-Buswell] BEDFORD CENTER
SCHOOL, BEDFORD, N. H., 1938. 1 vol.

Specifications for building addition to Stevens-Buswell School by P. W. A., advertisement for bids, description of materials to be used, surety bond issued to contractor, wage scale, performance bond, regulations, and signature of P. W. A. official. Arr. chron. by date of entry. No index. Hdw. and typed. 100 pp. 12 x 8½ x ½. Res. Mrs. Etta May Hodgman.

83. CONSTRUCTION OF [Stevens-Buswell] SCHOOLHOUSE
DISTRICT NO. 1 BEDFORD CENTRE, 1921. 1 vol.

Minutes of meetings of school board and building committee acting as a unit for Stevens-Buswell School showing date, time, and place of meeting; articles discussed; votes taken for building of schoolhouse; correspondence pertaining to building of schoolhouse; plans of building; account of payments:

School District - Miscellaneous

(84-86)

date, to whom, purpose, and amount; progress of construction: date, and phase of work completed; and copy of land deed. Arr. chron. by date of entry. No index. Hdw. and typed. 200 pp. 11 x 8½ x 1½. Res. Mrs. Etta May Hodgman.

84. ADDITIONS & ALTERATIONS TO BEDFORD CENTRE [Stevens-Buswell] SCHOOL--BEDFORD, N. H., Oct. 31, 1938.
11 plans.

Plans for reconstruction of Stevens-Buswell school showing lot, basement, first floor, and roof; front, rear, and end elevations; wall sections; first floor and roof framing; sectional plans; and plumbing, heating, and ventilation. Architect, Carl E. Peterson. Blueprints. Scale, varied. 30½ x 22. Res. Mrs. Etta May Hodgman.

85. [BILLS FOR ALTERATION ON STEVENS-BUSWELL SCHOOL],
1938-39. Approx. 150 papers in 1 letter file (A-Z).

Date, names of school district and vendor, service rendered, amount, and date paid. Arr. alph. by name of vendor and thereunder chron. by date of bill. No index. Hdw. and typed. 12 x 10½ x 4. Res. Mrs. Etta May Hodgman.

Miscellaneous

86. [MISCELLANEOUS PAPERS], scattered dates 1917-40.
Approx. 175 papers in 1 bdl., and 1 envelope in
1 cardboard box.

Contains:

- a. Appointments of school officers, 1919-20, showing date, names of appointees and appointers, term, and signatures of school board members.
- b. Budget of school expenditures, 1919-20, showing estimated revenue for fiscal year, total estimated receipts, proposed expenditures, signatures of school board members, and approval by State Commissioner of Education.
- c. Census, copy of school, 1920.
- d. Deeds for schoolhouse lots, 1917, 1923, 1930-31, 1939.
- e. Insurance policies, fire, 1930-31, 1933-34, 1939-40.
- f. School district treasurers' bonds, 1932-35.
- g. School district treasurers' financial reports to State Tax Commission, 1918-19, showing names of town, county, and State; current revenue; cash on hand; current expenses; statement of assets and liabilities; inventory of school district property; totals; and signature of school district treasurer.
- h. School district treasurers' monthly reports to school board, 1920-21, showing name of school district, month covered, total receipts, orders paid, cash on hand, and signature of school district treasurer.
- i. State aid to school districts, 1919-21, showing date; names of State, town, and school board chairman; apportionment; and names of Commissioner and members of State Board of Education.
- j. Stevens-Buswell (Bedford Center) School, P. W. A. approvals, payments, costs, and plans for the reconstruction of, 1938-39.
- k. Teachers' contracts, 1920-21, showing date, names of town and

Supervisory Union; Library
Trustees

(87)

teacher, terms and conditions, and signatures of teacher and chairman of school board.

Arr. chron. by date of paper. No index. Hdw., and hdw. and typed on ptd. forms. Bdl., 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 5 x 2; envelope, 12 x 9 x 1 $\frac{1}{2}$; cardboard box, 13 x 9 x 4. Bdl., 1917, 1923, 1930-35, 1939-40, sel. off.; envelope in cardboard box, 1918-21, 1938-39, janitor's rm., town hall.

XVI. SUPERVISORY UNION

Bedford is part of Supervisory Union No. 27 which also includes Hudson, Litchfield, Pelham, and Merrimack. The headquarters of this Union is in Hudson.¹

All school registers are at the superintendent's office, Hudson.

87. BEDFORD [New Hampshire School Registers], 1914--.

207 vols. in 5 f. b. (dated). Prior records missing.

School teachers' registers kept on form prescribed by State Board of Education, showing registration of pupils and personal statistics; attendance record for each term; name of teacher and qualification; advancement of pupils; average age of pupils in September; register summary for school year, showing number of pupils registered during year, length of school year in weeks, average daily attendance and absences, and number of non-resident pupils; number of visits by superintendent, school physician, nurse, members of school board, and parents; number of pupils not absent or tardy; and non-resident enrollment list, showing name and address of pupil. Arr. chron. by date of register and thereunder by name of pupil. No index. Hdw. on ptd. heads. F. b., 3 x 12 x 12; 43 vols., 1914-19, 24 pp. 11 $\frac{3}{4}$ x 9 x $\frac{1}{4}$; 164 vols., 1919-- , 12 pp. 11 $\frac{3}{4}$ x 9 x $\frac{1}{4}$.

XVII. LIBRARY TRUSTEES

A number of subscribers for a library met on May 28, 1789. The following July a committee was selected to draw up regulations for the library.² A large and well selected supply of books was kept--first in a private home and later in Riddle's store. Although a complete account of this library is unavailable, because of a fire which destroyed its records, it can be definitely said that it was incorporated in 1802.³ It apparently existed until 1848 when the books were sold at public auction.⁴

It was not until 1872 that anything further was done to furnish the town with library facilities. In that year a free circulating library was formed by interested persons who subscribed money and donated books. This library was located in the church vestry. It contained about 150 books and was well patronized.⁵

1. New Hampshire State Board of Education Directory * * * 1940-1941, p. 6.
2. History of Bedford, p. 570.
3. Laws of New Hampshire, 7:76, 77 (1802).
4. History of Bedford, p. 571.
5. Ibid.

An act passed in 1891 furnished an impetus for New Hampshire towns to establish free public libraries by providing for a gift from the State of books to the value of \$100 for any town establishing a free public library and appropriating a certain sum for its maintenance according to the town's assessed valuation.¹ The following year Bedford voted to appropriate money "to fit up a room for a library", and a board of three trustees was elected.² This board was instrumental in inducing the members of the old library to transfer their interest in it to the town and 137 volumes were thus acquired. Thereby the nucleus for a free public library was established.³

The next year it was voted that the money "which was appropriated * * * to fit up library room, be devoted to the purchase of books * * *."⁴ During the years that followed money was voted for the maintenance of the library.⁵

In 1910 Mrs. Frances E. Woodbury loaned to the town, for use as a library, a building owned and remodeled by her. The books were moved from the church vestry to this building. In the years that followed, the library received various gifts; improvements were made;⁶ and the townspeople voted to raise money for its use.⁷

Three library trustees were elected respectively for the years 1892 and 1893. Two were appointed to fill vacancies in 1894. From 1896 to date, with few exceptions, one has been elected annually for a 3-year term.⁸

Most of the library records are at the public library; one record is kept at the residence of Mrs. Abbie C. Sargent, treasurer of trustees.

Minutes, Finance, Reports

88. REC[ord of Library Trustees], 1892--. 1 vol.
Minutes of meetings, 1892-1905, showing date and place of meeting, votes taken, officers elected or appointed, and other matters discussed. Receipts and payments, 1892--: receipts show date, from whom, source, and amount; payments show date, to whom, purpose, and amount. Certification of accounts, 1892--, shows signatures of auditors and treasurer of library trustees. Arr. chron. by date of entry. No index. Hdw. 125 pp. 8½ x 7 x ½. Res. Mrs. Abbie C. Sargent.

89. [LIBRARY REPORTS], 1930, 1932, 1934, 1936, 1938-40.
7 reports. Destroyed periodically.
Copies of reports sent to Public Library Commission showing date; names of town, library, and librarian; total circulation; schedule of hours open; income for year; facilities of building; record of book collection; number of books added during year; record of periodicals; report of activities regarding children's room; receipts and payments; and names and addresses of

1. New Hampshire Laws of 1891, ch. 62.
2. T. M. B., vol. 8, p. 93 (1892), see entry 5.
3. History of Bedford, p. 571.
4. T. M. B., vol. 8, pp. 106, 107 (1893), see entry 5.
5. Ibid., p. 115 (1894), p. 124 (1895), p. 133 (1896), p. 152 (1897), p. 160 (1898), p. 175 (1899), p. 188 (1900), p. 250 (1905).
6. Woodbury Memorial Library Bulletin, April 1931, pp. not numbered.
7. T. M. B., vol. 8, p. 473 (1924), p. 487 (1925), see entry 5.
8. Ibid., p. 93 (1892), et passim 1893--, see entry 5.

trustees. Arr. chron. by date of report. No index. Hdw. and typed on ptd. forms. 10½ x 8½.

Librarian's Records

90. [RECORD OF BOOKS LOANED], dated by month and day due. Approx. 200 cards in 1 f. b. Date due, accession number, and to whom loaned. Arr. alph. by name of borrower. No index. Hdw. and stamped. Cards, 6 x 4; f. b., 6½ x 5½ x 11½.

91. RECORD [of Magazines Loaned], dated by month and day due. 1 vol. Names of magazine and borrower, month and year of publication, date due, and number of magazines loaned. No obvious arr. No index. Hdw. 120 pp. 9½ x 6 x ¾.

92. [ACCESSION RECORD], 1892--. 2 vols. Book number, author, title, place of publication, source, cost, and date of accession. Arr. numer. by accession no. No index. Hdw. on ptd. forms. 140 pp. 14 x 9 x ¾.

93. [CARD CATALOGUE OF BOOKS], undated. Approx. 10,000 cards in 9 f. d. in cabinet (A-Z). Fiction cards show author, title, accession number, and date of publication; non-fiction show accession and classification numbers, author, title, remarks, and date of publication. Fiction cards arr. by author and title; non-fiction arr. by author, title, and classification. No index. Typed. Cards, 3 x 5; f. d., 3½ x 5½ x 13; cabinet, 18½ x 11½ x 13½.

XVIII. OVERSEER OF THE POOR

During the early years in Bedford, as in other New Hampshire towns, the care of the poor was let out to individuals.¹

In 1810 it was voted that the poor would be vendued to the lowest bidder for the ensuing year. However, at the same time, it was voted "To build a house for the poor of said Town", and a committee of three was to report at some future meeting "a plan of and place where to set said house."²

In 1812 a committee of four was chosen to assist the selectmen in the disposition of the poor for the year ensuing.³ There is no further reference to the care of the poor until 1822, when the town meeting chose a committee to arrive at the best method for the support of the poor. It was decided to support them in the same manner as in previous years.⁴ In 1827 James McK. Wilkins was elected to settle an account with the towns of Nottingham (Hudson) and New Salem (Meredith) for the support of paupers. A committee of three was appointed that same year "to ascertain on what terms a Farm can be purchased for the Poor of the Town and report at a

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1. For examples, see State's Copy, vol. 3, p. 388 (1781), p. 451 (1783), vol. 2, p. 20 (1790), p. 31 (1791), p. 195 (1795), p. 282 (1797).
 2. State's Copy, vol. 4, p. 141 (1810), see entry 6.
 3. Ibid., vol. 2, p. 224 (1812).
 4. Ibid., vol. 1, p. 103 (1822).

future meeting.¹ What the exact recommendation of this committee was is not known, but in 1828 the same committee was chosen "to purchase a farm or hire one for the poor and leave it discretionary with the committee for the present year to keep them together or separate."²

Evidence shows that the doctoring of the poor was vendued in some cases for in that same year (1828) "Doctoring of the poor [was] Struck off to Thomas Rundlett at Thirteen dollars & Seventy five cents."³ In 1831 it was voted that those who were supporting the poor would also have to furnish the doctoring for them.⁴ That same year, Joseph Colley, Isaac Riddle, and John McAllister were chosen a committee to oversee the poor during the ensuing year and to purchase a farm for their support if a suitable one could be found.⁵ It seems evident that the doctoring of the poor was still somewhat of a problem, for in 1832 it was voted "to sell the doctoring of the poor this year to Lowest [bidder] and sold same to Deet. John Wilson for thirty Dollars and fifty cents." He was to doctor "all that come chargeable to said Town."⁶

The next year the town voted 'not to buy a farm and not to raise a committee to see what a farm can be purchased for.'⁷ In 1835 a committee of three was chosen by the town "to purchase the poor farm and stock said farm and hire an agent to carry on said farm and hire the money on the credit of the town to pay for said farm." It was also voted that this farm should serve as a house of correction and that the bylaws should be drawn up by the selectmen.⁸ A farm known as the Daniel Moor Place was purchased for about \$2,400.⁹

In 1842 the selectmen were given the power to sell at their discretion the poor farm or any part of it.¹⁰ It is evident no action was taken by the selectmen, at this time, for a vote to sell the farm was passed 8 years later (1850).¹¹ Even then the deal was not put through, for in 1862 it was voted 'to give the selectmen power to sell and convey the poor farm, if in their opinion it is for the best interest of the town.' The farm was sold for \$5,000.¹²

Since the records do not show the election of overseers of the poor as such, it may be assumed that the poor were cared for by the selectmen or the various committees chosen from time to time. At the present time the chairman of the board of selectmen acts as the overseer of the poor.

For poor records, see entries 5 br-bv, 24-aq, 43-v, and 43 ab-ad.

XIX. HEALTH OFFICER

A board of health first appeared in 1897. From that year through 1908, except for 1901 and 1907, the records show that from one to three men were

1. State's Copy, vol. 1, pp. 400-402 (1827), see entry 6.
2. Ibid., p. 463 (1828).
3. Ibid., p. 465 (1828).
4. T. M. B., vol. 6, p. 7 (1831), see entry 5.
5. History of Bedford, p. 536.
6. T. M. B., vol. 6, p. 35 (1832), see entry 5.
7. History of Bedford, p. 537.
8. T. M. B., vol. 6, pp. 128, 134 (1835), see entry 5.
9. History of Bedford, p. 537.
10. T. M. B., vol. 6, p. 245 (1842), see entry 5.
11. Ibid., p. 390 (1850).
12. History of Bedford, p. 541.

Road Agent, Highway Agent,
Surveyor of Highways

annually appointed.¹ An act of 1915 stipulated that one health officer should be appointed by the State Board of Health, on the recommendation of the selectmen, for a 3-year term. This officer with the selectmen comprises the board of health for the town.²

A record is kept at the residence of Lyman M. Kinson, health officer.

94. [HEALTH AND HIGHWAY ACCOUNTS], 1915-16, 1922--.

3 vols. Prior records missing.

Health accounts, 1930--, showing date, health and sanitary inspections, sampling of water, quarantine service, amount charged for service, and total. Also contains:

a. Highway agents' accounts, 1915-16, 1922-32, entry 97.
Arr. chron. by date of entry. No index. Hdw. 1 vol., 1915-16, 1930-36, 100 pp. 10½ x 8½ x ½; 1 vol., 1922-32, 1936-38, 200 pp. 14½ x 10½ x ½; 1 vol., 1939--, 52 pp. 11½ x 7½ x ¼.

XX. ROAD AGENT, HIGHWAY AGENT, SURVEYOR OF HIGHWAYS

The annual election of from 6 to 32 surveyors of highways occurred from the time the extant town minutes begin through the year 1852.³ Although a fire destroyed the records from 1853 through 1884, it may be assumed that this office was active during the span.

From 1885 and continuing to date, with few exceptions, there is recorded the annual election or appointment of highway officials. The designation has varied from time to time—highway surveyor, highway agent, road surveyor, and road agent all being used. The latter title is the one used at present, and the number of agents currently elected annually is three.⁴

Committees of from one to three either to locate, lay out, view, or accept highways were elected as the occasions arose. In some instances, the selectmen acted as a part of the committee chosen.⁵

Records are at the residences of Ralph M. Wiggin, Ernest K. Wheeler, and Richard Ramig, road agents.

95. WEEKLY TIME BOOK, 1924--. 25 vols. Prior records missing. Title varies slightly.

Date, name of laborer, hours worked daily, rate of pay, total hours worked per week, total wage per week, and kind of work performed. Arr. chron. by date of entry. No index. Hdw. on ptd. heads. 17 vols., 1924--, 375 pp.

1. [Record of Appointments and Oaths of Town Officers], March 29, 1897, et passim 1898-1908, see entry 18.
2. New Hampshire Laws of 1915, ch. 27; Public Laws of New Hampshire, ch. 126, sec. 3 (1926).
3. [Minutes of Town Meetings], March 27, 1765, March 26, 1766, see entry 4; State's Copy, vol. 3, p. 4 (1770), et passim 1771-1831, see entry 6; T. M. B., 1832-1852, passim, see entry 5.
4. T. M. B., vol. 8, p. 17 (1885), et passim 1886--., see entry 5.
5. State's Copy, vol. 3, p. 236 (1779), p. 432 (1782); vol. 2, p. 161 (1794), p. 281 (1798); vol. 4, p. 31 (1807), p. 224 (1812), p. 429 (1817); vol. 1, p. 14 (1820), p. 148 (1823), p. 294 (1825), p. 402 (1827), see entry 6.

7 $\frac{3}{4}$ x 5 $\frac{1}{4}$ x 1; 1 vol., 1940-- , 35 pp. 7 x 4 x $\frac{1}{4}$; 3 vols., 1936-37, 25 pp. 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ x 4 x $\frac{1}{4}$; 4 vols., 1938-- , 106 pp. 7 x 4 $\frac{1}{4}$ x $\frac{1}{2}$. 17 vols., 1924-- , res. Ernest K. Wheeler; 7 vols., 1936-- , res. Ralph M. Wiggin; 1 vol., 1940-- , res. Richard Ramig.

96. [Duplicates of] PAYROLLS, 1937-38. 80 papers in 1 bdl. Prior records destroyed. Subsequent records not kept.

Date, names of town and workers, kind and location of labor performed, hours worked per day, total hours for week, rate per hour, amount due each worker, total payroll, and signature of road agent. Arr. chron. by date of payroll. No index. Hdw. carbon duplicates. 9 x 6 x 1 $\frac{1}{2}$. Res. Ernest K. Wheeler.

97. [HIGHWAY AGENT'S ACCOUNTS], 1915-16, 1922-32.

In [Health and Highway Accounts], entry 94.

Date, names of workers, amount paid each, kind of labor, cost of materials, and total amount for labor and materials.

XXI. POLICE, CONSTABLES

For 28 years after the incorporation of Bedford, one constable was elected annually. The first was Fergus Kennedy elected in 1750. In 1779 there began the custom--which prevailed for a number of years--of electing two constables annually. The two chosen in 1779 were Thomas McLaughlin and John Aiken.¹ Constables served as collectors at various times. At the town meeting of May 24, 1797 the fourth article was as follows: "To see if the Town will vote that the selectmen shall call upon all back Constables & Collectors for A final settlement up to the year ninety-six."² In 1799 appeared the tax collector as a separate functionary.³ The office of constable, minus the duties of collector, continued as late as 1934.⁴ Two dog constables were appointed in 1905 and a dog officer in 1931.⁵

Police appeared in Bedford by 1850. Seven officers were appointed that year and the same number the following year; five were appointed in 1852.⁶ Fire destroyed the town minutes from 1853-1884, but the 1885 minutes record the appointment of three police officers.⁷ At the present time two police officers are annually elected.

Project workers were refused permission to survey police records.

1. History of Bedford, p. 789.
2. State's Copy, vol. 2, pp. 284, 285 (1797), see entry 6.
3. History of Bedford, p. 794.
4. State's Copy, 1800-1831, passim, see entry 6; T. M. B., 1832-1852, 1885-1934, passim, see entry 5.
5. [Record of Appointments and Oaths of Town Officers], June 3, 1905, June 22, 1931, see entry 18.
6. T. M. B., vol. 6, p. 384 (1850), p. 406 (1851), p. 428 (1852), see entry 5.
7. Ibid., vol. 8, pp. 25, 26, 28 (1885).

Municipal Court; Town Agent
(Legal Agent)

(98, 99)

XXII. MUNICIPAL COURT

The justice of the municipal court is appointed by the Governor and Council.¹ His term is until 70 years of age.² The clerk is appointed by the justice, with a term subject to the latter's pleasure.³ The Bedford Municipal Court was established in 1928. The first case was heard in May of that year.⁴

Records are kept at the residence of Mrs. Martha F. Wiggin, clerk of court; and at the selectmen's office, town hall.

98. LEDGER [Docket], 1928--. 2 vols.

Docket of municipal court showing date; names of plaintiff, defendant, counsel, complainant, and arresting officer; offense; plea; amount of fine and costs; final disposition of case; and signature of justice or clerk of court. Arr. chron. by date of entry. Indexed alph. by name of defendant and thereunder numer. by docket no. Hdw. 175 pp. 10½ x 8½ x ¾. Res. Mrs. Martha F. Wiggin.

99. COMPLAINTS AND WARRANTS, May 5, 1928--. Approx.

880 papers in 4 bdl., 1 f. b.

Complaints show date, names and addresses of complainant and defendant, complaint in detail, signature of complainant, and jurat; warrants show date, names and addresses of complainant and defendant, name of justice, order of arrest, names of witnesses, and signatures of justice and officer; return of warrants shows date, name of officer, plea, disposition, fine, costs, sentence, and amount of surety. Arr. chron. by date of issue and thereunder numer. by number of complaint. No index. Hdw. on ptd. forms. 4 bdl., 8½ x 6 x 4; 1 f. b., 5 x 6 x 15. 3 bdl., 1930-1939, 1 f. b., 1939--., res. Mrs. Martha F. Wiggin; 1 bdl., 1928-1930, sel. off.

XXIII. TOWN AGENT (LEGAL AGENT)

During 1784-1803, from one to three men were elected periodically to serve as committees to defend the town in legal actions.⁵ At the town meeting held November 7, 1829, the town elected two agents to defend it in a "suit now pending at the court of Common pleas."⁶ A general agent to settle suits was elected in 1832 and one appointed in 1833. In 1834 the selectmen were chosen to act as town agents and from 1836 through 1843, from one to three of these officials were elected as the need required them.⁷ No subsequent mention of this office appeared.

No records kept by town agents have been found.

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1. Public Laws of New Hampshire, ch. 323, sec. 1 (1926).
 2. New Hampshire Constitution, art. 77 (78).
 3. Public Laws of New Hampshire, ch. 323, secs. 7, 11 (1926).
 4. Statement of Martha F. Wiggin, clerk of court.
 5. State's Copy, vol. 3, p. 508 (1784), et passim 1785-1803, see entry 6.
 6. Ibid., vol. 1, p. 562 (1829).
 7. T. E. B., vol. 6, p. 35 (1832), p. 65 (1833), p. 96 (1834), p. 138 (1836), p. 199 (1839), p. 207 (1840), p. 254 (1843), see entry 5.

Liquor Enforcement Officer;
Fire Department, Firewards

(100)

XXIV. LIQUOR ENFORCEMENT OFFICER

From 1926 to 1930 one person was elected annually to serve as liquor enforcement officer.¹ In 1932 a prohibition enforcement officer was appointed.²

Enforcement officers kept no records. For liquor and tavern licenses, 1793-1846, see entry 5-au.

XXV. FIRE DEPARTMENT, FIREWARDS

In 1827 the town voted "to have a Fire ward in each school District * * *." From that year through 1852, except for 1828, the records show the annual election of from 1 to 12 of these officers.³ The minutes covering the years 1853-1884 were destroyed by fire and it cannot be ascertained how long the office remained active, but no record appeared subsequent to the latter date.

On June 23, 1922, the Bedford Volunteer Fire Department was organized⁴ and in the same year, a chemical fire engine was purchased by the town.⁵ The following year the town voted \$550 for a fire signal.⁶ In 1928 a vote was passed to provide a suitable place in the basement of the town hall to house the fire engine.⁷ It is apparent, however, that an engine house was erected about that time with lumber given by Mrs. Charlotte Woodbury, for which the town at a meeting the following year, extended thanks to her.⁸ In 1930, a committee was appointed to select fire apparatus and it was voted to install two hydrants.⁹ The next year a vote was passed to purchase 500 feet of fire hose, and the following year it was voted to purchase 750 additional feet.¹⁰

At the present time the Bedford Volunteer Fire Department annually elects a chief, deputy chief, clerk, treasurer, and steward. Each company has a captain and lieutenant.

Records are kept at the residences of Charles F. Shepard, clerk, and Frank H. Barnard, treasurer.

100. [Record of Meetings of] BEDFORD VOLUNTEER FIRE
DEPARTMENT. June 23, 1922--. 1 vol. Organized
June 23, 1922.

Records of meetings of fire department showing date, time, and place of meeting; votes taken; articles discussed; officers elected; names of members;

1. T. M. B., vol. 8, p. 501 (1926), et passim 1927-1930, see entry 5.
2. [Record of Appointments and Oaths of Town Officers], March 28, 1932, see entry 18.
3. State's Copy, vol. 1, pp. 407, 408 (1827), et passim 1828-1831, see entry 6; T. M. B., 1832-1852, passim, see entry 5.
4. [Record of Meetings of] Bedford Volunteer Fire Department, pp. not numbered, see entry 100.
5. T. M. B., vol. 8, p. 444 (1922), see entry 5.
6. Ibid., p. 458 (1923).
7. Ibid., p. 537 (1928).
8. Ibid., p. 549 (1929).
9. Ibid., p. 560 (1930).
10. Ibid., p. 578 (1931), p. 593 (1932), see entry 5.

Forest Fire Warden; Weigher
of Hay; Sealer of Weights
and Measures

(101, 102)

and record of attendance. Also receipts showing date, from whom, source, and amount; payments showing date, to whom, purpose, and amount; and signature of clerk. Arr. chron. by date of entry. No index. Hdw. 100 pp. 10 x 8 x $\frac{1}{2}$. Res. Charles F. Shepard.

101. [PAID BILLS], 1928--. Approx. 500 papers in 1 portfolio. Prior papers missing.

Date, name and address of vendor, article or service rendered, unit price, total amount, and signature of vendor. Arr. chron. by date of bill. No index. Hdw. and typed. 11 x 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 1 $\frac{1}{2}$. Res. Frank H. Barnard.

XXVI. FOREST FIRE WARDEN

Bedford has a forest fire warden appointed by the State Forester on the recommendation of the selectmen for a 1-year term or until his successor is appointed.¹ The office of forest fire warden was created by an act of 1909.² One record is kept at the residence of Ernest K. Wheeler.

102. [Copy of] PERMIT TO KINDLE FIRE, Jan. 1941--. 1 vol. 1937 in [Miscellaneous Documents], entry 43-m.

Name and address of permittee; place, date, and kind and extent of fire; synopsis of law; signatures of permittee and forest fire warden; name of town; and date issued. Arr. chron. by date of issue. No index. Hdw. on ptd. forms. 50 pp. 6 x 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ x $\frac{1}{4}$.

XXVII. WEIGHER OF HAY

Although there is no mention of a town weigher in Bedford, the records show the election of from one to three weighers of hay from 1825 to 1852, with the exception of 1830.³ The records from 1853 to 1884 were destroyed by fire, and the activities of this office cannot be ascertained, but from 1885 to 1889, except 1888, the records show the annual election of either two or three such officers.⁴

No records were found.

XXVIII. SEALER OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

A sealer of weights and measures appeared frequently from 1774-1852; it was combined with the clerk of the market in 1775.⁵ The records covering the period between 1853 and 1884 were destroyed by fire, so it cannot be

1. See Public Laws of New Hampshire, ch. 191 (1926).
2. New Hampshire Laws of 1909, ch. 128.
3. State's Copy, vol. 1, p. 296 (1825), et passim 1826-1831, see entry 6; T. M. B., 1832-1852, passim, see entry 5.
4. T. M. B., 1885-1889, passim, see entry 5.
5. State's Copy, vol. 3, p. 97 (1774), et passim 1775-1831, see entry 6; T. M. B., 1832-1852, passim, see entry 5.

Sealers of Leather; Lumber
Officers

(Next entry App. 1, p. 76)

ascertained how long this office remained active as no further mention appears after the resumption of the records.

No records were found. For vendue of town weights and measures, 1806, see entry 5-dh.

XXIX. SEALERS OF LEATHER

A sealer of leather appeared in 1765—in which year the extant minutes begin—and for many of the succeeding years through 1829, the designation in 1771 being specifically searcher and sealer of leather. During this span, from one to three sealers were elected annually.¹

The office of sealer of leather appeared again in 1845 and 1846 when one and two were elected respectively for those years. Four men were also chosen in 1845 to act as measurers of leather and in 1848 a weigher of leather was inducted into office by election.²

No records were found.

XXX. LUMBER OFFICERS

Lumber officers are recorded with fair regularity from 1765 through 1923, although the designation varied according to the duties involved.

Two surveyors of lumber were elected in 1765 and 1766.³ From 1770 through 1852 from three to 20 surveyors of lumber were elected annually.⁴ The records from 1853-1884 were destroyed by fire, but it is reasonable to assume that lumber officers functioned during those years.

From 1885 through 1887, either five or seven surveyors of lumber and measurers of wood were elected annually.⁵ In 1889, seven surveyors of wood and lumber were elected,⁶ and from 1890-1923, with some exceptions, from one to five were appointed. In 1902, the designation was surveyor of wood, hay, and lumber, one being appointed for that year.⁷

A culler of staves appeared in 1770 but no further mention of this office occurred until, beginning in 1819 and continuing, with some exceptions, through 1852, from 1 to 6 were elected annually.⁸ From 1 to 24 corders of wood were elected annually, with few exceptions, from 1804 through 1852.⁹

From 2 to 5 measurers of bark were elected each year from 1844-1852, and in 1851 and 1852, a culler of hoops and hoop poles was also elected for

1. [Minutes of Town Meetings], March 27, 1765, March 26, 1766, see entry 4; State's Copy, vol. 3, p. 4 (1770), et passim 1771-1829, see entry 6.
2. T. M. B., vol. 6, p. 285 (1845), p. 302 (1846), p. 337 (1848), see entry 5.
3. [Minutes of Town Meetings], March 27, 1765, March 26, 1766, see entry 4.
4. State's Copy, vol. 3, p. 4 (1770), et passim 1771-1831, see entry 6; T. M. B., 1832-1852, passim, see entry 5.
5. T. M. B., 1885-1887, passim, see entry 5.
6. T. M. B., vol. 8, p. 65 (1889).
7. [Record of Appointments and Oaths of Town Officers], Jan. 21, 1890, et passim 1891-1923, see entry 18.
8. State's Copy, vol. 3, p. 4 (1770), vol. 4, p. 512 (1819), et passim 1820-1831, see entry 6; T. M. B., 1832-1852, passim, see entry 5.
9. State's Copy, vol. 2, p. 535 (1804), et passim 1805-1831, see entry 6; T. M. B., 1832-1852, passim, see entry 5.

Poundkeeper; Hogreeves, Hawards,
Field Drivers

(Next entry App. 1, p. 76)

each of those years.¹
No records were found.

XXXI. POUNDKEEPER

Bedford, like many other New Hampshire towns, was confronted early with the problem of caring for its stray animals. The first pound was apparently erected in 1750. It was built of logs and was located near the house of Samuel Patton, on the second piece of land which had been cleared in the town.²

On April 28, 1786, James Wallace, John Riddle, and John Houston, Jr. were chosen as a committee to erect a new pound of stone "at the Southwest Corner of the Meeting house lott as it is now form'd." It was to be 32 feet square and 7 feet high.³

The last account of a pound being built in the town was in 1810 when a vote was passed for a committee to "Agree on Pound." The selectmen were chosen as a committee to decide on a site for the pound and to vendue the building of it.⁴

A poundkeeper was probably elected as soon as the first pound was built, but due to the loss of the early records, it can only be said with certainty that a poundkeeper was elected by 1766.⁵ The office continued, with some exceptions, at least through 1852, the incumbent being elected annually.⁶ There is no record of the election of a poundkeeper after the minutes resume following the 1853-1884 gap.

A State law passed July 14, 1877, stated: "Any town in this state, at any meeting duly called for that purpose, may vote not to maintain a public pound in said town and to dispose of any land held by them for that purpose."⁷

From the town history it is learned that Bedford, at the annual meeting of 1879, voted not to maintain a pound.⁸ The remains of the Bedford pound are scarcely recognizable. Many of the stones have fallen out of place and trees and bushes have grown up in the enclosure. The location is north of the foundation of the old Damon's Mill, west of Damon's Brook, near North Amherst Road.

No records were found.

XXXII. HOGREEVES, HAWARDS, FIELD DRIVERS

The earliest preserved Bedford minutes show the election of 4 hogreeves.

1. T. M. B., vol. 6, p. 280 (1844), et passim 1845-1852, see entry 5.
2. History of Bedford, p. 256.
3. State's Copy, vol. 3, p. 568 (1786), see entry 6; History of Bedford, p. 256.
4. State's Copy, vol. 4, p. 142 (1810), see entry 6; History of Bedford, p. 256.
5. [Minutes of Town Meetings], March 26, 1766, see entry 4.
6. State's Copy, vol. 3, p. 5 (1770), et passim 1771-1831, see entry 6; T. M. B., 1832-1852, passim, see entry 5.
7. New Hampshire Laws of 1877, ch. 40, sec. 1.
8. History of Bedford, p. 257.

Fish Wards, Fish and Game
Warden; Deer Keeper;
Fence Viewers

This was in 1765.¹ Four were elected the following year.² From 1773 through 1852, from one to 17 of these officials were elected yearly except for 1775.³ Fire destroyed the town minutes 1853-1884, but from 1885-1889 the records show the election of from 2 to 5 hogreeves for each year except 1888.⁴

Two field drivers were elected in 1765 and in 1766.⁵ Three hawards and one field driver were elected in 1770; in 1771 two hawards and two field drivers were elected; in 1772 three hawards were elected, and, in 1775, four hawards.⁶

They kept no records.

XXXIII. FISH WARDS, FISH AND GAME WARDEN

In 1791, four men were elected as "fish reafs." Beginning in 1792 and continuing through 1842, the minutes show, with few exceptions, the annual election of from one to nine fish wards.⁷ A fish and game warden was elected annually 1885-1899, except for 1891.⁸

No records were found.

XXXIV. DEER KEEPER

The only record of a deer keeper appeared in 1772 and 1773 when two were elected each year, and in 1775 when one received office by election.⁹ No deer keeper's records have been found.

XXXV. FENCE VIEWERS

The selectmen acted as fence viewers and "Apprizers of Damages" (damage to fences and property by domestic animals) in 1765 and 1766.¹⁰ The early minutes, except for the aforementioned years, are missing; but the same office reappeared from 1770-1775.¹¹ Subsequent to the latter year

1. [Minutes of Town Meetings], March 27, 1765, see entry 4.
2. Ibid., March 26, 1766.
3. State's Copy, 1773-1831, passim, see entry 6; T. M. B., 1832-1852, passim, see entry 5.
4. T. M. B., 1885-1889, passim, see entry 5.
5. [Minutes of Town Meetings], March 27, 1765, March 26, 1766, see entry 4.
6. State's Copy, vol. 3, p. 4 (1770), et passim 1771-1775, see entry 6.
7. Ibid., vol. 2, p. 46 (1791), et passim 1792-1831, see entry 6; T. M. B., 1832-1842, passim, see entry 5.
8. T. M. B., vol. 8, p. 17 (1885), et passim 1886-1899, see entry 5.
9. State's Copy, vol. 3, p. 51 (1772), p. 90 (1773), p. 131 (1775), see entry 6.
10. [Minutes of Town Meetings], March 27, 1765, March 26, 1766, see entry 4.
11. State's Copy, vol. 3, p. 3 (1770), et passim 1771-1775, see entry 6.

Clerk of the Market; Sexton,
Caretaker of Meeting-
House; Tythingmen

(Next entry App. 1, p. 76)

the office did not reappear until 1798. From that year through 1848, with some exceptions, from two to four fence viewers were elected annually. In some of the years during this span the selectmen acted in that capacity.¹ The only additional mention of this office appeared in 1892 when three viewers were appointed and in 1924 when one received office by appointment.² They kept no records. For fence divisions and agreements, see entries 5-y, 24-s.

XXXVI. CLERK OF THE MARKET

The earliest existing town minutes (1765) show the election of a clerk of the market.³ The election was repeated in 1766.⁴ The office reappeared with the beginning of the recorded minutes in 1770, and appeared periodically through 1797; in 1775 it was combined with the sealer of weights and measures.⁵ The office disappeared subsequent to 1797.

No records were found.

XXXVII. SEXTON, CARETAKER OF MEETING-HOUSE

In 1811 the office of "Caretaker of Meeting House" was bid off,⁶ and in 1812 a sexton was elected.⁷ No further record of such an office is found until 1900 when two sextons were appointed, and in 1914 when one was appointed.⁸ This office apparently disappeared subsequent to the latter year.

No records were found.

XXXVIII. TYTHINGMEN

The earliest surviving original town minutes (1765) show the election of 2 tythingmen; 2 were also elected in 1766.⁹ The earliest surviving recorded town minutes (1770) show the election of 2 of these officials.¹⁰ Thenceforth through 1846 from 2 to 7 were elected annually except in 1815 when 11 were elected.¹¹ Mention of this office ceases after 1846.

No records were found.

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1. State's Copy, vol. 2, p. 318 (1798), et passim 1799-1831, see entry 6; T. M. B., 1832-1848, passim, see entry 5.
 2. [Record of Appointments and Oaths of Town Officers], April 30, 1892, May 2, 1924, see entry 18.
 3. [Minutes of Town Meetings], March 27, 1765, see entry 4.
 4. Ibid., March 26, 1766.
 5. State's Copy, vol. 3, p. 4 (1770), et passim 1771-1797, see entry 6.
 6. Ibid., vol. 4, p. 184 (1811).
 7. Ibid., p. 225 (1812).
 8. [Record of Appointments and Oaths of Town Officers], November 6, 1900, May 28, 1914, see entry 18.
 9. [Minutes of Town Meetings], March 27, 1765, March 26, 1766, see entry 4.
 10. State's Copy, vol. 3, p. 4 (1770), see entry 6.
 11. Ibid., 1771-1831, passim; T. M. B., 1832-1846, passim, see entry 5.

Appendix - Bedford Grenadiers;
Deeds; Plans and Maps

(1-7)

APPENDIX

Bedford Grenadiers

1. ROLL OF THE COMPANY OF BEDFORD GRENADIERS 1820 KEPT
BY DANIEL GORDON ORDⁿ SERGT., 1820. 1 paper.

List of Bedford Grenadiers showing date, names of members with official designation of each, and dates of absence. Hdw. 12 x 9½. Res. Mrs. Gordon Woodbury.

Deeds

2. [Copy of] MORTGAGE DEED, 1800. 1 deed.
Mortgage deed by town of Bedford showing date; names of State, county, town, mortgagor, and mortgagee; description of property; and consideration involved. Hdw. 12 x 7. Res. Mrs. Gordon Woodbury.
3. DEED [from John Stark to George Wheeler of Derryfield],
June 21, 1763. 1 deed.
Deed for a tract of land in Starkstown (Dunbarton) showing date; names of Province, grantor, and grantee; description of land; metes and bounds; consideration involved; signatures of grantor and witnesses; and jurat. Hdw. on ptd. form. 13 x 8½. Res. Mrs. Gordon Woodbury.

Plans and Maps

4. 12 FT. ARCH CULVERT OVER BOWMAN BROOK AT THE CENTER
BEDFORD ROAD, Mar. 1900. 1 plan.
Plan shows end elevation, transverse section, and longitudinal sections of culvert. Architect, Samuel J. Lord, C. E., Manchester, N. H. Black and White. Scale, 1" : 2'. 39½ x 27½. Sel. off.
5. PLAN AND PROFILE OF PROPOSED FEDERAL AID PROJECT NO.
239-B-DANIEL WEBSTER HIGHWAY—TOWN OF BEDFORD—HILLS-
BOROUGH COUNTY, 1929. 13 plans.
Physical plans showing location of road; type of construction; grade lines; and location of culverts, catch basins, and guard rails. State Highway Department, Concord. Blueprints. Scale, varied. 36 x 22½. Sel. off.
6. STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE—STATE AID ROAD IN TOWN OF BEDFORD,
1912. 2 plans.
Physical plans showing name of road, boundaries, location of fences, walls, and proposed changes. Draftsman not given. Blueprints. Scale, varied. 28 x 17½. Sel. off.
7. SURVEYOR'S PLAN OF LOTS, 1738. 2 plans.
Date, location and number of lot, division number, metes and bounds, scale (rods per inch), and signature of surveyor (Stephen Hosmer, Jr.). Hdw. and hand drawn. 7½ x 6, 7½ x 4. Res. Mrs. Gordon Woodbury.

Appendix - Levi Woodbury
Papers

(8-15)

8. TOWN HALL FOR BEDFORD, N. H., July 5, 1909.
15 plans.

Plans for new town hall. C. R. Whiteher, Architect, Manchester, New Hampshire. Blueprints. Scale, not given. 29 x 22½. Sel. off.

9. PLAN OF LAND IN BEDFORD N. H. BELONGING TO MOORE'S
FALLS CORP., 1923. 1 map.

Physical map showing lots of land and name of river. Draftsman, Henry W. Allen. Blueprint. 18½ x 18½. Sel. off.

10. WHITE PINE BLISTER RUST CONTROL-TOWN OF BEDFORD,
1927, 1928, 1930. 1 map.

Distribution map showing areas covered by white pine blister rust control. Colored. No scale. 30 x 24. Sel. off.

11. MAP OF BEDFORD N. H., Mar., 1939. 4 maps.

Physical maps showing boundary lines, roads, railroads, discontinued roads, schoolhouses, and dwellings. Artist, A. A. Eastman. Publisher, Eugene Dietzgen Co. Place of publication, New York, etc. Colored and blueprints. Scale, 1" : 660', or 8" : 1 mile. 78 x 53. Sel. off.

12. MAP OF THE TOWN OF BEDFORD, undated. 1 map.

Physical map showing town boundaries. Blueprint. Scale, 1" : 1 mile. 15 x 9½. Sel. off.

13. DONALD HEIGHTS, BEDFORD, N. H., May 1920. 1 map.

Physical map showing location and number of lots, streets and avenues, and lots owned by Chapman Land Co., Portland, Maine. Draftsman, E. N. Sheffield, C. E., Nashua, N. H. Blueprint. Scale, 1" : 160'. 11 x 5½. Sel. off.

14. WORTHLEY PLAT--BEDFORD, N. H., May 1917. 1 map.

Physical map showing size and number of lots, location and names of streets, and lots owned by the American Land Co., Providence, Rhode Island. Draftsman, C. A. Thayer, Eng., Providence. Blueprint. Scale, 1" : 50'. 28 x 17. Sel. off.

Levi Woodbury Papers

15. LEVI WOODBURY PAPERS, scattered dates 1813-1851.
41 letters.

Correspondence of Levi Woodbury, Governor of New Hampshire, 1823, United States Senator, Justice of State and United States Supreme Courts, and Secretary of the Navy and Treasury. Unofficial correspondence covering such subjects as Woodbury family genealogy, land conveyances, public appearances, personal inquiries, recommendations, public affairs, and historical matters. Aver. 4 pp. 8 x 10. N. H. H. S.

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History of Bedford New Hampshire From 1737 Being Statistics Compiled on the Occasion of the One Hundred and Fiftieth Anniversary of the Incorporation of the Town, May 15, 1900, Concord, 1903. This 1903 edition was preceded by an edition issued in 1851 inspired by the Centennial Celebration 1850.

Lindsay, Reverend W. C., "A Brief Sketch of Bedford", Granite Monthly, January, 1898.

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