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INVENTORY OF TOWN AND CITY ARCHIVES OF MASSACHUSETTS

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No. 14. Worcester County
VOL. II. ATHOL

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THE HISTORICAL RECORDS SURVEY
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS
1941

INVENTORY OF CITY AND TOWN ARCHIVES

OF MASSACHUSETTS

No. 14 Worcester County

Vol. II Athol

Prepared by
The Historical Records Survey
Division of Community Service Programs
Work Projects Administration

* * * * *

The Historical Records Survey
Boston, Massachusetts
1941

The Historical Records Survey Program

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SPONSOR OF THE HISTORICAL RECORDS SURVEY PROJECT IN MASSACHUSETTS

Frederic W. Cook,	Secretary of the Commonwealth

PREFACE

By authority of a Presidential Letter, the Historical Records Survey was established in January, 1936, under the national direction of Dr. Luther H. Evans, as a federally sponsored project of the Work Projects Administration. Since August 31, 1939, the sponsorship of the Massachusetts unit of the survey has been undertaken by Frederic W. Cook, Secretary of the Commonwealth. Since March, 1940 the individual state projects of the Historical Records Survey have been under the national direction of Sargent B. Child, who, as field representative of Dr. Evans, had had technical supervision of the work of the survey in New England from its inception. The present writer has been in direct charge of the project in Massachusetts from August 1936 to September 1940 when he was succeeded by Aron S. Gilmartin.

The purpose of the project is to survey, preserve and render accessible historical source materials of all kinds. Its work has fallen naturally into the following main divisions: public records, private manuscripts, church records, early American imprints, historical portraits and newspapers. Practically all historical material falls under one or another of these divisions. In bringing this material under control certain techniques have been found practicable, depending on the nature of the subject matter, and using variously the methods of the inventory, the guide, the calendar, the check list or the index in the publication of the result. For public records, church records and portraits, the method of the inventory has worked best; for historical manuscripts, the guide or, in rare cases where the material was of unusual importance, the calendar; for imprints, the check list; for newspaper and court records, the index; and so on.

The actual work of gathering information concerning historical materials at their place of storage or custody has in most cases been preceded by a most necessary and, for both the custodian and posterity, important task, that of putting records in order; of cleaning, dusting, refiling, and treating them; and, in short, doing everything possible to ensure their preservation. This function of the project, often performed by its workers under almost indescribable conditions of dust, filth, dampness, poor ventilation, and even vermin may well be regarded by future generations as a most important contribution of the survey.

Scarcely less important, however, are the editorial processes to which all field information must be subjected before publication. Here gaps and inadequacies are spotted, inconsistencies reconciled, and order brought out of chaos. In the field of public records it has been found necessary not only to sketch briefly the history of the county or town and its government but also to preface the inventory of each subordinate office or institution with an outline of its development, based upon its own records or upon statutory or other sources. In the inventories of

church records, similarly, the preparation of the history of each church constitutes a task equally arduous with that of locating and listing its records. In Massachusetts two broader works have also been undertaken. The general historical background, statutory origin and functioning of county, city, or town offices have been studied with a view to providing satisfactory accounts of the development of county and municipal government generally. These latter undertakings are now happily nearing completion.

The inventory of the town archives of Athol is the second in the series of such inventories covering the towns of Worcester County. A full list of publications of the survey to date appears after the index at the end of this book.

The Survey is indebted to the town officials of Athol for their cooperation and to the Secretary of the Commonwealth, Frederic W. Cook, without whose sponsorship this project would not be possible.

Aron S. Gilmartin
State Supervisor of Historical
Records Survey

FOREWORD

The Inventory of the Town and City Archives of Massachusetts is one of a number of bibliographies of historical materials prepared throughout the United States by workers on the Historical Records Survey of the Work Projects Administration. The publication herewith presented, an inventory of the Archives of Athol in Worcester County, is volume II of number 14 of the Massachusetts series.

The Historical Records Survey 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 day-to-day administration by town officials, and also the needs of lawyers, business men 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 catalogue for printed sources.

The inventories produced by the Historical Records Survey 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 city inventories for the entire country will, when completed, constitute an encyclopedia of local government as well as bibliography of local archives.

The successful conclusion of the work of the Historical Records Survey, 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 directed by Luther H. Evans from its inception in January 1936 to March 1, 1940 when he was succeeded by Sargent B. Child formerly National Field Supervisor. It operates as a nation-wide project in the Division of Professional and Service Projects, of which Mrs. Florence Kerr, Assistant Commissioner, is in charge.

Howard O. Hunter
Acting Commissioner of Work
Projects Administration

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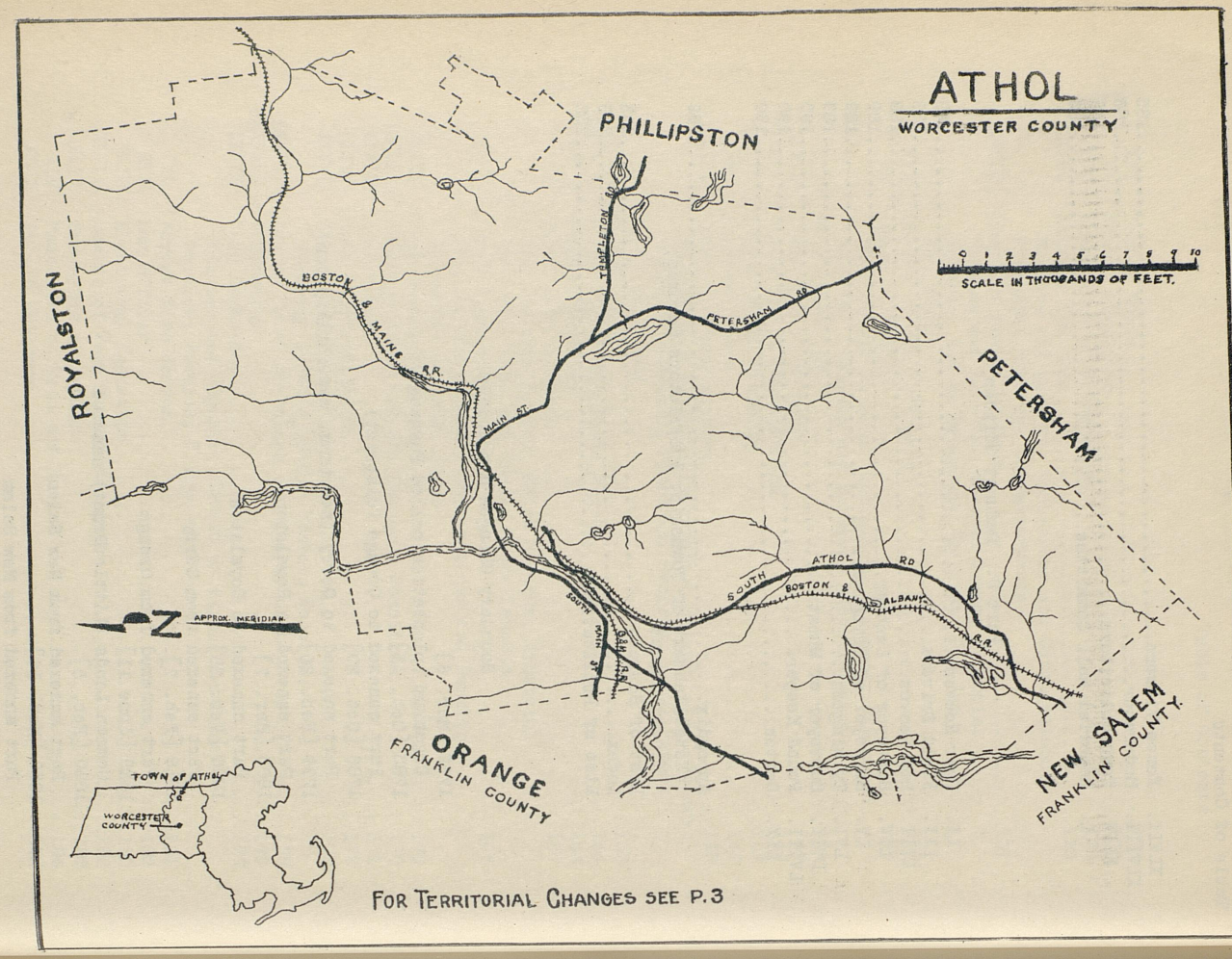
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Part annexed to Orange (district)
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1799 [Feb. 26]
Part annexed to Royalston
1803 [Mar. 7]
Part annexed to Royalston
1806 [Feb. 28]
Part annexed from Gerry
1816 [Feb. 7]
Part annexed from Orange
1829 [June 11]
Common Lands (Little Grant) annexed
1830 [Feb. 5]
Part annexed from New Salem
1837 [Mar. 16]
Part annexed from New Salem



FOR TERRITORIAL CHANGES SEE P.3

6, 17
April
the

PART A ATHOL AND ITS RECORDS SYSTEM

Historical Sketch

Athol, in northwestern Worcester County, was incorporated on March 6, 1762, but the history of the town and plantation properly begin on April 20, 1733, when the General Court adopted a resolve which authorized the laying out of four new grants, as follows:

> In answer to that part of His Excellency's Speech which relates to the ungranted Lands of the Province Upon Consideration yt (that) Power Is given the General Assembly to Grant Lands especially for the Planting or Settling of the province, & that by the Great Increase of His Majesty's good Subjects, many that are inclined to Industry have not been able to obtain Lands for the Employment of themselves, & Families, & great numbers have removed to Neighboring Colonies for their Accomdation.
>
> Voted that there be four Towns opened of the Contents of Six Miles square Each Viz. One at Paquoiag on Miller's River, Two on Ashuwelet River above Northfield, the other in the Eastern Country at the Head of Berwich; all to be surveyed in October or November next at furthest by the Direction of Commtees to be appointed by the General Court & their Surveys to be Reported at the Fall Session & the Charge of the Commtee & Survey to be paid out of the publick Treasury yt (that) Commtees be appointed to admit Settlers & to lay out the House Lots so that ye Settlements may be made in a Defensible manner, & to direct in the drawing thereof, but not to lay out any other Divisions without further Directions from this Court, Each Home Lot to consist of so many Acres as the Court shall Order After Report is made of the Quality & other Circumstances of the Land, the Commtees to be paid as the Court shall Order, that there be sixty three House Lots laid out in Each Township, One for the first Settled Minister, One for the Ministry, one for the School & one for Each of the Sixty Settlers who shall Settle thereon in his own person or by one of his Children, The rest of the Land to be allotted or Divided equally into Sixty three Parts; That one Year be allowed from the Survey for the Admission of Settlers, And that the Comtee be directed to Demand & receive from each Settler at his admission Five pounds part of which shall be employed for reimbursing the Province the Money to be advanced for paying the Committee & the Charge of the Survey, the remaining part to be employed for building Houses for publick Worship or other wise as the General Court shall Order, That each Settler actually live on his Lands within three Years from his Admission, build an House on his Land of eighteen feet square & Seven feet Stud at the least, & within the same time do sufficiently fence in & till or fit for mowing Eight Acres of Land, Each Settler to have his Land on Condition that he Perform the foregoing injunctions, & in Case any Settler fail of performance in the whole or in part, his Right shall be forfeited

& such Land shall revert to the province & the Commtee to be appointed to Admit Settlers are directed at the Time of admission to take a Bond of Twenty pounds of each Settler to be paid to them or their Successors for the Use & Benefit of the Settlers in Case he fail of performing the several Conditions & Injunctions before mentioned, & that the Settlers in each Town to be obliged to build a sutable meeting house & to settle a learned orthodox Minister in such Town within the space of five years from the Admission of the Settlers.[1]

Of these four proposed townships or plantations, the first mentioned in the resolve was the Paquoiag Plantation,[2] which later became the town of Athol. On the same day the resolve was passed the General Court appointed a committee to lay out "the three New Towns in the Western Frontiers," including Paquoiag.[3] In October of that year, this committee having taken no action, a new committee was appointed by the court with instructions to lay out a township at Paquoiag and, if possible, two, but at least one, at Ashuelot.[4]

The next step was taken in November, when the court appointed a committee "to admit such persons as they shall think proper to bring forward the Settlement of the new Towns lately granted at Ashulot & paquoiag."[5] The following February 14the (1733/4) the court adopted an order accepting the plat of 23,060 acres of land "in the County of Hampshire . . . Situate Southeast from Northfield, Including the Land of Paquoiag," and giving its bounds in detail.[6] A second plat "of the New Town at Paquoiag Shewing the Homelotts laid out there" was accepted by the court on June 19th.[7]

The same day the court ordered that

Whereas the committee have notified all persons that are desirous to take up Lotts upon the Terms and Conditions that this

---

1. Province Acts and Resolves, XI (1726-1733), ch. 125, pp. 701-702. For the original ms. of this act, see entry 391.

2. The most common early spelling was "Paquoiag", which has been retained here. The proprietors' records, however, spell the name "Pequoiag."

3. Province Acts and Resolves, XI (1726-1733), ch. 128, p. 703.

4. Ibid., ch. 82, p. 744. The original ms. of this order is described in the appendix, entry 2.

5. Ibid., ch. 125, p. 758.

6. Ibid., ch. 167, pp. 775, 776. The original ms. of this order is described in the appendix, entry 3.

7. Ibid., XII (1734-1740), ch. 29, p. 19. The original ms. of this order is described in the appendix, entry 5. On April 16, 1734 the court had limited the size of the house lots to between 20 and 40 acres "as the committee shall think fit", and had appointed a new member to this committee to fill a vacancy (ibid., XI (1726-1733), p. 792; for the original ms. of this act, see the appendix, entry 4.)

Court has directed to Meet at Concord on Wednesday the Twenty Sixth Instant And it being Necessary after such Lotts are drawn that the Grantees be assembled & come into proper Methods for the Settlement of their said Lotts &c.,

Voted, that after the sixty persons for each Township shall have Drawn Lotts and given Bonds and paid their five pounds According to the order of this Court July 1732[1] that they forthwith assemble at Concord and then and there Choose a Moderator a Proprietors Clerk and Agree upon Rules & Methods for the fulfillment of their Respective Grants and for making any further Divisions and for Calling other Meetings for the Future and any other Matters or things for the Speedy settlement of the said Township.[2]

The committee rendered an account on the following November 22, showing receipts of £368.9.8 from prospective settlers in the towns. The court ordered the sum let out to interest until such time as forty families should be settled in each town and the frame of a meetinghouse raised, whereupon each town was to receive £100.[3]

Although it is difficult to get exact information on the first settlement of Paquoiag, one early authority gives substantially the following account:- Five of the proprietors left Hatfield and Sunderland, in the Connecticut valley, on September 17, 1735, making their way through the wilderness to the new grant, where they erected the first cabins. Richard Morton is credited with building the first log hut. Among the localities first improved by the settlers were "The Street", "West Hill", in the northwest part of the township, "Lyons Hill", in the east part, and, about 1761 the "Chestnut Hill" section.[4]

The expectations of the General Court regarding the speedy settlement of the new grant were not, however, destined to be fulfilled. Paquoiag had been prior to the time of the grant, the home of various bands of Indians who had taken part in King Philip's War, many of whom still remained and

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1. This order of July 1732 can be found neither in manuscript form in the Massachusetts Archives, Room 438, State House, Boston, nor in printed form in the province legislation previously cited.
2. Province Acts and Resolves, XII (1734-1740), ch. 42, p. 24. The original ms. of this order is described in the appendix, entry 6, and four of the original bonds are still preserved in the state archives, as described in the appendix, entry 7.
3. Ibid., ch. 98, p. 46.
4. George W. Horr, "Athol" in History of Worcester County, I, 213.

entertained no great friendliness towards the white men.[1] Settlement was therefore of a particularly hazardous nature, and few families came forward to attest their desire to leave the comparative security of the old-established towns for the insecurity of the untamed wilderness.

A few years later, on May 26, 1740, Richard Norton and other settlers presented a petition to the General Court:

> Shewing that the Grantees were obliged to have sixty families on the spot and to perform the other conditions of the Grant before this day, and yet there is but Fourteen Families settled on place, that the Petitioners are under great discouragements for want of the Publick Worship of God (Which they are not able to support of themselves) and by reason of their exposed condition in case of a war; and praying for some relief from this court.[2]

In answer to this petition the court appointed a committee "to inquire how far the settlers have complied with their obligatious "[3]

Similar petitions from other towns and "the Apprehensions this House have (of) a Speedy Rupture between the Crowns of Great Britain & France" induced the General Court, after a delay of two years, to give its attention to the matter. On November 11, 1742, it voted that money be appropriated

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1 The services of the men who served as agents in the purchase of land from the Indians were highly regarded and well compensated. For example, to Zachariah Field, who had negotiated the purchase of the lands at Paquoiag, the General Court on December 4, 1734 granted 800 acres "in one or two pieces & adjoining to the township at paquoiag" as compensation. (Province Acts and Resolves, XII (1734-1740), ch. 121, p. 61.) On December 3, 1735 the boundaries of 400 acres of this grant to Field were confirmed by the court, the bounds of the remainder being confirmed on June 18, 1736. (Ibid., ch. 127, pp. 179-180; ch. 35, p. 276.) When one of these tracts was discovered to be located within a township granted to the inhabitants of Salem, the court granted Field 400 acres of equivalent land further west, in Hampshire County. (Ibid., XIII (1741-1747), ch. 2, p. 129.) Another order of the court, dated July 5, 1740, confirmed the boundaries of a grant of 250 acres to Jabez Fairbanks "on the West side of Paquoiag." (Ibid., XII (1734-1740), ch. 49, p. 691.) This grant was subsequently found to be mostly within the bounds of New Salem; as a result, Thomas Fairbanks, the son of Jabez, was permitted, in 1751, to lay out an equivalent tract elsewhere. (Ibid., XIV (1747-1752), ch. 125, p. 459.) In 1743 John Smead of Paquoiag was granted 200 acres of the unappropriated lands "at or near" Paquoiag in consideration of the services of his father in the Indian wars. (Ibid., XIII (1741-1747), ch. 33, p. 252.)

2 Ibid., XII (1734-1740), ch. 16, p. 677. The ms. original of this petition and order are described in the appendix, entry 8.

3 Ibid.

"that the Inland Frontiers in this Province be put into a better Posture of Defence." Of this appropriation £100 was allotted to the plantation at Paquoiag, and a committee was set up

> . . to lay out in the most prudent manner in erecting in each of the beforenamed Settlements for their security during the War a Garrison or Garrisons of Stockades or of Square Timber round some Dwelling House or Houses or otherwise as well be most for the Security & Defence of the whole Inhabitants . . . . Provided Nevertheless that if the Apprehensions of War be over before the Money be laid out what remains shall be returned into the Treasury, there to lye for the further Order of this Court [1]

So urgent did the danger seem in April 1746 that the court ordered that pay and subsistence be allowed to thirty volunteer scouts for the western frontier for the period of a month, ten of these being for the protection of Paquoiag.[2] A little later the same month the court voted to request the governor to write the Governor of Connecticut to send 500 men for the defence of the frontier.[3]

Two other petitions, both undated, testify to the rigors and dangers of life at Paquoiag. One was addressed by Richard Morton and six other inhabitants to Governor Spencer Phips and the General Court. This would place it at some time between September 11, 1749 and August 6, 1753, or between September 25, 1756 and April 4, 1757, during both of which periods Phips was governor.[4] After reciting the conditions of the original grant by the court in July 1732,[5] the petition states that the settlers have

> endured more than 14 years hardship[6] already to effect so good a designe . . . . Yet there are but 18 families now residing in said Paquoiag nor ever has been more than 30, by means of which we your humble petitioners have been and still are under great difficulties and discouragements and much hindered in the managing of our affairs, etc., and have been prevented from being incorporated as a town and all the benefits which such an act brings to its inhabitants, we esteem it a great unhappiness to be kept out so long time (by reason of the smallness of our mumbers) fr, (from) being

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1. Province Acts and Resolves, XIII (1741-1747), ch. 185, p. 312.
2. Ibid., ch. 320, p. 702.
3. Ibid., ch. 357, p. 714.
4. Massachusetts General Court, Manual for the Use of the General Court, 1935-36, p. 201.
5. An apparently erroneous date traceable to the faulty memory of the petitioners, since the grant of the court was not made until April 20, 1733.
6. This would place the date of the petition at about 1746.

> a body corporate and of consequence fr, (for) the benefit and protection of the laws made for incorporated towns and having no remedy of law for trepasses committed on us since we are destitute of and have not absolute right and property to our lands as also for suitable schooling and educating our children and a great part of time destitute of the gospel and its ordinances and without the help and benefit of tradesmen for the mending and making of farming tools and necessary utensils etc. many also are the hardships etc. we have undergone from the remoteness of our habitations from incorporated towns etc. but more especially in a time of war, the loss of time in not being able to carry on our farming by reason of the lurking, lying in waite of the enemy, while so few in numbers etc. We therefore pray your Honors would cause the terms and conditions of the grant to be fulfilled, more especially that our numbers may be completed and we have absolute right and property to our lands or grant us liberty to remove ourselves and families to some other place where we may be more serviceable to ourselves and the Commonwealth. Or we pray bonds may be prosecuted against delinquent Proprietors that we may have some compensation for the hardships and difficulties we have endured.[1]

The other undated petition was addressed to Governor William Shirley and the General Court and would by that fact be assigned to the period between August 14, 1741 and September 11, 1749 or between August 7, 1753 and September 25, 1756. This petition is signed by Joseph Lord on behalf of the inhabitants of Paquoiag and states that, although in a few years of peace the plantation would be able to defend itself, its present numbers are few and can offer little defense against attack, that the people are daily expecting a visit from the Indians and pray that some defense measures may be taken.[2] Apparently some aid must have been furnished, for another petition dated January 7, 1755, of which Lord was again the chief signer, mentions "the fort already built" although it pleads for province aid in construction of two additional forts of square timbers, one of 45 to 50 feet square on the west (or north) side of the river for receiving the six families on that side and the other 64 feet square on the east or south side of the river for the twenty families and five single men on that side.[3] In addition to the danger of attack "from our (Indian) enemies who in the late war took away the life of one man and led captive another" this petition strikes a new note: ". . . . "and inasmuch as by our not being incorporated we are unable to constrain such persons as claim an equal share of land with us the inhabitants of said Paquoiag to an equal or to even any expense with us in building necessary forts or garrisons for our defence against the assults of our

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1. See appendix, entry 23.
2. See appendix, entry 27.
3. See appendix, entry 24.

enemies whose lands will be equally defended with our own. . . ."[1] Why, said the people of Paquoiag, should we defend at the risk of our lives the lands of absentee proprietors who will not lift a finger in our aid? Incorporation, with its accompanying power to levy taxes, was the remedy sought and was to follow in a few years. Meanwhile, the committee of the General Court to whom the petition was referred, stated its opinions "that it is necessary that said inhabitants have some assistance afforded them for defence and that it may be provided from the unsettled lands. . . ."[2] The General Court likewise accepted this view and ordered the committee which had charge of the construction and repair of the fortifications between the Connecticut and Merrimac Rivers to determine what fortresses were necessary in Paquoiag and to sell the unsettled lands.[3] A report of a scouting expedition in July and August of 1755 on the frontier near Paquoiag is also extant.[4] As the French and Indian War continued there was one more petition for aid by the Paquoiag inhabitants, this time led by James Humphrey, pointing out that many of the people were now settled on the north side of Miller's River and therefore more exposed to attack, that they had been under great expense in building a fort and praying that the court grant them a number of men for protection of the workers in the fields.[5] There is no record, however, of any action being taken in this matter.

Meanwhile the Paquoiag Plantation had many difficulties in addition to those due to the Indian wars. Although other meetings had doubtless preceded it, the first meeting of the proprietors for which records are extant had been held on October 18, 1749. At this meeting there were elected a moderator, a clerk, a treasurer, and a prudential committee of three persons.[6] On of the first acts of the proprietors was to vote five pounds (old tenor) to pay for one day's preaching by a Mr. Brown.[7] On May 3, 1750 the proprietors voted to call a permanent minister, Mr. James Humfries by name, to whom they voted the land reserved for the minister's right, and the title "Master of Proprietors."[8] A committee of three was also elected to meet with Joseph Lord, who had held the offices of clerk, collector and treasurer. This committee was authorized to audit the accounts of the propriety, and to take from the treasurer all books of record pertaining to the propriety. That difficulties were anticipated is evidenced by the vote that in the event of the refusal of the treasurer to turn the records over to the committee, they should seek advice as to the best method to recover them.[9] The controversy over these records which was referred to in legislation of the time as the "Paquoiag affair" was to

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1. Ibid.
2. Ibid.
3. Province Acts and Resolves, XV (1753-1756), ch. 233, p. 260.
4. See appendix, entry 25.
5. See appendix, entry 26.
6. Proprietors' Records, I, 124, 125, see entry 33.
7. Ibid., p. 124.
8. Ibid., pp. 126-129.
9. Ibid., p. 127.

occupy both the proprietors of the plantation and the General Court for some years to come, Lord must have refused because the next document in the case is a sworn report to the General Court, dated March 23, 1750/1, by Abner Lee, who had been chosen clerk of the proprietors on May 16, 1750 to succeed Lord, in which Lee certifies the names of those who have to the best of his knowledge lived up to the terms of the grant. This report states that since Joseph Lord has refused to give up the record books, he, Abner Lee, has not a list of the original names of the first proprietors. He reports, however, that there are fifteen families in the place, excepting the two sons of the said Lord, one about 21 years of age and the other a lad of 15 years.[1]

At a meeting held later in 1750 a committee of five was chosen to build a boat large enough to carry two horses, apparently for use as a ferry over Miller's River. At the same time another committee of three was set up to confiscate and sell the land of those proprietors who had failed to pay their taxes.[2]

Despite the rumblings of opposition to his leadership, however, Lord continued to be active in the interests of the inhabitants of Paquoiag. In December 1751 he petitioned Governor Phips and the General Court in behalf of those whom he described as a majority of the settlers that they might be given power to raise taxes and carry on their public affairs, citing the fact that they had never had a formal grant of their lands, an attested list of settlers, or the authority to raise funds for their minister's support.[3] He followed this petition closely with another requesting Captains Ruggles and Wilder, the committee appointed by the General Court to determine whether the conditions of the original grant had been complied with, to take no action which would "seem hard" to the resident proprietors who had been obedient and complied with the terms of their grant.[4] He also submitted a list of eighteen settlers, fifteen being heads of families and three single men who had met the conditions.[5]

This time the General Court acted promptly. On January 10, 1751/2 it confirmed the grants of each of twenty-one settlers to a sixty-third part of the township.[6] It will be noted that this number was three more than Lord and six more than Abner Lee had certified. The names of the twenty-one as mentioned in the act were: Zachariah Field, Richard Moreton, Samuel Morton, Ephraim Smith, Nathan Wait, Joseph Lord, John Smeed, Abraham Nutt, John Wood, William Oliver, Ezekiel Wollingford, Nathaniel Graves, Joseph Harrington, James Kellogg, Abner Lee, James Jones, John Child, James Holden,

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1. See appendix, entry 9.
2. Proprietors' Records, p. 130, see entry 33.
3. See appendix, entry 10.
4. See appendix, entry 11.
5. See appendix, entry 15.
6. Province Acts and Resolves, XIV (1747-1752), pp. 580-581. For the original ms. of this act see appendix, entry 12.

Ebenezer Goddard, Daniel Adams, and Francis Bowman. In addition the act gave the delinquent settlers a year to fulfill the conditions of their grants, provided they were actually on the land within six months. Further, the inhabitants of Paquoiag were authorized to assemble together

> from time to time for the space of one Year and from thence till this Court shall give further order and when so assembled by a Major Vote Grant such Monies as may be necessary for the support of their minister and Repairs of highways in said Townships and for the payment of such officers as they may employ and also may Choose a Clerk Assessors and Collectors who shall be sworn to the faithful discharge of their Trusts, said Assessors shall raise their Rates equally upon the sixty shares in said Township exclusive of the Minister, Ministry and School rights and in case any of the Setlers or their assignees fail of paying their proportion of the Taxes that may be laid on their Right or Share . . . their whole right or share shall be sold by a Committee to be appointed by the General Court and out of the monies arising by said Sale said Taxes shall be paid to the Collector of Pequoiag and the overplus into the Province Treasury . . . and that Joseph Lord . . . call the first meeting . . . and further that the Notes and Orders made from time to time by the admitted Setlers and their assignees . . . be presented to the Court for their confirmation within one Year.[1]

The following day the court confirmed to Lord the delinquent proprietor's right to Lot No. 14 which he had purchased.[2] On May 30, 1752 it accepted a plan of 300 acres granted the preceding January to Benjamin Ruggles of Middleborough.[3]

It will be noted that the measure of autonomy granted Paquoiag was limited to one year with all local acts subject to review by the General Court at the end of that time. The community soon ran into difficulties in collecting taxes. On November 30th Lord reported to the court that many of the admitted settlers and nonresidents had neglected to pay their taxes and that the minister's pay was in arrears, wherefore he prayed the court to order a speedy payment by the delinquents.[4] After some hesitation the court on December 7th ordered the matter deferred to January 16th when the first year would be up. The matter was not brought up until April 3, 1753, however, when a committee of two from each house was appointed to consider the matter.[5] This committee recommended, and both houses ordered, that a committee be appointed to sell the lands of the delinquent proprietors and that each purchaser give bonds for forty pounds

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1. Ibid.
2. Ibid., ch. 111, pp. 582-583.
3. Ibid., ch. 2, pp. 631, 632.
4. See appendix, entry 13.
5. See appendix, entry 16.

to the treasurer of the province for compliance with the original (1732) terms of grant. The "Grants, Orders or Votes" of land by the Paquoiag proprietors made subsequently to the original grants were, however, confirmed and they were permitted to choose "needful Officers", raise necessary taxes and in future to govern themselves by the general law of the province with regard to the raising of funds for new townships.[1]

That there may have been good cause for some of the delinquency is shown by another petition to the Governor and court dated December 6, 1752 by Joseph Wilder in behalf of Ebenezer and Lydia Harris. Lydia had formerly been the wife of Ezekiel Wollensford[2] who had been slain by the Indians. Since the personal estate of the deceased, which totaled £79 was insufficient to pay his debts, the petitioners prayed that they might sell the land to satisfy the claims of creditors, investing the surplus for the benefit of Wollensford's two surviving minor children.[3] This they were permitted, with some restrictions, to do.[4]

For a few years things apparently went more smoothly in Paquoiag. Having visited the plantation in May, 1753 and in October, 1754 the committee of the General Court reported on December 26, 1755. It found that in addition to the twenty-two rights previously confirmed by the court,[5] sixteen new proprietors had been settled. It therefore recommended that the newcomers be confirmed providing all arrears of taxes had been paid. Concerning the remaining twenty-one rights in the plantation it reported an anomalous situation: "Particular Lotts of many of them have been sold by the Settlers to other Persons honest Purchasers for Valuable Considerations which Purchasers Some of them holding only by Deeds of Release yet have made some Considerable Improvements on Such parts of Rights so purchased and ye committee apprehended that a Sale of the whole of Such Rights in Gross as forfeited rights would operate to the great prejudice of such Honest Purchasers Contrary to the True Design of the Hon. Court." Therefore the committee requested a free hand "for a Diversity of proceeding in the several Cases." This power the court granted, also confirming the rights of the sixteen new comers, but subject to the sale of a sufficient portion of the lands to pay any taxes still unpaid by May 1, 1756. The authority of the inhabitants of the plantation to raise revenues to support the ministry, repair roads and compensate its officers, among whom a clerk, assessors and collectors were specified, was extended for two years. A quite modern procedure was prescribed for delinquent

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1. Province Acts and Resolves, XIV (1747-1752), pp. 715-716. For the original ms. of this act see appendix, entry 16. John Chandler signed this report; and Chandler for the council, together with Colonel Worthington for the house were made a committee with power to enforce the act. On April 9, 1753 the court substituted Phinneas Haywood for John Chandler as committee member. (Province Acts and Resolves, XV (1753-1756), ch. 325, p. 139.)
2. Or Wollingford, as he was listed in the act of January 10, 1751/2.
3. See appendix, entry 14.
4. Ibid.
5. On January 10, 1751/2. The number was actually 21.

taxpayers: after taxes had been delinquent three months, the tax list was to be advertised in a Boston newspaper for three successive weeks at least two months before sale by public auction and posted in a public place in Paquoiag at least one month before such sale. Joseph Lord was again empowered to warn the inhabitants fourteen days before, the first meeting and the chosen clerk similarly before succeeding meetings.[1]

Fourteen months later, on February 21, 1757 John Chandler and John Worthington reported to the General Court concerning their settlement of the claims concerning 15 of the remaining 21 rights in Paquoiag. Having requested and received authority for individual treatment of the various cases, they summarized the history of each and recommended a course of action, which recommendation the court accepted.[2] Four of the six remaining rights were similarly disposed of by a succeeding report of the same committee accepted by the court on December 30, 1757. In this report the committee also recommended the sale of portions of six properties for outstanding taxes, and corrected the names of some of the grantees mentioned in preceding reports.[3] An account of the disposition of the last two rights and a recommendation for compensation of one Samuel Finney whose land had been erroneously sold for nonpayment of taxes was rendered by the Paquoiag committee on November 30, 1758, referred to a joint committee of the council and house,[4] and its provisions accepted by the General Court the following April 20th.[5]

At a meeting held on June 20, 1758, a committee of three persons was elected by the proprietors to assess taxes, and at an adjourned meeting, held on the following day, several committees, each with three members, were set up. These included a committee to lay out roads, another to audit and settle the accounts of all persons handling funds of the propriety, and one to lay out and regulate the lots of the proprietors, which was to report its actions at a later date.[6] It is significant that during this year Joseph Lord was still the treasurer at Paquoiag.[7]

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1. Province Acts and Resolves, XV (1753-1756), ch. 225, pp. 416-419. For the original ms. of the report dated December 19 and the order dated December 26, 1755, see appendix, entry 18.
2. Ibid., ch. 394, p. 683. For the original ms. of this report and order, see appendix, entry 19.
3. Ibid., XVI (1757-1760), ch. 240, pp. 108-111.
4. See appendix, entry 20.
5. Province Acts and Resolves, XVI (1757-1760), ch. 342, pp. 351-352. On February 11, 1762, on the recommendation of Chandler and Worthington, the General Court ordered that sums outstanding on notes payable to the province treasurer on Athol lands, amounting to £48 5s. 1d., be turned over to the town treasurer and applied toward the cost of constructing a bridge over Millers River, which it was feared would reach £130. (See appendix, entry 32.)
6. Proprietors' Records, I, 134-136, see entry 33.
7. Ibid.

At the same adjourned meeting the planters voted that future meetings might be called by a minimum of five of them by making written application to the clerk, setting forth the matters to be acted upon, and the time and place of the proposed meeting. It then became the duty of the clerk to issue a warrant to some suitable person usually a constable who posted notice of the meeting in some public place in the township.[1] It was also provided that the prudential committee should assess and collect taxes, and should confiscate and sell the land of proprietors who failed to pay their tax levy, in order that the minister's salary for eight years might be raised.[2]

At a meeting on October 11, 1758, matters between the propriety and Joseph Lord reached a crisis, and it was voted to commence action for the recovery of the books and records which he had refused to turn over to the committee set up to secure them.[3] The matter was carried to the court in Worcester, but before the records and money could be secured Lord had left the colony. The matter reached the General Court on June 11, 1760:

> A Petition of Abraham Hill, and John Caldwell, Proprietors of the Common and undivided Lands, in Pequoiag, so called, in the County of Worcester Setting forth, that the said place called Pequoiag hath been settled upwards of Twenty years, hath at this Time near Fifty Families, and have had a minister Settled about Ten years. That from the beginning of the Settlement till about two years ago, Joseph Lord Esq^r acted as Proprietors Clerk and kept all the Records, and Proceedings of said Propriety, All the Grants, Surveys, and layings out of lands within the same, He was the Treasurer, the greater part of the Time, and received all the monies collected by Taxes, or for Sales of Delinquent Proprietors Land, and is probably supposed to be largely in arrear to them on that Account That in June 1758 A new Treasurer, and a new Clark were Chosen, and that the said Joseph Lord refusing to deliver up, the Books and Papers of the Propriety, An Action was Commenced against him therefor and at the Inferior Court held at Worcester, in november last The Proprietors recovered Judgment for the said Books and Papers to be delivered to them or in defalt thereof execution to Issue for the sum of One Thousand Pounds lawfull money But before the said Judgment was rendered the said Joseph Lord abscounded, and hath ever since been out of this Province, hath never delivered up the said Books and Papers, but kept the same, nor hath left estate to a quarter Part of the Damage recovered.

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1. Ibid.
2. Ibid., p. 140.
3. Ibid., p. 141.

> Thus the Petitioners are deprived of their Records, and those who held their several Possessions, as Original Proprietors, or have purchased the Lands of delinquent Proprietors, left without their proper and needful Proof, and are in the utmost Danger of runing into total Confusion,
>
> The Petitioners therefore pray for direction and Relief, in a Case so singular Circumstanced.[1]

The General Court, doing about all that could be done considering that the original records were in all probability lost beyond recovery, or destroyed, directed that Rev. Abraham Hill, the new clerk, make a new book of the records "from the remembrance of the proprietors, and after he hath finished the same that he lay it before the said proprietors at some proper meeting for the purpose warned and than (then) that he do lay the same before this court to the end this court may then determine whether it shall be established as the records of the s^{d} propriety."[2] This decision was duly written into the minutes of the meeting of the propriety.[3]

That there was more to the matter than appears in the record is evident. Joseph Lord, after he left the plantation, settled in Putney, Vermont, where he became a prominent and responsible citizen, a judge of the inferior court of common pleas, a justice of peace for Cumberland county, and a commissioner. Governor Tyron wrote to Mr. Lord on April 3, 1772: "His Excellency desirous of retaining in office the most respectable persons in the county, could not think of appointing any person in your stead." "Respecting his abilities," writes Hall, the historian of Vermont, "there are no means of deciding, but of his uprightness and candor as a man and as a judicial officer, there can be no doubt."[4]

The first attempt to reconstruct the proprietor's records had been completed by May 1763. In a petition to the General Court, Nathan Goddard and John Haven for the proprietors admitted that "few minutes, and those very imperfect, could be found: whereupon a Committee chosen by the Proprietors in October, 1760 obtained a Plan of said Township from the best helps that were to be had, which has been accepted by them," and prayed the court to accept them. This the court in January 1764 refused to do and ordered Reverend Hill, and Nathan Goddard "under the inspection of Captain Charles Baker, Surveyor" to complete the book of records before the first of June following.[5] The time limit had, however, expired before the task could be completed. Again Goddard and Haven petitioned,

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1. Province Acts and Resolves, XVI (1757-1760), ch. 77, p. 597. For the original ms. of this act see appendix, entry 29.
2. Ibid.
3. Proprietors' Records, I, 157, see entry 33.
4. Lilley B. Caswell, Athol, Massachusetts, Past and Present, pp. 211-213.
5. Province Acts and Resolves, XVII (1761-1764), ch. 248, p. 481.

this time that "the Book of Records be established in the hands of Nathan Goddard, their present clerk, together with transactions of the meetings now in hands of Reverend Abraham Hill, their former clerk, as the only records of said Proprietors. . . ."[1] This petition the court granted and a bill confirming the records was promptly passed.[2]

On January 3, 1759 it had been voted to assess each right the sum of four shillings for the "use and encouragement" of any person who would build a grist mill at the old mill site on Mill Brook provided the builder had the mill in operation on or before the 10th of October, kept it in repair for fifteen years, and was in attendance at the mill for two days a week. A committee of three was elected to supervise the operation of such a mill.[3]

Nor were the more cheerful evidences of the march of civilization wanting. A certain Ichabod Dexter of Paquoiag testified that, "having obtained the Approbation of the Principal Inhabitants of said place he set out for Worcester in August last to obtain a License from the Court of General Sessions of the Peace . . . to keep a Publick House, but it so happened, that before he got there the said Court was Adjourned without day. . . ." Therefore Dexter petitioned the General Court that the justices of the general sessions of the peace be empowered to grant him a license, which prayer was answered favorably by the court on February 14, 1759/60.[4] In 1761 three tax collectors for delinquent taxpayers[5] and two additional highway surveyors were elected,[6] and the clerk was authorized to insert in the call for a meeting any articles he deemed proper.[7] The prudential committee was ordered to sell "pew ground."[8]

The proprietors continued to function, although in a status of diminished importance, after township status was obtained.[9] Agitation for township status continued. A new petition reached the General Court, January 28, 1762 and on March 6, 1762 there passed an act for erecting

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1. See appendix, entry 30.
2. Province Acts and Resolves, XVIII (1765-1774), ch. 3, p. 805. For the original ms. of this act see appendix, entry 31.
3. Proprietors' Records, I, 144, see entry 33.
4. Province Acts and Resolves, XVI (1757-1760), ch. 202, p. 441.
5. Proprietors' Records, I, 159, see entry 33.
6. Ibid., p. 169.
7. Ibid., p. 163.
8. Ibid., p. 169.
9. Ibid., II, final entry. On June 1, 1768 Nathaniel Graves, agent of the proprietors, petitioned the General Court to confirm the lay-outs of streets and lanes as drawn up by the proprietors at their meeting of the preceding March 31. The court did so. Province Acts and Resolves, XVIII (1765-1774), ch. 11, p. 338. For ms. version of this petition, see appendix, entry 33.

the new plantation called Payquage, in the county of Worcester, into a town by the name of Athol:

> Whereas it has been represented in the court that the inhabitants of the plantation of Payquage, in the county of Worcester, labour under great difficulties, by reason of their not being incorporated into a town, and are desirous of being so incorporated, --
>
> Be it therefore enacted by the Governor, Council and House of Representatives;
>
> That the said plantation be and hereby is erected into a town by the name of Athol, bounded as follows; viz (t)., northerly, on the plantations of Royalshire and Mountgrace; westerly, on Ervinshire and New Salem; southerly, on Petersham and the plantation called Number Six; and easterly, on said Number Six; and that the inhabitants thereof be and hereby are invested with all the powers, privileges and immunities that the inhabitants of the towns within this province are, by law, vested with.[1]

The town is located 82 miles west-north-west of Boston; and 48 miles north-north-east of Springfield; and contains approximately 19,000 acres. Describing the terrain of Athol, the town's historian, Lilley B. Caswell says:

> The surface is very uneven, hills abounding in almost every part of the town, but rising to the greatest height in the northern and eastern sections. Here, Millers River, after entering the town a short distance from South Royalston, flows for several miles through a narrow valley among the hills, forming some of the wildest and grandest scenery in this portion of the State, until just below the village it expands into fertile meadows, which with their emerald hues in Summer form a beautiful setting for the village which lies along the valley, and stretches up the sloping hillsides until it merges in the "Highlands," and the "Street," the home of the first settlers of the town; indeed, beautiful for situation is Athol, Queen of Northwestern Worcester. Millers River, known by the Indians as the Pequoig, like many of our New England rivers and mountains was robbed of its name, and given one which has no special significance, except that unfortunately for the generations coming after him, a man by the name of Miller was drowned in the waters of this river while attempting to cross it, and thus gave his name to the

1. Province Acts and Resolves, (1757-1768), ch. 46, p. 534. For the original ms. of this act see appendix, entry 28.

> stream. The most important tributary is Tully, which coming from the north unites with Millers River where the meadows expand northwest of the village. . . . Another stream entering Millers River, which is of more importance to the town, is Mill Brook, that has its source among the hills in the eastern part of the town and the edge of Phillipston, . . . and upon which are located some of the most flourishing manufacturing establishments of the town. . . . The largest sheet of water is South West Pond.[1]

Early historians of the town have made the categorical statement that Athol took its name from one of its most famous landowners, Colonel John Murray, youngest son of the Duke of Atholl, who had served with distinction with the British forces during the Quebec campaign of the French and Indian War, and was for a time the Governor-General of Canada. It is true that a Colonel John Murray held extensive lands in Rutland, Mass., and in Athol, and that he was the moderator at the first town meeting held in the latter place. But that this man had any connection with the Scottish duke, or was in any way responsible for the name given to the new town, is in no wise confirmed. In 1762 Francis Bernard was the governor of the colony under the second charter, and it became his duty to approve the charters of more towns than any other incumbent of that office before or since. Bernard in many instances exercised the right accorded the royal governors of the time, and gave to the towns, in many instances, names of his own choosing. Many Massachusetts towns bear the names of noble families or town names of the mother country as a consequence, Athol among them.

By the terms of the charter, the boundaries of the new town were set up "northerly, on the plantations of Royalshire and Mountgrace; westerly on Ervinshire and New Salem; southerly, on Petersham and the plantation called Number Six; and easterly on Number Six."[2] Royalshire in 1765 became the town of Royalston; Ervinshire, in Franklin County, otherwise known as Erving's Grant, in 1838 became the town of Erving; Plantation Number Six, more commonly referred to as Narragansett Plantation Number Six, was established in 1762 as the town of Templeton.[3]

So far as is known, the first "through road" to be laid in Pequoiag territory was the one which ran from the little settlement to Templeton, (then called Narragansett No. 6) in 1740. Warwick was connected with the plantation by a similar road in 1753. One of the first concerns of Athol after the town had received its charter was the construction of a highway to the Royalston line, which was authorized in May 1762.[4]

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1. Caswell, op. cit., pp. 2-4.
2. Province Acts and Resolves, IV (1757-68), ch. 46, p. 534.
3. Mass. Secretary of State, Historical Data Relating to Counties, Cities and Towns in Massachusetts, pp. 25, 69, 71.
4. Caswell, op. cit., p. 43.

The town took an active part in resisting the oppressive policy of Great Britain in the prosecution of the Revolutionary War. Following the example of other Massachusetts towns Athol elected, from 1774 through 1781, a committee of correspondence consisting of from five to nine members.[1] On July 7, 1774, at a special town meeting, the voters took action on the proposed embargo on English goods which resulted from the blockade of Boston harbor. The record reads:

> After very close and serious Debates on what measures were most likely to effect a deliverance from the burdens and appressions that America in general, and this Province in particular, are laboring under, it was unanimously agreed to enter into a League or Covenant, binding ourselves to Renounce the use and consumption of all goods that shall arrive in America from Grate Britain from and after the last day of August next ensuing, untill the act of blocking up the harbor of Boston shall be repealed, and we restored to the free use and enjoyment of our national and charter rights, or untill other measures shall be adopted by the Body of the people or the General Congress of the Colonies that is soon to meet, that shall be thought more likely to affect a Deliverance.[2]

Athol, in common with the other communities located in Worcester County, sent its representative to the meeting in Worcester on August 9, 1774.

On August 25, 1774, the inhabitants of Athol again met and adopted resolutions which set forth in considerable detail the various causes for complaint against the mother country. These resolutions, probably formulated at the Worcester meeting, nevertheless reflect the opinions of the people of Athol. While acknowledging themselves "loyal and dutiful subjects" of the King of England, they branded the newly-asserted claims of the British Parliament to make laws binding upon the colonies in all cases whatsoever as "unconstitutional and subversive of our natural and chartered rights, oppressive to America, and in no way beneficial to the mother country." In particular, the people of Athol protested the blockade of the port of Boston and two recent bills abrogating the "charter rights . . . and free constitution of this government. . . ." In words which indicate how widely the philosophy of natural rights had spread prior to its incorporation in the Declaration of Independence, these acts of Great Britain were declared to be "a violation of the sacred compact between Great Britain and this Province; and such a breach of the natural rights and privileges of mankind, and so repugnant to the mutual obligations we are all by the law of nature under towards one another, that no person (unless they are lost to all tender feeling of humanity) but must reject with abhorrence the thought of thus

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1. Town Records, I, 93, 173, see entry 30.
2. Rev. John F. Norton, "Athol," History of Worcester County, Massachusetts, D. Hamilton Hurd, ed., II, 1031-1035.

tyrannizing over their fellow creatures." They resolved, further, to send William Bigelow and Daniel Lamson to attend the adjourned Worcester meeting, there to take whatever further steps should be necessary. Finally, any person taking office under the new "establishment" was condemned as a traitor to his country. The foregoing resolves were then unanimously accepted and ordered to be recorded.[1]

In the fall of the same year, on September 29, 1774, it was voted to enroll thirty minutemen, not including officers. Two companies were to be raised on each side of the river, and sixteen pounds were appropriated for a town stock of ammunition.[2] Thereafter, William Bigelow was elected a delegate to conferences held at Concord in October, and at Cambridge in November. On January 11, 1775, the nonimportation agreement recommended by the Continental Congress was approved by the town, and a committee of inspection was elected to see that the resolves of the Continental and Provincial Congresses were faithfully observed.[3]

The ensuing skirmishes at Lexington and Concord turned colonial protest into colonial rebellion. Athol expended its financial and military resources on behalf of the common cause without stint. At first, its financial burdens were relatively slight, as indicated by a resolve of the General Court, dated April 11, 1776, which reimbursed the town to the extent of sixteen pounds eight shillings for provisions supplied to the Continental Army.[4] But expenditures rapidly became heavier. In 1778 the town raised more than fifteen hundred pounds at a single time to pay wages to her soldiers.[5]

Athol men saw service at many points. The town records list:

Eight months' men to Cambridge, 6s. per month.
Six weeks' men to Roxbury, 4s. per month.
Two months' men to Dorchester, 6s. per month.
Twelve months' men to Dorchester, 10s. per month.
Seven months' men to Nantastick (Nantasket), 2s. per month.
Five months' men to York, 18s. per month.
Four months' men to Ticonderoga, 26s. per month.
Four months' men to Dorchester, 4s. per month.
Two months' men to Tarrytown, 20s. per month.
Three months' men to 'the Jerseys,' 20s. per month.
Two months' men to Rhode Island, 8s. per month.
Six weeks' men to Bennington, 20s. per month.
'Larrum' men to Williamson, 8 days, 8s. per month.
Three months' men to Sarratogue, 15s. per month.
To Fort Edward, 4 weeks, 18s. per month.[6]

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1. Town Records, I, 93, 173, see entry 30.
2. Norton, op. cit., II, 1031-1035.
3. Ibid., p. 1032.
4. Province Acts and Resolves, 1775-1776, ch. 820, p. 323.
5. Norton, op. cit., II, 1034.
6. Ibid., pp. 1033-1034.

All these enlistments, it must be understood, took place in the first three years of the war, that is, from 1775 to 1777. By the time the war had ended, 156 men of Athol's total population of 900 had served at some time or other.[1]

Athol also shared in the general economic dislocation that followed the war. A period of deflation in which both cash and credit were scarce caused acute suffering, eventually leading to the outbreak known as Shay's Rebellion. Athol joined other towns in petitioning that real and personal property be made legal tender for debts. At a town meeting held May 1, 1786, a committee was chosen to draw up a petition to the General Court. The petition stated that "our property is torn from us and our gaols filled and still our debts not discharged but our property daily dimishing greatly to the injury of the debtors & in many cases but little to the Advantage of the Creditor. . . ." Pointing to the extreme scarcity of cash, the petitioners argued that if real and personal property were made lawful tender to satisfy executions, these difficulties would be removed.[2] The gravity of Athol's situation is indicated in part by its failure to send a representative to the General Court in 1787. On March 7 of that year, it was fined by the court for its failure, but the fine was remitted on June 14, 1788.[3]

It was at this time, that the First Church, which had been founded on August 29, 1750, also ran into difficulties. The first minister was Rev. James Humphries, who had been invited to the pastorate by the proprietors. He arrived from Dorchester, with his bride, Miss Esther Wiswell, "on horseback, with sermons, wardrobe, and other earthly goods in saddle-bags . . . and began his ministry to a community of hardly more than twenty families."[4] A picturesque early account of his ministry relates how the inhabitants, though few in number and "surrounded by a barbarious Foe," yet felt it their duty "to support the gospel . . . considering the preaching gospel to be one of the most important objects, especially for a new settled place." For Mr. Humphreys' support, they gave "fifty-two pounds a year, which sum he accepted altho he knew the Annuity was insufficient." On November 17, 1750, he was ordained. The first meetinghouse was built not far from Miller's River, but was destroyed by a forest fire. The second was built within twenty rods of the fort, "to keep off the devouring Enemy, whilst others ware worshiping God within . . . . " As an added precaution against Indian forays, the minister carried his gun into the meetinghouse regularly for three years.[5]

The second house eventually was outgrown, and was disposed of. A third meetinghouse was destroyed by fire in 1773. Finally, after thirty-one

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1. Ibid.
2. Shay's Rebellion Collection, Am. Antiquarian Society, p. 153.
3. Acts, 1788-89, ch. 36.
4. Henry H. Sprague, Story of a New England Town, p. 19.
5. Ibid., appendix "Humphrey Manuscripts."

years in the service of the people of Athol, Rev. Mr. Humphries was dismissed in a controversy which shook the town to its foundations. No less than nine town meetings were devoted to the subject of his dismissal, and it appears that the setting off of the town of Orange was in large measure instigated by certain inhabitants who were dissatisfied with the judgment of the majority. The most eminent town historian, Mr. Lilley Caswell, has stated that the dispute concerned certain innovations in the custom of singing during services[1] but it is difficult to believe that the "perfect friendship" that existed for so long between the inhabitants and their minister could be shattered for such a reason. At any rate, the true causes of the disagreement can no longer be found.[2] Mr. Humphries remained in Athol until his death in 1796, but his successor, Rev. Joseph Estabrook, was ordained in 1787.[3]

The new minister was of an extraordinarily pacific and conciliatory temperament, and succeeded in extinguishing the embers of the historic controversy. He served the church for nearly forty-three years, during which there were no rumblings of disssent or theological disagreement except for the presence of a few individual Baptists who were from time to time relieved of the necessity of paying for the support of the First Church.[4]

Despite Mr. Estabrook's meekness he shared to the full the town's resentment concerning the attitude of the Federal government in the disputes with England which led to the War of 1812. On August 31, 1808 the town meeting petitioned the President of the United States for suspension of the embargo on the ground that it would affect not only the seaports but eventually the farmers and merchants of the interior.[5] The following year the town reiterated its stand that the laws were "partial, unjust, inexpedient and unconstitutional . . . and we will not support such measures."[6] On January 31, 1814, even after the war had been in progress for two years, the town again denounced this "disgraceful war" and the "daring attempt at Usurpation and Despotism" of the Congress, concluding with an appeal to the General Court "to use every constitutional means to induce an honorable peace. . . ." But the most illuminating example of the intensity of feeling on behalf of states' rights that the war aroused in Athol was Mr. Estabrook's action in the pulpit. At a Fast Day service, Mr. Estabrook invoked the choicest blessings of God upon the Governor and all the various state officials; then, after a moment's pause, he continued: "O Lord, thou has commanded us to pray also for our enemies; we therefore beseech Thee to bless the President of these United States and the two houses in Congress assembled." He thereupon listed at great length the

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1. Caswell, op. cit., p. 49.
2. See also Horr, op. cit., I, 219.
3. Ibid., p. 220.
4. Sprague, op. cit., p. 46.
5. Ibid., p. 12.
6. Ibid., p. 13.

various transgressions of these public officials, and besought divine assistance in causing them to see the error of their ways and in abandoning their evil courses.[1]

The era of religious good feeling in Athol terminated in 1830, when Mr. Estabrook died, and the congregation extended a call to Reverend George J. Tillotson. It was then discovered, somewhat to the dismay of the committee in charge, that the new minister did not subscribe to the orthodox tenets of the Congregational faith but to the radical Unitarian beliefs. The church was immediately split into two factions; the liberal group, consisting of only eight members, retained possession of the meetinghouse which had been built "by common labor and means" two years previously; while the majority established an Evangelical Congregational Church, drawing up its formal declaration of faith and practice on November 23, 1830.[2]

The Evangelical Congregational Church has continued to the present time. The first settled pastor was Rev. B. B. Beckwith, who began his tenure on April 25, 1831.[3] The first meetings were held in the Town Hall, but in the summer of 1833 a new house of worship was constructed and dedicated. Extensively repaired and enlarged in 1855, it is still in use.[4] It is located on Chestnut Street, near Main.[5]

The First Parish building was remodeled in 1847. The upper part of this building served as a town hall until Memorial Hall was built.[6] By 1902, however, membership in the First Congregational Church and Society of Athol, as it was then called, had diminished so greatly that only annual meetings were held. In 1920 it voted to dispose of its property to the town, which in turn leased it to the Athol Woman's Club, and to disband.

Meanwhile, on February 22, 1877, the Second Unitarian Church and Society had come into existence, following a preliminary meeting held in November 1876. In 1877 regular preaching was begun and a pastor was ordained. A church building was erected at a cost of ten thousand dollars, including furnishings; and later, an auditorium and vestry were constructed. They were destroyed by fire in 1912, leading to the construction of a new building in 1914-15.[7]

In 1920, when the imminent dissolution of the First Congregational Church became apparent, steps were taken to unite this church with the Second Unitarian. As finally arranged, all the members of the Second

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1. Ibid., pp. 14-15.
2. Henry A. Blake, Historical Addresses, pp. 7-10.
3. Ibid., p. 11.
4. Ibid., pp. 10, 20.
5. Ellery Bicknell Crane, History of Worcester County, II, 837.
6. Caswell, op. cit., pp. 45-55.
7. Crane, op. cit., II, 835.

Church were accepted as members of the First Congregational Church which was renamed the First Unitarian Church. Thereupon the Second Unitarian Church disbanded. Meetings have been held since 1921 in the building of the Second Unitarian.[1]

As early as 1755, "people called Antipedo Baptists" had filed certificates with the town authorities asking for exemption from supporting or attending the First Church. In 1810 the Athol Baptists became affiliated with the Templeton Baptist Church; in 1813 they became an independent society; and in 1820 the deacons who had conducted the meetings previously were replaced by a settled minister. However, a church building was not constructed and dedicated until 1828. A new house of worship, located at the head of Church Street, was dedicated by the First Baptist Church on February 14, 1849.[2] One of the organizations connected with this church from about 1835 to 1845 was "The Female Judson Plain Dress Society in Athol." Its object was "to lessen our expenses for dress that we may be enabled to increase our charities . . . (and) supply the Burmans with the Bible."[3]

Early Athol Methodists, like the Baptists, found it necessary to attend services in an adjoining town, in this case Orange, where a church had been erected in 1802.[4] The Athol Methodist Church was organized on December 12, 1831, and a building was erected a short time later. At the time of its dedication, in 1836, it was actually located in the town of New Salem, but on land which shortly became part of Athol.[5] It was replaced in 1861 by a new church in the center, which was repaired and rededicated in 1888.[6] The present building at 40 Island Street, known as the Starrett Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church, was erected in 1918 in memory of the wife of L. S. Starrett.

In South Athol is located the summer camp of the Morgan Memorial Goodwill Industries of Boston, an institution which has long been identified with Massachusetts Methodism. However, it has no connections with the local Athol Church.

The Advent Christian Church was, in part, an outgrowth of the Millerite movement of 1842 and 1843. Its first meetings were held in a grove near the south end of Pleasant Street. On May 17, 1863, it was formally organized with a membership of twenty-eight persons; at that time, its services were conducted in one of the schoolhouses, and later in the hall of the Upper Village engine house. In 1873 the present church building

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1. Ibid., p. 836.
2. Caswell, op. cit., pp. 62-67; Crane, op. cit., pp. 837-838.
3. Quoted in Caswell, op. cit., p. 65.
4. Ibid., p. 66.
5. Ibid., p. 67.
6. Ibid., p. 69.

on Main Street was erected, and in 1876 the first resident minister was settled.[1]

The beginnings of St. John's Episcopal Church can be traced back to 1864, when Episcopal meetings were being held in the Town Hall. St. John's Parish was formally organized on September 3, 1866. However, the first resident pastor moved away the following year, and the meetings in the Town Hall were held irregularly thereafter until 1881. Finally, in 1890 St. John's Episcopal Church, located at 409 Church Street, was constructed. It was dedicated by Phillips Brooks as one of his first official acts after he became a bishop.[2]

It is believed that the first Roman Catholic service in Athol was held in 1850, among the few Irish families that entered the town during the construction of the railroad. During the next few years, priests from Worcester and Fitchburg said Mass in various private homes. In 1853 the old Baptist church in the Upper Village was purchased; it remained the center of what was called St. Catherine's Parish for thirty years. In 1884 and 1885 a basement church and parish house were erected, allowing the old building to be abandoned. Finally the present church on School Street was constructed. It is now known as the Church of Our Lady Immaculate. With the growth of the Lithuanian population, particularly in the southern part of the town, a second Roman Catholic Church, the Church of St. Francis, was erected in 1919-20. It is located on Main Street.[3]

This does not by any means exhaust the list of churches in Athol. The Jewish synagogue, Agudas Achim, on Pine Street, was built about 1919, and the First Church of Christ Scientist, on Ridge Avenue, was established only about a decade ago.

During the first year that Athol was incorporated, the town appropriated £13 6s, 8d, for educational purposes.[4] The same year a school committee was elected and authorized to appoint a schoolmaster.[5] The following year, 1764, the town voted to establish two schools, one on either side of Miller's River.[6] In 1766 two schools were again authorized, one to be built on West Hill, the other on East Hill, and both to measure 16 x 18 x 6½ feet.[7] By 1770 there were five schools in Athol, designated as South End, North End, East part, Southwest part, and Chestnut Hill.[8]

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1. Caswell, op. cit., p. 83; Crane, op. cit., II, 838.
2. Caswell, op. cit., pp. 78-79; Crane, op. cit., II, 839.
3. Caswell, op. cit., p. 82; Crane, op. cit., II, 839.
4. Town Records, I, 7, see entry 30.
5. Ibid.
6. Ibid., p. 12.
7. Ibid., p. 21.
8. Ibid., p. 50.

A redivision of the town into school districts or "squadrons" took place in 1774. By that time it appears that there were no less than seven school buildings in the town, grouped into four or more districts.[1] They were rudely constructed and frugally administered, however, as is shown by a record authorizing the assessors to divide the glass taken from the old meetinghouse among the various school districts.[2] An innovation was a singing school established in 1791.[3]

In 1799 the number of school districts was increased from five to seven.[4] They increased gradually thereafter, until in 1847 there were thirteen school districts in Athol.[5] This, however, was the high peak. By 1866 the number had fallen to nine,[6] and in 1868 the town voted to abolish the school district system altogether.[7]

The abolition of school districts, however, did not hinder the growth and development of the school system. In 1869 a new school house was authorized for the southern part of the town,[8] and in 1870 a new school was established in Depot Village.[9]

The annual reports of the school committee give a graphic picture of the development thereafter. In 1870 there were 779 pupils enrolled in the Athol schools, and the annual cost was $4,000. In 1900 the enrollment had increased to 1100; the number of teachers was 37, and the cost was $23,676. There were then 9 schools. During the past forty years, the school enrollment has nearly doubled, but the annual cost has increased almost six times. The number of teachers was 73 in 1938, and two additional schools had been constructed. The junior and senior high schools have been recently rebuilt.[10]

Like most Massachusetts towns of one hundred and fifty years ago, Athol handled its "paupers" by letting them out to the lowest bidder. For instance, on May 2, 1803 the town voted to give one Francis Green ten dollars a year "for keeping Hannah Marble during her natural life," - less than three cents a day. Hannah's lot was somewhat improved as time went on, for in 1811 another citizen contracted to provide her with food, clothing, and shelter for fifteen dollars a year, - almost five cents a day.[11]

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1. Ibid., p. 90.
2. Ibid., p. 174.
3. Ibid., p. 569.
4. Ibid., II, 56-57, 72.
5. Ibid., III, 284, 290.
6. Ibid., IV, 330.
7. Ibid., p. 381.
8. Ibid., 397.
9. Ibid., p. 445.
10. Annual Reports, 1870-1939, passim, see entry 2.
11. Caswell, op. cit., p. 39.

About 1827 the town purchased the Ball farm for $1856, and converted it into a poorhouse. However primitive this system of supporting indigents may now appear, at the time it was apparently a great step forward. The poorhouse, now known as "the Infirmary," still performs a function in the town. In 1938, twenty-three inmates were regularly housed there, and in the same year extensive improvements were made on the building through a WPA project.[1]

These primitive methods of supporting persons on relief are in vivid contrast to the various types of relief granted today. The total number of persons aided by the town of Athol in 1938 was 1565, through such agencies as old age assistance, aid to dependent children, and WPA. In addition, the board of public welfare certifies CCC cases and persons eligible for supplies from the federal commissary.[2]

In the main, the history of Athol during most of the nineteenth century, with the exception of the years leading up to and including the Civil War, described the tranquil development of such institutions as fire companies, libraries, water companies, and poorhouses. But on occasion, dissension arose even concerning these matters. In 1817 the town considered the purchase of a fire engine. A committee set up to investigate the need for it reported to the town on April 7 of that year that "the town will be willing to be at one-third part of the expense, if individuals should see fit to pay the residue. . . ."[3] The town so voted, and on May 26, 1817 a volunteer fire company was formed, with seventeen enginemen appointed by the selectmen.[4] However, by the time the engine was secured, a similar organization, whose members were also appointed "by the gentlemen selectmen", had been established in the Lower Village. This organization preempted the title Fire Engine No. 1, leaving the second number to its rival.

By 1840 hooks and ladders had been added to the early equipment, as well as sleds for winter travel. A standing reward of two dollars was posted for the first person to arrive at the shed with suitable horses in case of fire. In 1846 two hand engines were purchased, one for each company. They were named the Despatch and the Tiger, and contests were held from time to time to decide which of the two crews could throw the longest and highest streams. The rivalry became less friendly when, in 1871, it was decided to purchase a single steam engine for the town.

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1. Annual Reports, 1938, p. 122, see entry 2.
2. Ibid., pp. 121-125.
3. Town Records, II, 233-234, see entry 30.
4. Ibid., p. 257.

The committee chosen to look into the matter was split; members from the Upper Village wished to purchase the Jucket machine, made at Fitchburg, while members from the Lower Village favored the Amoskeag engine, made at Manchester, New Hampshire. To let the town historian, Lilley Caswell, take up the tale:

> and now occurred that memorable controversy between the citizens of the two villages that agitated the whole town, from the children to the gray-haired old citizens and staid matrons. At one of the town meetings it was voted to purchase the engine made in Fitchburg, and then the contest waxed hot, several town meetings were called and attempts made to rescind the vote. The two factions of the committee each purchased an engine, one the Amoskeag, the other the Jucket, and the greatest efforts were made by both parties to get their machines to town first. The Jucket, or Fitchburg machine, arrived first, was met at the depot by a band of music, and amid the most intense excitement was escorted by the victorious citizens of the Upper Village to their enginehouse. It did service until the spring of 1893, when a new engine was purchased. The Amoskeag steamer, which arrived soon after the other, was after a short time sold to the town of Orange.[1]

More recent developments concerning the fire system have been somewhat less sensational. In 1893 a brick enginehouse was erected on Exchange Street, an electric fire system was installed in 1894, and in 1896 a second fire house was built in the Highlands.[2]

Owing to the hilly nature of the territory and the poverty of the soil, agriculture has not played an important part in the economy of Athol since the Civil War. Nevertheless, there are still (1935) 94 farms in Athol, with a total area of 8183 acres. This represents a decline of almost half in the number of farms, and of 11 per cent in acreage. The decline in recent years has occurred in almost all phases of agriculture. For instance, apple production decreased 58 per cent from 1925 to 1935, and the value of farm lands and buildings is now only $423,450, a decline of one-fourth in a decade. The only increases in any phase of agriculture have occurred in poultry. From 1924 to 1934 the number of eggs produced annually has doubled, and the number of chickens on Athol farms has increased 24 per cent. There are now twenty-two dairy farms in Athol and fifteen poultry farms, but they are greatly out-numbered by part time farms (where the operator spends a substantial amount of his time at jobs not connected with his farm) and by various kinds of unusual and non-commercial types of farms.[3]

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1. Caswell, op. cit., pp. 169-170.
2. Ibid., pp. 170-171.
3. George W. Westcott, ed., Worcester County: Agricultural Census Figures, passim.

Historical Sketch First entry, p. 57

Athol owes its position as the ninth most populous town of all the sixty-one municipalities in Worcester County to its various and flourishing industries. These, in turn, owe their existence mainly to the presence in the vicinity of excellent water power, particularly that furnished by Miller's River. The first mill was erected in 1759, and in 1775, with a faint realization of Athol's promise as an industrial town, a committee of five was elected to invite a "clother" to establish another mill.[1] By 1793 there were four gristmills, six sawmills and one shop with a trip-hammer, all run by water power, within the town of Athol. In 1811 a textile plant was built, which by 1837 was producing 316,000 yards of cotton goods annually. In 1825 a paper mill, which used water from the river, was established. Consequently, in 1837, a decade before the introduction of the railroad, Athol was already a sizable place, with "about 50 dwelling houses, 4 mercantile stores, and a number of mechanic shops."[2] These "mechanic shops" included one cotton mill employing ten men and forty-five women; and shoe factories employing seventy-nine men and thirty-seven women, producing boots and shoes valued at $58,741.[3]

The building of a railroad in 1847 linked Athol's growing industries with those of Fitchburg and Worcester, which were also developing by leaps and bounds. The first bank in Athol was incorporated in 1854, and was soon succeeded by three others.[4] While the original bank has been closed, the three survivors have combined resources of thirteen million dollars. It was the arrival, however, of Leroy S. Starrett, founder of the L. S. Starrett Company, in 1868, which enabled Athol to make the critical transition from a "mechanical" town to a modern industrial center.[5] By 1922 the L.S. Starrett plant was described as "the largest plant in the world wholly devoted to[6] making fine mechanical tools." It also manufactures measuring instruments, dial indicators, steel tapes, and hacksaws.

A similar concern, the Union Twist Drill Company, produces twist drills, hobs milling cutters, taps, and dies. All told, in 1922 there were thirty-four manufacturing establishments in Athol, which employed more than two thousand people, one-fourth of whom were women. They represented a capital investment of more than fifteen million dollars, which produced eight million dollars worth of goods annually. These goods included shoes, gears, milling cutters and mills, toys, pocketbooks and leather goods, wood products, thread, straw hats, pumps, cradles, combs and other celluloid goods, vises, meat choppers, wrenches, and cigars.

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1. Town Records, I, 99, see entry 30.
2. John Warner Barber, Massachusetts Historical Collections, p. 552.
3. Ibid., p. 553.
4. Acts, 1854, ch. 183.
5. Athol, Chamber of Commerce, Athol, The Ideal Town of Homes and Industries (pamphlet.) Hereafter cited as Athol, The Ideal Town.
6. Crane, op. cit., II, 829.

A later list, drawn up in 1937 by the Athol Chamber of Commerce, names the more important companies now functioning in Athol. There are five companies which manufacture tools and machinery; four which produce various kinds of metal, cloth and leather novelties and toys; four shoe companies; four manufacturers of wooden furniture; two producers of wooden building supplies; and three manufacturers of wooden and paper boxes.[1] It is probable that a small decline in the number of manufacturing establishments and workers caused by the depression has been erased in recent months.

These few figures, however, give but a skimpy idea of Athol's commercial importance to Worcester County. Its location has made it the natural trade center for many nearby communities, including Baldwinsville, Phillipston, North Orange, Royalston, Orange, Wendell, Templeton, Petersham, Barre and Erving. With a population of approximately thirty thousand do draw upon, Athol is consequently able to maintain a retail business district commensurate with that of a much larger town. It is located conveniently near to the wholesale markets of Boston, Worcester and Springfield; and its supply of filtered water for industrial purposes and its transportation system, as have been indicated, assist greatly its industrial life. A four-day "Parade of Progress," held in June, 1939, in the Memorial Hall, provided a striking and graphic picture of the diversity of Athol's products. There were forty exhibition booths, and entertainment as well, causing the local paper to comment that the exposition had "everything from toe dancers to twist drills."[2]

Nor are the other attributes of a large-sized municipality lacking. For recreational facilities Athol has two golf courses, five parks, a municipal recreation field, a Y.M.C.A. building that cost $110,000, a summer resort with an amusement park and beach, and a theatre with a seating capacity of 1200.[3]

Athol shared with the rest of New England the anti-slavery sentiment which was one of the causes of the Civil War. By the time open warfare began, all the states' rights ideas which had been so popular in Athol in 1812 had been long forgotten. On April 19, 1861, a week after Sumter, at a public meeting held in town hall, more than forty young men offered themselves for military service; and five thousand dollars was appropriated to encourage volunteers and to provide for their families. In October of the same year, Company B of the 27th Regiment of Massachusetts Volunteers was formed in Athol. In all, 387 men served in the Civil War, of whom 51 died in the service. In addition, Athol raised almost thirteen thousand dollars for war expenses.[4]

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1. Athol, The Ideal Town.
2. Athol Daily News, June 2, 1939.
3. Athol, The Ideal Town.
4. Norton, op. cit., II, 1036-1037.

Historical Sketch

First entry, p. 57

Despite its rugged topography, Athol has been fortunate in securing the best of whatever types of transportation were available at the time. This fact has played a large part in Athol's industrial development; without it, Athol might have become like many of its neighbors, a rural community without any industries and little agriculture. As early as 1799, the General Court became aware that the highways from Northfield through Warwick and Orange to Athol, and from Greenfield to Athol, were "Rocky & Mountainous, & the expence of straitening, making & repairing the same . . . so that the same may be conveniently travelled with Horses & Carriages is much greater than reasonably ought to be required" of the towns through which they passed.[1] Consequently it incorporated the Fifth Massachusetts Turnpike Corporation, whose powers were broadened by various legislative acts passed shortly thereafter.[2] This was the most ambitious of all the pikes built in Massachusetts, the longest single road of its kind, and one of the most successful. In particular, it proved a boon to the stage coaches which had been making regular trips from Boston to Northfield as early as 1789. At least one of the toll gates on the Fifth Massachusetts was located in Athol, "near where Samuel Sweetzer keeps a tavern."[3]

The success of this turnpike led to the formation of the Petersham and Monson Turnpike Corporation, which was chartered by the General Court on February 29, 1804. It joined the Fifth Massachusetts in Athol, and then extended to Stafford.[4] By the close of 1832, however, both turnpikes had been taken over by the county, ending the era of turnpike building.[5]

Athol was similarly fortunate in that the first company to secure permission from the General Court for permission to construct a railroad through Athol succeeded in completing it. This was the Vermont and Massachusetts Railroad Company, incorporated on March 15, 1844, with authority to run its road from Fitchburg to the Vermont or New Hampshire boundary.[6] The section as far as Athol was completed in December 1847, despite great financial and physical difficulties which led the General Court to extend the time set for its completion.[7] Its success was signalized by the construction in 1873 of an imposing railroad station, with a clock tower. However, it was damaged by fire in 1892, and rebuilt on a much more modest scale the following year. Only the clock tower remains of the original edifice.[8]

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1. Acts, 1798-1799, ch. 85.
2. Ibid., 1800-1, ch. 30; 1802-3, ch. 66; 1815, ch. 20.
3. Caswell, op. cit., p. 43.
4. Acts, 1802-3, ch. 95.
5. Caswell, op. cit., p. 43.
6. Acts, 1844, ch. 134.
7. Ibid., 1845, ch. 97.
8. Caswell, op. cit., p. 80.

Other roads were not so fortunate. The Swift River Railroad Company, chartered in 1851 to connect with the Vermont and Massachusetts line at Athol, and from there to extend to Ware and Palmer,[1] failed to materialize; the Athol and Enfield Company, incorporated in 1869,[2] ran into financial difficulties,[3] eventually leading to its dissolution;[4] and the rights of the Springfield and Athol Company, incorporated in 1871,[5] were sold in 1878 to the Springfield and North-Eastern Railroad Company, formed for that purpose.[6]

With the passage of time, most of the small railroads in the territory surrounding Athol, including the Vermont and Massachusetts, have been merged into the Boston and Maine system. Athol is now served by the Fitchburg division of this system. Its passenger and freight service is more than adequately supplemented by bus and track lines which travel several times a day over state routes 2 (Mohawk Trail), 32 to Worcester, 21 to Springfield, and over U. S. 202 to Holyoke.

The first steps toward supplying the town of Athol with street railway transportation were taken in 1900, when the Phillipston Street Railway Company was incorporated, with authority to run cars in the towns of Athol, Phillipston and Templeton.[7] After several changes had occurred in the financial affairs of this corporation, it became part of the Northern Massachusetts Street Railway Company. At town meetings held on February 4 and 18, 1924, the town of Athol voted to acquire and operate the Athol and Northern division of the Northern Massachusetts, under a statute passed by the General Court the same year.[8] A thirty thousand dollar loan was floated for the purchase,[9] and for several years the system was run successfully by the town. Eventually, however, competition from bus lines made operation of the Athol-Orange Transportation Area, as it was called, less and less profitable, and in 1933 the properties and assets of the system were liquidated.[10]

The last episode in this history of Athol transportation fittingly concerns the Athol-Orange Airport, which covers an area of ninety-five acres, located in part in each town. It has been developed slowly, and there is as yet no regular air line based at the port. With the growing commercial and military emphasis placed on air transportation, however, the port is likely to become of great importance in the near future.[11]

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1. Acts, 1851, ch. 314.
2. Ibid., 1869, ch. 174.
3. Ibid., ch. 404.
4. Ibid., 1873, ch. 16.
5. Ibid., 1871, ch. 289.
6. Ibid., 1878, ch. 227.
7. Ibid., 1900, ch. 244.
8. Ibid., 1924, ch. 118.
9. Annual Reports, 1924, pp. 45, 52, see entry 2.
10. Ibid., 1933, p. 70.
11. Athol, The Ideal Town.

Historical Sketch

First entry, p. 57

Athol's normal, healthy growth from its founding to the present is indicated by the census figures which have been taken regularly by federal and state authorities. Only in the decade between 1895 and 1905 do they show a decline in population, and that was of a minor nature. Otherwise the figures, beginning with 359 in 1765 and 848 in 1790, rise with unfailing regularity to the town's present (1935) peak of 10,751.[1] One-fifth of the population is foreign-born. Of these, the great majority are from Canada, and include many of French extraction; immigrants from Lithuania and Italy are next in number.[2]

Evidence of Athol's comparative prosperity are indicated even more clearly by other indices. Over half (51.6 per cent) of all the families in Athol own their own homes, as contrasted with the forty-three per cent average of the state as a whole. Almost three-fourths (72.5 per cent) of Athol families occupy single dwellings, as compared to fifty per cent for the entire state.[3] The total valuation of Athol is almost ten million dollars. It pays a total annual tax of $379,092, based on a tax rate of $39.40. The growth in these and other items is indicated in the following aggregates of polls, property, taxes, etc., as issued periodically by the Commonwealth.

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1. The subsequent figures, as summarized in the Mass. Census of 1905, I, 810, and the Mass. Census of 1935, p. 15, follows: 1800, 993; 1820, 1,211; 1840, 1,591; 1860, 2,604; 1880, 4,307; 1900, 7,061; 1910, 8,536; 1920, 9,792; 1930, 10,677; 1935, 10,751.

2. Mass. Census of 1905, I, 685; Boston University Bureau of Business Research, Abstract, 1937.

3. Abstract, op. cit.

Athol - Aggregates of Polls, Property and Taxes as Assessed[1]

Date	No. of Polls	Value of Personal Estate	Value of Real Estate	Total Value, Real & Personal Estate	Tax Rate per $1000	Total State, County, Town Tax
1861	807	$ 287,588	$ 636,996	$ 924,584	$ 9.40	$ 10,086.55
1870	1000	508,299	1,420,905	1,929,204	15.30	32,331.00
1880	1196	531,580	1,729,530	2,261,110	15.00	36,312.00
1890	1707	691,729	2,313,645	3,005,374	19.00	60,518.00
1900	2070	739,600	3,421,480	4,161,080	16.80	74,104.00
1910	2367	929,526	3,714,175	4,643,701	20.50	99,910.00
1920	3165	2,612,613	6,077,580	8,690,193	24.50	228,732.00
1930	3250	2,346,720	8,664,255	11,010,975	32.40	363,255.00
1939	3819	679,900	8,747,715	9,427,615	39.40	379,092.00

Date	Persons Assessed	No. of Dwelling Houses	Acres of Land Taxed	No. of Horses	No. of Cows	No. of Neat Cattle	No. of Swine
1861		485	18,702	326	487		
1870		630	18,777	409	438		
1880		852	18,777	535	527		
1890	2130	1117	18,820	648	493	215	137
1900	2790	1391	19,240	852	454	153	83
1910	3303	1490	18,358	615	455	143	87
1920	4035	1853	18,888	381	557	140	184
1930	5587	2036	18,978	135	452	125	72
1939	6147	2179	18,978	87	391	97	51

1. Figures are taken from "Aggregates of Polls, Property, Taxes, etc." Public Document No. 42 in 1861, Public Document No. 36 in 1870 and Public Document No. 19 thereafter, all published by the Commonwealth.

Athol's library facilities are very good for a town of its size, as a result of the cooperation and philanthropies of several organizations and individuals for many years past. As early as 1828, the Athol Social Library was in existence. It was succeeded by the Ladies' Social Circle Library, organized in 1856; the Ladies Library Association, organized in 1857; and the Athol Agricultural and Mechanical Library Association, organized in 1858. In 1878 the Athol Library Association was formed; in the three years of its existence, it gathered together approximately one thousand volumes, a number far greater than any of its predecessors had gathered.[1] These were offered to the town in 1882, on condition that it supply a suitable place for them, appropriate money for new books when necessary, and hire a librarian. The offer was accepted, and the first town library committee was elected in April 1883.[2] The library was housed in the residence of Joel M. Doane until 1887, when it was removed to a room set aside for that purpose in the Doane barn.[3]

1. Caswell, op. cit., pp. 143-144.
2. Town Records, V, 514, see entry 30.
3. Ibid., VIII, 410.

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The first serious attempt to construct a library building was made in 1904, but failed; as an alternative, larger quarters were rented for the use of the library.[1] In 1912, however, the town voted to accept an offer made by Andrew Carnegie, who proposed to give it fifteen thousand dollars to erect a library building.[2] Land for the building was donated by L. S. Starrett in 1913[3] but by the time construction got under way in 1918, Mr. Carnegie had increased his offer to twenty-two thousand dollars, provided the town thereafter made an annual appropriation of twenty-two hundred dollars for its upkeep.[4] Owing to this provision, the library can boast of purchasing eleven hundred books annually. The total number of books in the building is 17,629, of which 73 are in Lithuanian, 71 in Italian, and 51 in French. The total number of borrowers is almost seven thousand, and the annual circulation is 74,084. These figures may be compared with the 650 subscribers and 8,873 circulation listed in 1882.[5]

The feasibility, in general, of public ownership of utilities is certainly a debatable matter, but so far as Athol is concerned, public ownership and operation of the water system proved the solution to a question which agitated the town for many decades. The first company to obtain permission to supply Athol with water was the Athol Reservoir Company, incorporated February 27, 1854.[6] During the next fifteen years, no fewer than three committees were chosen by the town to negotiate a contract with this company and its successor, the Athol Aqueduct Company, but in each case the committees were unable to come to an agreement.[7] In 1876 the town and the Athol Reservoir Company decided on terms agreeable to both parties,[8] but difficulties again ensued almost immediately. In 1877 the Athol Water Company purchased the plant of the older company, and constructed additional mains and hydrants.[9] But service remained unsatisfactory; committees were again chosen by the town in 1878[10] and 1881[11] to treat with the company, but without much success. The climax came in 1892, when the town undertook a lengthy series of lawsuits against the company.

On December 17, 1904 Athol voted to purchase the plant and equipment of the private water company,[12] and the general court passed an act enabling it to do so on April 5, 1905.[13] The selectmen were authorized to act as agents in the transaction, and the first board of water commissioners was

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1. Annual Reports, 1904, p. 98, see entry 2.
2. Town Records, IX, 498, see entry 30.
3. Ibid., IX, 591
4. Ibid., X, 49.
5. Annual Reports, 1938, pp. 158-162, see entry 2.
6. Acts, 1854, ch. 41.
7. Town Records, IV, 353-354, see entry 30.
8. Ibid., V, 231-235.
9. Acts, 1877, ch. 121.
10. Town Records, V, 324, see entry 30.
11. Ibid., p. 445.
12. Ibid., VIII, 533, see entry 30.
13. Acts, 1905, ch. 257.

elected in 1906.[1] The municipal water department now (1938) serves almost two thousand meters, its total annual receipts amount to almost fifty thousand dollars, and its mechanical rapid sand filtration plant assures the town of a plentiful supply of water for all commercial and domestic purposes.[2]

In 1894 the town floated a loan to construct and modernize its sewerage system.[3] The eventual cost of constructing this system was $140,000.[4]

Final successor to the various "meeting houses" of the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries is the impressive town hall of today. Known as the Memorial Building, it is a two-story brick structure, with a central clock tower rising from a flat top, and contains a municipal auditorium seating 1,400 persons. Money for its construction was authorized in 1919,[5] and the building was completed in 1924 at a cost of $200,000.[6]

Similarly, Athol's modern newspaper, the Athol Daily News, established in 1934 and boasting a circulation of three thousand, is the final successor to several other papers which were founded at various times in the town. The earliest was Freedom's Sentinel, the first issue of which appeared on December 28, 1827. It aimed to promote "education, habits of industry and principles of virtue . . . to encourage agricultural pursuits" and to secure, by discreet exertion, the "complete abolition" of slavery. On a more prosaic level, it sustained the administration of John Quincy Adams. On December 29, 1829, it published, with undisguised repugnance, part of the first message of Martin Van Buren; and in the same issue the publisher announced his determination "to take a friendly leave of the patrons, and depart in peace, good spirits and with empty pockets."[7] Other previous papers were The White Flag, established in 1850 to promote "the Christian Confidence of Neighborhoods, Towns, States and Nations," the Worcester West Chronicle, founded in 1866, and the Athol Transcript, founded in 1871. As a general rule, their existence was brief.[8]

From 1837 to 1873 Athol underwent no fewer than nine area changes. The first occurred in 1783, when the northwesterly part was combined with land from other towns to form the new district of Orange.[9] It meant the loss to Athol of two square miles and twenty-five families. Shortly after a dispute respecting the taxes incurred by the residents of Orange prior to the division, was settled by a special committee appointed by the General

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1. Town Records, IX, 33, see entry 30.
2. Annual Reports, 1938, pp. 131-138, see entry 2.
3. Acts, 1894, ch. 244.
4. Athol, The Ideal Town.
5. Special Acts, 1919, ch. 137.
6. Annual Report, 1924, p. 142, see entry 2.
7. Quoted in Sprague, op. cit., pp. 24-25.
8. Ibid., p. 25.
9. Acts, 1782-83, ch. 17.

Court.[1] Hardly had this dispute been settled when, on October 20, 1786, three square miles were taken from Athol to help form the new town of Gerry, now known as Phillipston.[2] In 1788 three persons and their estates, whose written desire to remain with Athol had erroneously been ignored, were returned to Athol, with their "Pols & Estates."[3] At the same time, the assessors of Athol were authorized to collect Gerry's share of the 1787 county tax.[4] In 1799, in a minor boundary change, 139 square rods were taken from Athol and annexed to Royalston.[5] The loss in 1803 of about seven hundred and fifty acres to Royalston was much more serious for this territory comprised virtually all of what is now South Royalston, and included a mill and several families.[6] The annexation of a few families and their estates from Gerry in 1806[7] and from Orange in 1816[8] failed to increase Athol s area materially. However, in 1829, certain common lands adjacent to Athol were confirmed to that town,[9] and in 1830 and 1837 large sections of New Salem were annexed to Athol.[10] These various changes have left Athol with an area of 32.3 square miles, making it the eighteenth largest of all the towns and cities in Worcester County. It is bounded on the west by Orange, on the north by Royalston, on the south by Petersham, and on the east by Royalston, Phillipston and Petersham.

In 1884 the first district court of northern Worcester was established, with sessions to be held in Athol and Gardner.[11] The original act provided for meetings every other day at each town, but it was amended in 1888 to allow sessions to be held at "either of said towns as public convenience may require."[12]

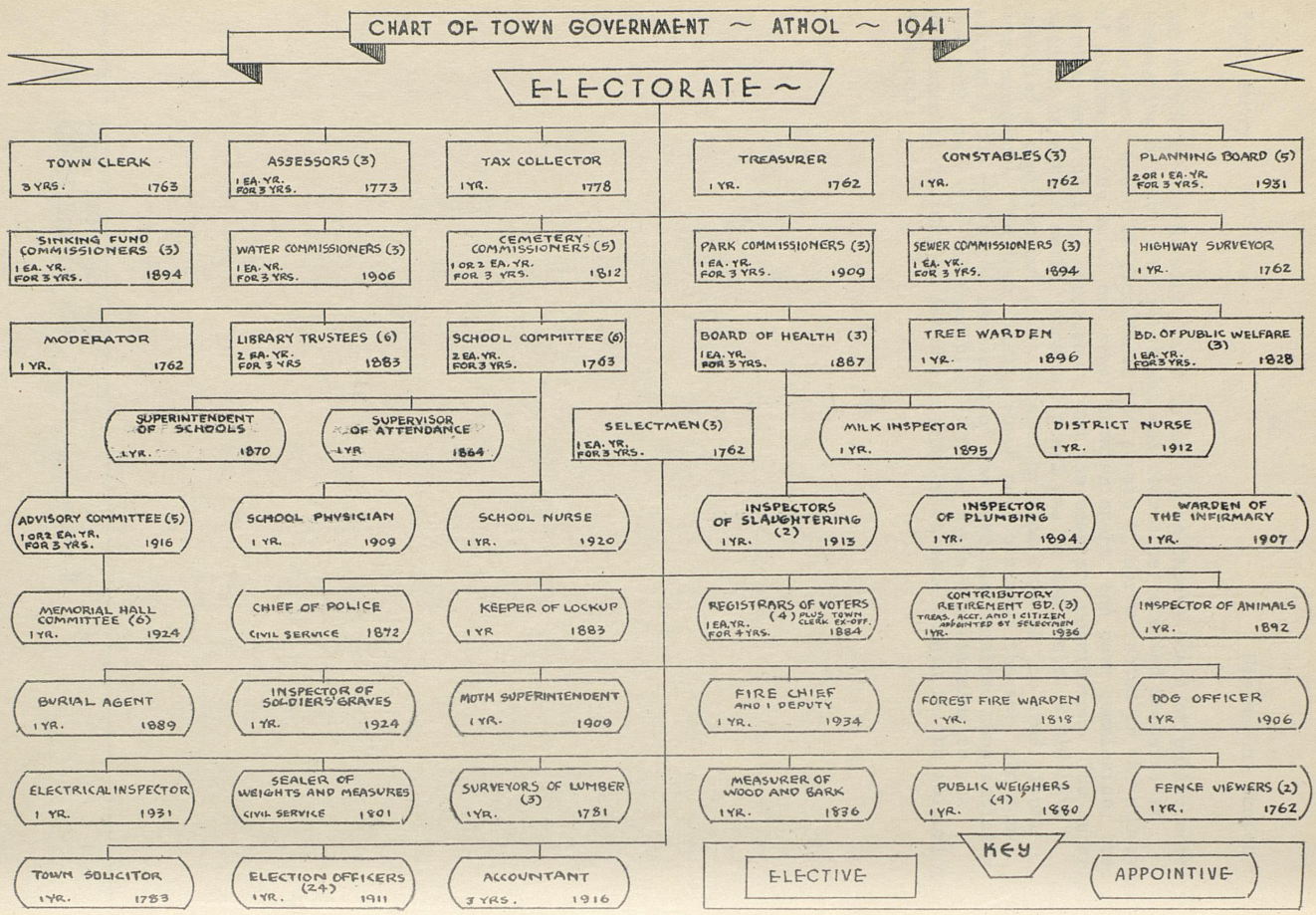
In recent years there have been three separate attempts made to introduce the town manager form of government in Athol. The first took place in 1915, when a special committee was appointed to investigate the merits of the plan. Its report, delivered two years later, was favorable, but no definite action was taken. A committee was established for the same purpose in 1922, but again the attempt failed.[13] In 1935, the effort toward centralization and efficiency took a new form. The town was

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1. Ibid., 1784, ch. 99; 1785, ch. 50, 60.
2. Ibid., 1786-1787, ch. 34.
3. Ibid., ch. 14.
4. Ibid., ch. 16.
5. Ibid., 1798-99, ch. 65.
6. Ibid., 1802, ch. 118.
7. Ibid., 1805-6, ch. 46.
8. Ibid., 1816, ch. 62.
9. Ibid., 1829, ch. 13.
10. Ibid., 1830, ch. 33; 1837, ch. 80.
11. Ibid., 1884, ch. 215.
12. Ibid., 1888, ch. 212.
13. John Fairfield Sly, Town Government in Massachusetts, p. 215.

authorized by the General Court to set up an unpaid board of public works, consisting of the three selectmen and four other elected members, in whose hands would be placed all the powers hitherto vested in the surveyors of highways, the water and sewer commissioners, the park commission, tree warden, moth control department, and the cemetery commission. The superintendent of public works, whom the board was to designate, would have occupied a position not great dissimilar from that of the traditional town manager.[1] The town finally voted not to accept the act, and consequently the political mechanism of the town has remained substantially the same since its incorporation.[2] Other matters pertaining to the governmental history of Athol are treated at some length in the following sections.

1. Acts, 1935, ch. 292
2. Annual Report, 1936, p. 19, see entry 2.


CHART OF TOWN GOVERNMENT ~ ATHOL ~ 1941
ELECTORATE ~
TOWN CLERK 3 YRS. 1763
ASSESSORS (3) 1 EA. YR. FOR 3 YRS. 1773
TAX COLLECTOR 1 YR. 1778
TREASURER 1 YR. 1762
CONSTABLES (3) 1 YR. 1762
PLANNING BOARD (5) 2 OR 1 EA. YR. FOR 3 YRS. 1931
SINKING FUND COMMISSIONERS (3) 1 EA. YR. FOR 3 YRS. 1894
WATER COMMISSIONERS (3) 1 EA. YR. FOR 3 YRS. 1906
CEMETERY COMMISSIONERS (5) 1 OR 2 EA. YR. FOR 3 YRS. 1812
PARK COMMISSIONERS (3) 1 EA. YR. FOR 3 YRS. 1909
SEWER COMMISSIONERS (3) 1 EA. YR. FOR 3 YRS. 1894
HIGHWAY SURVEYOR 1 YR. 1762
MODERATOR 1 YR. 1762
LIBRARY TRUSTEES (6) 2 EA. YR. FOR 3 YRS 1883
SCHOOL COMMITTEE (6) 2 EA. YR. FOR 3 YRS. 1763
BOARD OF HEALTH (3) 1 EA. YR. FOR 3 YRS. 1887
TREE WARDEN 1 YR. 1896
BD. OF PUBLIC WELFARE (3) 1 EA. YR. FOR 3 YRS. 1828
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS 1 YR. 1870
SUPERVISOR OF ATTENDANCE 1 YR 1864
SELECTMEN (3) 1 EA. YR. FOR 3 YRS. 1762
MILK INSPECTOR 1 YR. 1895
DISTRICT NURSE 1 YR. 1912
ADVISORY COMMITTEE (5) 1 OR 2 EA. YR. FOR 3 YRS. 1916
SCHOOL PHYSICIAN 1 YR. 1909
SCHOOL NURSE 1 YR. 1920
INSPECTORS OF SLAUGHTERING (2) 1 YR. 1913
INSPECTOR OF PLUMBING 1 YR. 1894
WARDEN OF THE INFIRMARY 1 YR. 1907
MEMORIAL HALL COMMITTEE (6) 1 YR. 1924
CHIEF OF POLICE CIVIL SERVICE 1872
KEEPER OF LOCKUP 1 YR 1883
REGISTRARS OF VOTERS (4) PLUS TOWN CLERK EX-OFF. 1 EA. YR. FOR 4 YRS. 1884
CONTRIBUTORY RETIREMENT BD. (3) TREAS., ACCT. AND 1 CITIZEN APPOINTED BY SELECTMEN 1 YR. 1936
INSPECTOR OF ANIMALS 1 YR. 1892
BURIAL AGENT 1 YR. 1889
INSPECTOR OF SOLDIERS' GRAVES 1 YR. 1924
MOTH SUPERINTENDENT 1 YR. 1909
FIRE CHIEF AND 1 DEPUTY 1 YR. 1934
FOREST FIRE WARDEN 1 YR. 1918
DOG OFFICER 1 YR 1906
ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR 1 YR. 1931
SEALER OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES CIVIL SERVICE 1801
SURVEYORS OF LUMBER (3) 1 YR. 1781
MEASURER OF WOOD AND BARK 1 YR. 1836
PUBLIC WEIGHERS (4) 1 YR. 1880
FENCE VIEWERS (2) 1 YR. 1762
TOWN SOLICITOR 1 YR. 1783
ELECTION OFFICERS (24) 1 YR. 1911
ACCOUNTANT 3 YRS. 1916
KEY
ELECTIVE
APPOINTIVE

GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION AND RECORDS SYSTEM

Governmental Organization of Paquoiag Plantation

Paquoiag Plantation was authorized in 1732, laid out gradually by the proprietors at their convenience, and settled, in a modest way, by five families who came to the Miller's River wilderness in the fall of 1735. No records earlier than 1749 are available concerning the early form of propriety government; and the records for several years thereafter were written from memory, owing to their removal or destruction by the first clerk of the propriety.

But the first offices of which we have knowledge were those commonly found in proprieties of the period. They included a moderator, clerk, treasurer, and prudential committee and various other committees. When Athol was incorporated, their duties devolved, for the most part, upon the elected officials of the new town, however, the proprietary offices were continued, though some duties probably became nominal. The proprietors themselves continued to exist as a body devoted to confirming land rights and disposing of undivided lands for many years thereafter. In 1823 a major change occurred in the manner of calling meetings, when the proprietors voted that any three of them might make such a written request to the clerk, or, in his absence, to the prudential committee, who would thereupon issue a warrant for the meeting.[1] Their last existing record is dated September 6, 1824, sixty-two years after the incorporation of Athol.

A closer examination of the proprietary offices and committees is necessary in order to understand the genesis of Athol's town government. Most important of these was the prudential committee, to which three members were elected in 1749, according to the earliest preserved records.[2] Until the town was incorporated, it performed duties not unlike those of selectmen, and thereafter was the main instrument of the proprietors in protecting their land rights. It was authorized at various times to assess and collect taxes, and in 1758 was empowered to sell the land of those proprietors who had failed to meet the ministerial levy laid upon them by the assessors.[3] In 1761 it sold "pew ground . . . to their best discretion."[4] When its clerk failed to deliver to the proprietors the records of the propriety, it was this body which attempted to enforce their delivery,[5] which supervised the search and recording of the lost plans of lots,[6] and which presented the rewritten records to the General Court for its approval.[7] Finally, when the affairs of the propriety were about to be

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1. Proprietors' Records, II, 288, see entry 33.
2. Ibid., I, 124.
3. Ibid., p. 140.
4. Ibid., II, 169.
5. Ibid., I, 141.
6. Ibid., II, 69.
7. Ibid., p. 228.

wound up, this committee was authorized to divide the common and unallotted land among the proprietors[1] or to sell it if possible,[2] a motion to give the remaining unclaimed lands to the town having been voted down.[3] Finally, in June, 1824, it adjusted all the remaining business of the propriety, which was dissolved apparently on the sixth of the following September.[4]

The office of moderator was in existence at least from October 18, 1749[5] to the final recorded meeting of the proprietors in 1824.[6] The offices of clerk and treasurer are also mentioned in the records of the 1749 meeting.[7] The following year these offices were combined with that of collector in the person of Joseph Lord.[8]

After Mr. Lord's equivocal departure, these offices again became separate. The office of clerk continued until 1823.[9] The office of treasurer continued at least until 1820.[10] The office of collector does not appear again until March 1761, when three incumbents were elected to this office.[11] At various times thereafter the prudential committee collected the taxes, but after 1768 it appears that a collector was again elected regularly.[12] None of these offices are mentioned in 1824, when a special committee of three was elected for the purpose of winding up the affairs of the propriety.[13]

The task of levying taxes upon the resident and non-resident proprietors to pay for the expenses of surveying the land, dividing the lots, and building the meetinghouse fell generally upon assessors, although upon occasion the prudential committee assumed this duty also. The fragmentary records note only that in 1758 the assessors levied a tax for the minister's salary,[14] that in 1759 three assessors were elected, and that[15] a final election took place in 1820,[16] but it can readily be assumed that during most of the existence of the propriety assessors were elected with great regularity.

In addition to these officers, the proprietors also elected various

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1. Ibid., p. 228.
2. Ibid., p. 290.
3. Ibid., p. 244-247.
4. Ibid., p. 290.
5. Ibid., I, 124.
6. Ibid., II, 290.
7. Ibid., I, 124.
8. Ibid., p. 127.
9. Ibid., II, 288.
10. Ibid., p. 279.
11. Ibid., I, 159.
12. Ibid., II, 249.
13. Ibid., p. 290.
14. Ibid., I, 140.
15. Ibid., p. 146.
16. Ibid., II, 279.

committees. In 1750 a committee was set up to check the accounts of the treasurer,[1] and in 1758 a similar committee was elected "to settle accounts."[2] In the same year, a committee of three was chosen to lay out roads,[3] and in 1760 a committee of five was delegated to survey the township.[4] The committee to lay our roads appears again in 1761[5] and in a later meeting held the same year four surveyors of roads were elected.[6] The necessity for these road officers disappeared with the incorporation of the town.

Governmental Organization of the Town of Athol

On March 6, 1762, the General Court took cognizance of the fact "that the inhabitants of the plantation of Payquage in the county of Worcester, labour under great difficulties by reason of their not being incorporated into a town . . . " and ordered "That the said plantation be and hereby is erected into a town by the name of Athol, with all the powers, privileges, and immunities that by law are vested with towns."[7]

The first warrant for a town meeting read as follows

> Worcester S S To George Cutting of Athol in the county of Worcester and one of the principal inhabitants of said town. Whereas I, the Subscriber, am impowered by act of the Great and General Court, to call a meeting of the inhabitants of the town of Athol, to choose Town Officers, etc . These are therefore in his majestie s name to require you forth-with to warn and notifie the said inhabitants of Athol qualified to vote in town affairs, that they meet at the meeting house insaid town of Athol, on Monday, the 29th of this instant March, at one of the clock in the afternoon, then and there to choose a moderator, selectmen, town clerk, assessors, town treasurer, wardens, tythingmen, fence viewers, sealer of weights and measures, field drivers, hog reaves, and all other ordinary town officers, as towns choose in the month of March annually.
>
> Hereof fail not, and make return hereof with your doings hereon unto me before said meeting.
>
> Given under my hand and seal at Rutland, in said county, this fifteenth day of March, 1762, in the second year of his present majesty's Reign, etc.
>
> John Murray,
> Justice of Peace.[8]

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1. Ibid, I, 127.
2. Ibid., p. 136.
3. Ibid., p. 135.
4. Ibid.
5. Ibid., p. 163.
6. Ibid.
7. Province Acts and Resolves (1761-1762), IV, ch. 46, p. 534.
8. Town Records, I, 1, see entry 30.

At the organization meeting of the town, the voters elected a moderator, three selectmen who also served as assessors, a treasurer, two constables, three highway surveyors, two tythingmen, two fence viewers, a sealer of leather, a sealer of weights and measures, two deer reeves, two hog reeves, and two field drivers. Some of these officers, naturally, merely continued the exercise of functions which had long been the responsibility of propriety officers. The important office of town clerk was left vacant until the following year.[1]

The year following saw the establishment of the first school committee.[2] It was followed in ensuing years by other school committees of various kinds; sometimes they concerned themselves with hiring teachers, at other times they supervised the school program or building operations.

In 1764 the town set up a committee of three to act as auditors;[3] such committees may be noted from time to time up to the establishment of this office on a permanent basis. In the same year the number of selectmen was increased from three to five,[4] but thereafter, with very few exceptions, the number of selectmen remained at five. Also in 1764 the town elected two surveyors of wheat,[5] an office which survived only until 1767.[6] The office of pound keeper, established in 1771,[7] is also obsolete; it survived, however, through 1934.[8]

In 1773 the selectmen were relieved of their dual duties by the election of three assessors.[9] After a few years, however, the town began to elect one or more selectmen as assessors, and they were represented on this board, or wholly comprised it, for many years after the office was set up on an independent basis. Since 1895, when the rotation plan of tenure was introduced, selectmen have rarely been elected as assessors, and none has been so elected since 1910.[10]

During the period immediately following the Revolutionary War, changes in the governmental organization of the town were few and of a minor nature. An agent or solicitor was first chosen in 1783,[11] but the office did not become a permanent fixture until 1918.[12] The office of tax collector was established

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1. Ibid., I, 2, 3, 6.
2. Ibid., p. 7.
3. Ibid., p. 83.
4. Ibid., p. 20.
5. Ibid., p. 10.
6. Ibid., p. 25.
7. Ibid., p. 56.
8. Ibid., X, 429; XI, 163.
9. Ibid., I, 78.
10. Ibid., VII, 140.
11. Ibid., II, 434.
12. Ibid., X, 226.

in 1788;[1] prior to this time, the constables performed his duties. In 1801 a sealer of weights and measures appears in the records for the first time,[2] and with the exception of a few scattered years, this office has continued to the present. It was placed under civil service regulations in 1934.[3]

Sextons were elected by the town meeting in 1808[4] but it is likely that sextons had been hired before this time as town employees rather than officers. They officiated at funerals and were the caretakers of the various cemeteries in town; they had but little connection with church duties. In 1812 a cemetery committee was established to take over the work of supervision from the selectmen;[5] eventually, there developed from this a modern board of cemetery commissioners, first elected in 1886.[6]

The basis for Athol's fire-fighting services was laid in 1817, when seventeen fire enginemen were chosen.[7] Appointments became annual and regular in 1863, and by 1904 there were three full-time engineers serving the department.[8] In 1934 the first chief of the fire department and two deputy chiefs were appointed; the number of deputies has now been reduced to one.[9] The first fire wardens were elected in 1818,[10] and the office is still filled annually.

The formal inception of the overseers of the poor may be dated from 1828, when the selectmen were relieved of their welfare tasks by this board,[11] but it was not long before the selectmen were again in charge of welfare. The overseers were not established on a permanent basis until 1886,[12] finally becoming known as the board of public welfare in 1925.[13]

In 1836 two measurers of wood and bark were elected,[14] and about 1859 the short-lived office of town liquor agent was established.[15]

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1. Ibid., I, 521.
2. Ibid., II, 94.
3. Ibid., XI, 340.
4. Ibid., II, 155.
5. Ibid., I, 194.
6. Ibid., VI, 140.
7. Ibid., II, 257.
8. Ibid., IV, 249; VII, 16-17, 449.
9. Ibid., XI, 170.
10. Ibid., II, 241.
11. Ibid., III, 20.
12. Ibid., VI, 99.
13. Ibid., X, 642.
14. Ibid., III, 110.
15. Annual Reports, 1859, p. 3, see entry 2.

Two truant officers were elected in 1864;[1] since 1915 their title has been attendance officer.[2] The most fundamental change in this period, with the exception of the permanent establishment of the overseers of the poor, was the initial employment in 1870 of a superintendent of schools.[3] Although the office at this time continued for a period of only seven years, it was revived in 1892[4] and has continued to the present.

Although there had been constables and special police appointed earlier, a regular police force was not set up until 1876.[5] The head of the force, now termed acting chief and keeper of the lock-up, was first elected in 1904.[6] The department came under civil service provisions in 1916,[7] and the title of the members was changed to patrolmen in 1935.[8] A reserve force was authorized in 1929,[9] and appointments to this body have been made regularly ever since.

The offices established since 1880 indicates clearly how the functions of town government have expanded. In 1880 three public weighers were elected to office;[10] since that time, their number has varied from one to fourteen. The board of library trustees was established in 1883,[11] and the registrars of voters in 1884.[12] The first board of health was elected in 1887.[13] Its appointees now include an inspector of milk, two inspectors of slaughtering, a district nurse, and an inspector of plumbing.[14]

The first mention in the records of a town burial agent appears in 1889.[15] Sewer commissioners were first elected in 1894,[16] and water commissioners in 1906,[17] a year after the town purchased the private company which had formerly supplied it with water. The three park commissioners were first elected in 1909.[18] In 1916 an informal "appropriations committee"

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1. Town Records, IV, 267, see entry 30.
2. School Committee Minutes, 1887-1917, p. 311, see entry 163.
3. Town Records, IV, 36, see entry 30.
4. Ibid., VI, 452.
5. Ibid., V, 215.
6. Ibid., VIII, 50.
7. Ibid., p. 64.
8. Annual Reports, 1935, p. 8, see entry 2.
9. Town Records, XI, 160, see entry 30.
10. Ibid., V, 401.
11. Ibid., p. 514.
12. Ibid., VI, 20.
13. Ibid., p. 148.
14. Annual Reports, 1939, p. 7, see entry 2.
15. Town Records, VI, 270, see entry 30.
16. Ibid., VII, 65.
17. Ibid., IX, 33.
18. Ibid., p. 305.

 See entry p. 57

was given formal status under the title of "advisory committee"; the previous members were retained, but additional new members were appointed to bring the total membership up to fifteen. The committee is appointed by the moderator. It confers regularly with all town officers and departments, and makes recommendations concerning town expenditures.[1] Somewhat similar is the planning board, established in 1931, which formulates plans for the systematic expansion of the town.[2]

During the World War years, Athol, in common with other communities throughout the state, established various committees and groups to guide actions connected with the war and conservation which were in effect at the time. No permanent changes in the government of the town resulted, however.

With the failure of various attempts to install a town manager form of government, the most significant recent governmental change that has occurred in Athol is the establishment of the contributory retirement board. On November 3, 1936, Athol voted to accept the provisions of the Acts of 318 and 400 of 1936, providing pensions for all employees of the town who had worked seven months of the year, and who accepted membership in the retirement system by a certain date.[3] By July 1, 1937 there were seventy-six members in the system.[4] The board which invests the funds consists of the town accountant, the town treasurer, and one representative of the public at large.[5]

Other acts of the General Court which have been accepted by Athol in the past may be listed briefly as follows: ch. 264, Acts of 1886, providing for precinct voting; ch. 417, Acts of 1893, consolidating previous election laws; ch. 132, Acts of 1894, allowing the use of precinct voting at annual meetings; ch. 560, Acts of 1907, again codifying regulations pertaining to voting; ch. 209, Acts of 1908, "for the protection of forest or sprout lands from fire"; ch. 423, Acts of 1909, allowing Sunday sales by duly licensed storekeepers of confectionery, fruit, ice cream, etc.; ch. 503, Acts of 1912, pensioning aged or incapacitated town laborers, under certain conditions; ch. 671, Acts of 1913, extending the terms of the previous act to employees of water and fire districts; ch. 807, Acts of 1913, compensating injured town laborers; ch. 217, Acts of 1914, allowing vacations to town laborers; ch. 352, Acts of 1914, extending pensions and injury compensation to employees of water commissions, etc.; ch. 790, Acts of 1914, regulating primary ballots and the membership of town political committees; ch. 166, Acts of 1920, giving one day off every eight days to members of the police department; ch. 619, Acts of 1920, establishing a boxing commission and regulating boxing exhibitions; ch. 406, Acts of 1928, allowing certain Sunday sports; ch. 275, Acts of 1934, barring the use of steel traps for hunting game.

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1. Ibid., X, 216.
2. Ibid., XI, 170.
3. Annual Reports, 1938, p. 231, see entry 2.
4. Ibid.
5. Ibid., p. 232.

Records System

On the whole, the records of Athol are ample and fairly complete. Town records exist from before the incorporation of the town, and are indexed from 1762. Vital statistics, although not found in one place, also extend back to 1737, and are completely indexed. Annual reports, kept in the Athol Public Library, are complete from 1843. Other miscellaneous records kept by the clerk and the selectmen permit the reconstruction of the town's early history.

Financial records, formerly kept by the treasurer and now by the accountant, extend well back into the last century. All of the boards and committees now keep minutes of their meetings, and additional information concerning their activities may be learned from several other sources, including the town records and the annual reports.

HOUSING, CARE, AND ACCESSIBILITY OF RECORDS

The town of Athol has a modern Town Hall with excellent facilities for the care and preservation of records. Each department has a separate office and usually a separate vault in this office. Consequently, the records are well segregated and there is little confusion in the arrangement. A general statement can be made that all of the records are in good condition with the writing legible and the paper and binding in good condition.

There is considerable interest in the records of Athol. There has been a local WPA project engaged for several months in rearranging, classifying, transcribing, and indexing the most important records. The Town Clerk has an excellent card file which serves as an index to almost every important fact in his records and he takes considerable pride in keeping these records in good order.

The unbound material of the various depositories are somewhat scattered and unlabeled. Conditions could be improved if these records were stored in file boxes and properly labeled.

The basement contains a large vault which is used to store excess records of all departments. The records here are well arranged and well cared for.

Memorial Building, Main Street

Depository	Selectmen's Room, #11	Treasurer & Accountant's Off., rm. #12	Treasurer & Accountant's Va., rm. #12	Town Clerk's Off., rm. #14
Location	1st fl.	1st fl.	1st fl.	1st fl.
*Dimensions	15'x12'x10'	9'x12'x10'	5'x5'x9'	12'x10'x10'
Cubic Feet	1,800	1,080	225	1,200
Class of Cons.	2nd	2nd	1st	2nd
Shelving	Wood	Steel	Steel	Steel & Wood
Containers	Cardboard	Steel	Steel	Steel & Wood
Lighting	Good	Good	Good	Good
Physical Condition	Good	Good	Good	Good
Accessibility	Good	Good	Good	Good
Arrangement	Good	Good	Good	Good
Fut. Cap.	Ample	Ample	Ample	Ample
Departments Using	Selectmen	Treasurer Accountant Selectmen	Accountant Treasurer Retirement Board	Town Clerk

*Dimensions are given as length by width by height in feet.

Memorial Building, Main Street

Depository	Town Clerk's Va., rm. #14	Tax Collector's Off.,rm. #15	Tax Collector's Va., rm. #15	Assessors' Off.,rm. #16
Location	1st fl.	1st fl.	1st fl.	1st fl.
*Dimensions	5'x5'x9'	12'x11'x10'	5'x5'x9'	8'x12'x10'
Cubic Feet	225	1,320	225	960
Class of Cons.	1st	2nd	1st	2nd
Shelving	Steel	Steel	Steel	Steel & Wood
Containers	Steel	Steel	Steel	Steel & Wood
Lighting	Good	Good	Good	Good
Physical Condition	Good	Good	Good	Good
Accessibility	Good	Good	Good	Good
Arrangement	Good	Good	Good	Good
Fut. Cap.	Ample	Ample	Ample	Ample
Departments Using	Town Clerk Selectmen Registrars Advisory Comm.	Tax Collector Assessor	Tax Collector Assessor Sewer Dept.	Assessor

Depository	Vault in Assessors' Off.,rm. #16	Water Department Off.,rm. #17	Supt's Off., Sewer & Water Dept.rm #17	Welfare Dept. Off., Rm. #22
Location	1st fl.	1st fl.	1st fl.	2nd fl.
*Dimensions	5'x5'x9'	12'x15'x10'	12'x11'x10'	9'x12'x10'
Cubic Feet	225	1,800	1,320	1,080
Class of Cons.	1st	2nd	2nd	2nd
Shelving	Steel	Steel & Wood	Wood	Steel & Wood
Containers	Steel	Steel & Wood	Wood	Steel & Wood
Lighting	Good	Good	Good	Good
Physical Condition	Good	Good	Good	Good
Accessibility	Good	Good	Good	Good
Arrangement	Good	Good	Good	Good
Fut. Cap.	Ample	Ample	Ample	Ample
Departments Using	Sewer Dept. Water Dept.	Water Dept.	Water Dept. Sewer Dept.	Welfare Dept.

*Dimensions are given as length by width by height in feet.

Housing, Care, and Accessibility of Records

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Memorial Building, Main Street

Depository	Board of Public Welfare va., rm. #22	Board of Health & Old Age Ass't off., rm. #23	Board of Health & Old Age Ass't va., rm. #23
Location	2nd fl.	2nd fl.	2nd fl.
*Dimensions	5'x5'x9'	9'x12'x10'	5'x5'x9'
Cubic Feet	225	1,080	225
Class of Cons.	1st	2nd	1st
Shelving	Steel	Steel & Wood	Steel
Containers	Steel	Steel & Wood	Steel
Lighting	Good	Good	Good
Physical Condition	Good	Good	Good
Accessibility	Good	Good	Good
Arrangement	Good	Good	Good
Fut. Cap.	Ample	Ample	Ample
Departments Using	Welfare Dept.	Board of Health Welfare District Nurse	Board of Health Old Age Ass't Sewer Dept. District Nurse

Depository	Consultation rm. #24	Cemetery Comm. rm.#25	Cemetery Comm. va.#25	School Department off.,rm.#26
Location	1st fl.	2nd fl.	2nd fl.	2nd fl.
*Dimensions	12'x10'x10'	12'x15'x10'	5'x5'x9'	12'x18'x10'
Cubic Feet	1,200	1,800	225	2,160
Class of Cons.	2nd	2nd	1st	2nd
Shelving	Wood	Steel	Steel	Steel & Wood
Containers	Wood	Steel	Steel	Steel & Wood
Lighting	Good	Good	Good	Good
Physical Condition	Good	Good	Good	Good
Accessibility	Good	Good	Good	Good
Arrangement	Good	Good	Good	Good
Fut. Cap.	Ample	Ample	Ample	Ample
Departments Using	Sewer Dept. Board of Health Old Age Ass't	Cemetery Dept.	Cemetery	School Dept.

*Dimensions are given as length by width by height in feet.

Memorial Building, Main Street

Depository	School Dept. va., rm. #26	Town Vault	Water Dept. vault
Location	2nd fl.	Basement	Basement
*Dimensions	5'x5'x9'	16'x11'x11'	5'x5'x9'
Cubic Feet	225	1,936	225
Class of Cons.	1st	1st	1st
Shelving	Steel	Steel	Steel
Containers	Steel	Steel	Wooden Boxes & Cardbd.
Lighting	Good	Good	Good
Physical Condition	Good	Good	Good
Accessibility	Good	Good	Good
Arrangement	Good	Good	Good
Fut. Cap.	Ample	Ample	Ample
Departments Using	School Dept.	Town Accountant Treasurer Town Clerk Assessors Fire Dept. Selectmen Tax Collector Welfare Highway	Water Department Sewer Department

Fire Station

Depository	Engineers' Rm.	Police Dept. Off.	Storeroom
Location	2nd fl.	1st fl.	Basement
*Dimensions	14'x11'x11'	14'x11'x11'	20'x18'x12'
Cubic Feet	1,694	1,694	4,320
Class of Cons.	2nd	2nd	2nd
Shelving	Wood	Wood	Wood
Containers	Steel	Wood	Wood
Lighting	Good	Good	Good
Physical Condition	Good	Good	Good
Accessibility	Good	Good	Good
Arrangement	Good	Good	Good
Fut. Cap.	Ample	Ample	Ample
Departments Using	Fire Dept.	Police Dept.	Police Dept.

*Dimensions are given as length by width by height in feet.

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	Junior High School Building, Riverbend Street		Athol Infirmary, Templeton Road
Depository	Storeroom	School Nurse	Dining Room
Location	Basement	1st fl.	1st fl.
*Dimensions	20'x16'x15'	18'x12'x11'	20'x16'x12'
Cubic Feet	4,800	2,376	3,840
Class of Cons.	2nd	2nd	2nd
Shelving	Wood	Steel	Wood
Containers	Wood	Steel	Wood
Lighting	Good	Good	Good
Physical Condition	Good	Good	Good
Accessibility	Good	Good	Good
Arrangement	Good	Good	Good
Fut. Cap.	Ample	Ample	Ample
Departments Using	School Dept.	School Nurse	Board of Public Welfare

*Dimensions are given as length by width by height in feet.

The town officials having records in their homes at the time of the inventory were the following:-

Name	Addresses	Offices Held	Records of
W. D Mellens	372 Crescent St., Athol	Sealer of Weights and Measures	Sealer of Weights and Measurers
W. R. Colton	32 Oliver Street, Athol	Attendance Office	Attendance Office
Dr. Plotkin	462 Main Street, Athol	Town Solicitor	Town Solicitor
Thomas Dillon	Dillon Block, Main St., Athol	Milk Inspector	Milk Inspector
Harold E. Bacon	Pinedale Avenue, Athol	Tree Warden	Tree Warden
W. G. Lord	64 Exchange St., Athol	Town Historian	Town Historian
C. W. Tyler	1403 Main Street, Athol	Clerk, Advisory Com.	Clerk, Advisory Com.
M. L. Gerard	556 Peaquaig Ave., Athol	Moth Supt.	Moth Supt.
C. E. Vaughn	Templeton Road, Athol	Inspector of Slaughtering	Inspector of Slaughtering
W. H. Killay	News Store, Main St., Athol	Clerk of Park Commissioners	Clerk of Park Commissioners
C. S. Newton	First National Bank, Main St., Athol	Sinking Fund Commissioners	Sinking Fund Commissioners

ABBREVIATIONS, SYMBOLS AND EXPLANATORY NOTES

Abbreviations

alph.	alphabetically	ibid.	ibidem (in the same place)
approx.	approximately	Lib.	Library
arr.	arranged, arrangement	no(s)	number(s)
assrs.	assessors	off.	office
bdl(s).	bundle(s)	op. cit.	opere citato (in the work cited)
bsmt.	basement		
ch.	chapter	p., pp.	page, pages
chron.	chronologically	ptd.	printed
cl.	clerk	rm.	room
coll.	collector	secy.	secretary
dept.	department	sel.	selectmen
discont.	discontinued	st(s).	street(s)
ed.	editor	supt.	superintendent
env(s).	envelope(s)	treas.	treasurer
fl.	floor	va.	vault
hdw.	handwritten	vol(s).	volume(s)

Symbols

x	by	. . .	denotes ommission in quoted matter
--	continues to date	:	equivalent to
"	inches		

Explantory Notes

Inventory Arrangement

The city and town offices are arranged in the order of their importance from a functional viewpoint, with related offices grouped together. Records within an office are classified by subject. Within each subject classification entries are listed in the order of their importance, and for records considered of equal importance, a chronological sequence is used.

Titles of Records

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

Explanatory Notes

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Labeling

The numbering, lettering, or other markings on a record are shown in parentheses following the quantity. If no labeling is indicated, it may be assumed there is none.

Discontinuances

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.

Cross Reference

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 another record or records for a different period of time. An example is shown in entry 125. "1938-- in (Poll, Motor Vehicle Excise Commitments), entry 126. In entry 126 there is a corresponding body-of-entry reference carrying the title and number of entry 125: (Motor Vehicle Excise Commitments), entry 125."

Title-line references are also used in artificial entries; i e those entries set up to cover records which are 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 reference in entry 86: "In Annual Reports of the Town Officers, entry 2."

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

Indexing

If a record is indexed, mention is made of a self-contained index of reference to a separate index is indicated. If there is no index to a record, the fact is stated in the entry.

Condition of Records

If no comment is made regarding the condition of records, it may be assumed to be satisfactory.

Dimensions

Except where otherwise indicated, dimensions of volumes, file boxes, or maps are shown in inches; dimensions of volumes are given in the order

of length along binding edge, width, and thickness; dimensions of file cases, boxes, and drawers are given in the order of height, width, and depth.

Location

The location noted is that at the date of the final field check of the inventory, approximately 4 months prior to publication. Many records, especially current ones, are in constant use by officials and subject to frequent transfer from office to vault or from vault to office. Shifts from one vault to another also occur, but less frequently. The Historical Records Survey cannot guarantee that the record will be found in the location noted, but merely that the record was found there at the date of the inventory field check.

PART B. TOWN OFFICERS AND THEIR RECORDS

I. SELECTMEN[1]

The three selectmen who were elected at the first town meeting held in Athol in 1762,[2] had their prototype in the prudential committee elected by the proprietors of Paquoiag.[3] In 1764 the number of selectmen was increased to five, and this number continued through 1766.[4] Three selectmen were elected in 1767, five in 1768, and thereafter three until 1783, when for a single year the number returned once more to five.[5] Since 1783 the number has been three, and through 1924 the tenure of office was a single year.[6] In 1925 the town voted to establish rotation in the office, and they were in that year elected for one, two and three-year terms, respectively,[7] their successors being elected annually for a term of three years.[8]

The selectmen were also the overseers of the poor for many years. Even prior to 1806, when the first specific reference appears in the records regarding their responsibility toward the poor,[9] they were entrusted with this work. In 1829 they served as a committee to select and purchase a poor-farm for the town,[10] and thereafter they acted as overseers from 1832 through 1879. From 1880 through 1894 from one to three selectmen were represented on the board of overseers annually. Again in 1904, 1905, 1907, 1910 and 1911, there was one selectman among the overseers of the poor.[11]

They were the town assessors from 1762 through 1772,[12] and from 1788 through 1852.[13] They were later authorized to serve in this capacity from 1855 through 1857,[14] and thereafter from time to time through 1909 one or more selectmen, and in some years all three, were assessors.[15]

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1 For the background, statutory origin, development and functions of this office, see Town and City Government in Massachusetts, op. cit.
2 Town Records, I, 2, see entry 30.
3 See p. 15.
4 Town Records, I, 9, 20, see entry 30.
5 Ibid., pp. 25, 37, 42, 133, 203.
6 Ibid., p. 139; X, 569.
7 Ibid., X, 622.
8 Ibid., p. 675; XI, 330.
9 Ibid., II, 134.
10 Ibid., III, 30, 34.
11 Ibid., III, 73; V, 355, 506; VI, 4, 42.
12 Ibid., I, 266.
13 Ibid., p. 162; III, 391.
14 Ibid., IV, 47, 108.
15 Annual Reports, 1857-1909, passim, see entry 2.

In 1856 they were elected highway surveyors, and under this or other designations maintained supervision over the road work for most years through 1919.[1] In 1763 the selectmen briefly fulfilled the functions of town auditor, when they were requested to "rekon" with the treasurer.[2] Again, in 1880, they were authorized to audit the accounts of the town treasurer.[3] Selectmen were among the sewer commissioners in 1896, 1898 and 1899; from 1901 through 1903; 1907 through 1909; and in 1913.[4] One or more were also on the board of water commissioners in 1907, 1908 and 1909;[5] and on the board of park commissioners in 1909.[6] In 1898 one of the selectmen was also one of the registrars of voters.[7] In 1897 a selectman filled the unexpired term of one of the town clerks, and served in the same capacity through the following year.[8] They were also on the early school committees of the town

From time to time they have served on various special committees, and have appointed others as authorized. Nearly all of the appointive officers of the town receive their positions at their hands,[9] which positions, in nearly every case, have been, at an earlier period, filled by annual election. In 1935 they were named as members, ex officio, of the proposed board of public works, which, had the state enactment been accepted by the town, would have been set up in Athol under the form of town-manager government there proposed.[10]

Since 1915 the board has had the assistance of a clerk who is elected annually.[11]

Except where otherwise noted, all records are in the basement vault, Memorial Building, Main Street.

Minutes and Reports
(See also entries 21-iv, -viii, 351)

1. RECORD (Minutes of Meetings), 1844--. 5 vols. (1 vol., 1844-88, 1; 3 vols., 1910-31, dated; 1 vol., 1931--, unlabeled). Missing: 1762-1843, 1889-1909. Title varies slightly.

Discussion and decisions relative to appointment of officers, issuing of licenses, selection of jurors, approval of bills, granting of appropriations,

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1. Ibid., 1859-1919, passim.
2. Town Records, I, 83, see entry 30.
3. Annual Reports, 1880, p. 10, see entry 2.
4. Ibid., 1896-1913, passim.
5. Ibid., 1907-1909, passim.
6. Ibid., 1909, p. 12.
7. Ibid., 1898, p. 3.
8. Ibid., 1897, p. 3; 1898, p. 3.
9. See chart, p. 40A.
10. See p. 39.
11. Annual Reports, 1915-1938, passim, see entry 2.

construction work; place, date, time of meeting. Arr. by date of meeting. No index. Hdw. 150 pp. 12 x 8 x 1. Memorial Bldg.: 1 vol., 1844-88, va., town cl. off., first fl.; 3 vols., 1910-31, bsmt. va.; 1 vol., 1951--, va., treas. and town acct. off., rm. 12, first fl.

2. ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE TOWN OFFICERS, 1859--. 79 vols. (dated). Contains reports of the departments and officers as described in entries 3, 35, 85, 94, 120, 130, 148, 160, 164, 205-214, 219, 222, 223, 227, 228, 236, 261, 272, 279, 306, 307, 312, 313, 350, 361-363, 365, 372, 374, 386, 390. Also contains:

i. Jurors, list of; 1886--: Names of jurors drawn for service, arranged by precincts. For decisions relative to selection of jurors 1844--, see entry 1; for copies of lists 1920--, see entry 21-v.

ii. State-audit reports, 1929, 1931, 1933: Findings from audit of town account for appropriations, receipts and expenditures, funds; balance of town treasurer. For original reports 1928-36, see entry 21-vii.

iii. Town-meeting warrants, 1885--. For original warrants 1889-1925, see entry 23.

iv. Various committees, reports of, 1906, 1911-15, 1917-18, 1924-33:

a. Appropriation committee, 1911-15: Recommendations on needs of town departments, to be voted upon at town meeting.

b. Committee for improvements to Main and School Streets, 1906: Total appropriations, expenditures; statement of improvements made on Main and School Streets.

c. Committee for marking soldiers' graves, 1930: Narrative report relative to marking graves of soldiers of Revolutionary War (1775), Mexican War (1845), Confederate Army (1861-65); list of graves showing name and date of death of soldier, name of war. For annual published report of inspector of soldiers' graves 1926-33, 1937--, see entry 306.

d. Playground committee, 1928-32: Appropriations and expenditures for salaries, equipment, labor, 1926-29; total number of children using playground, 1926-32.

e. Playground supervisor, 1930-32: Total appropriations, expenditures; types of crafts, sports, and games taught.

f. Public safety committee, 1917-18: Amount of appropriations, expenditures, balance; statement of departmental activities. 1917 includes names of persons who died in World War; supervisor's statement on children's gardens, showing number of children enrolled, acres planted, prizes awarded; total number of plots loaned for raising produce for family use. 1918 includes plan of organization of Massachusetts State Guard, number 88, 18th regiment, and of committee to aid soldiers; statement of work done to protect public works.

ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE TOWN OFFICERS

iv. Various committees, reports of (Cont'd)

g. Town Hall committee, 1918: Report on construction and completion of new Town Hall.

h. Transportation area trustees, 1924-29, 1930-33: Total assets and liabilities. 1926 includes total receipts and expenditures, passenger and air mail revenue, insurance; total number of feet of overhead trolley wires.

Arr. by subject. Indexed alph. by subject. Ptd. 200 pp. 9 x 6 x 1. State Lib., State House, Boston. (Also 95 vols., 1843--, reference rm., Athol Public Lib., Main St.)

3. (ANNUAL REPORT OF SELECTMEN), 1859-61, 1866, 1869-70, 1875-1916. In Annual Reports of the Town Officers, entry 2.

Contains:

i. Abatement of taxes, total amount of, 1876, 1878-80, 1884-86, 1888-1900, 1902-16.

ii. Appropriations for administration of town offices: 1859-60, 1875, 1884-87, 1897-99, 1903-16: Total amount of appropriations, expenditures; name of payee; amount, itemization of expenditure.

iii. Military aid rendered, 1880-90, 1896-1916: Name of recipient, amount of aid.

iv. Notes, interest on, 1875: Name of bank, amount of interest.

v. Table of aggregates for all town departments, 1877-1901.

vi. Town debt and amount of interest thereon, 1870, 1875, 1884-99.

vii. Trust funds, 1890-1912: Name, amount of fund.

Financial Records

4. JOURNAL - SELECTMEN'S DEPT. - TOWN OF ATHOL, 1871-97, 1909-16. 3 vols. (1 vol., 1871-97, unlabeled; 2 vols., 1909-16, 1, 2). Missing: 1898-1908. Discont. as record of selectmen 1916. Title varies: J'R'L, 1871-97, 1 vol.

Record of cash received and expended: Name of payer, payee; amount, source of purpose, date of receipt or expenditure; voucher number; total amount of receipts, expenditures. 1880-97 includes annual list of personal property at poor-farm. Arr. chron. No index. Hdw. 150 pp. 10 x 8 x 1.

For record 1917--, kept by accountant, see entry 151.

5. LEDGER - SELECTMEN'S DEPT. - TOWN OF ATHOL, 1891-1916. 4 vols. (2 vols., 1891-1908, unlabeled; 2 vols., 1909-16, 1, 2). Discont. as record of selectmen 1916.

Monthly summary of departmental accounts as posted from Journal - Selectmen's Dept. - Town of Athol, entry 4. Name of account; amount, explanation, date of debit and credit posting; account balance. Arr. alph. by name of dept. and chron. thereunder. Indexed alph. by name of dept. Hdw. 250 pp. 14 x 10 x 2.

For record 1917--, kept by accountant, see entry 152.

6. SELECTMEN'S ACCOUNTS - TOWN OF ATHOL, 1900-1916. 4 vols.
Expenditures of town departments for salaries, maintenance, supplies, approved for payment: Name of payee, department charged; amount, purpose, date of payment; order number. Arr. by date of payment. No index. Hdw. 175 pp. 14 x 10 x 1½.

7. (VOUCHERS AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF DEPARTMENTAL BILLS), 1889-1916. 161 file boxes (marked by inclusive voucher nos.). Prior records destroyed. Discont. as record of selectmen 1916.
Name of creditor, department charged; purpose of payment; amount, number, date of voucher; signature of creditor, department head. Arr. by voucher no. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form 2 x 4 x 10.
For vouchers 1931--, kept by accountant, see entry 157.

Licenses
(See also entries 1, 27-ii)

8. (RECORD OF LICENSES ISSUED), 1936--. 1 vol. System estab. 1936.
Record of amusement, gasoline, hotel, tavern, restaurant, taxi, billiard, firearms, junk, and pedlar licenses issued: Name of licensee, amount of fee; type, date of issue of license. Arr. by date of issue. No index. Hdw 100 pp. 10 x 12 x 1. Va., treas. and town acct. off., rm. 12, first fl., Memorial Bldg.

Highway Records
(See also entries 30-ii, 307-310)

9. LAYOUTS OF STREETS AND ROADS (Compiled by Town Clerk), 1762--. 2 file boxes (A-Z).
Contains selectmen's statement of lay-out of roads, petitions from citizens relative to lay-outs, notices of selectmen relative to hearings on petitions, county commissioners' decrees relative to grade crossings, copies of county commissioners' returns relative to lay-out or relocation of roads, copies of statutes defining boundaries. Arr. alph. by name of st. For index, see entry 71-ii. Hdw., typed. 11½ x 5 x 16. Va., town cl. off., rm. 14, first fl., Memorial Bldg.

10. (Lay-out of) STREETS AND ROADS COPIED FROM TOWN RECORDS BY L. B. CASWELL, 1793-1917. 1 vol. System discont. 1917.
Name, location, direction, boundaries of street or road; date of lay-out, acceptance. No arr. Indexed alph. by name of st. Hdw. 240 pp. 15½ x 10½ x 2. Va., town cl. off., rm. 14, first fl., Memorial Bldg.

State and Military Aid
(See also entries 3-iv, 22-ix, 130-iii)

11. (Record of) MILITARY AID RENDERED TO DISABLED VETERANS, 1884--. 3 vols. Missing: 1895-98.
Name of veteran; names, relationship of dependents; amount of monthly pension; regiment number, company letter. Arr. alph. by name of veteran. No index. Hdw. under ptd. head. 125 pp. 24 x 16 x 1. Memorial Bldg.: 2 vols., 1884-1917, bsmt. va.; 1 vol., 1917--, treas, and town acct. off., rm. 12, first fl.

12. (ANNUAL RETURNS OF STATE AID), 1862-79. 1 vol. (marked 1863).
Copies of returns on aid rendered to each disabled veteran, submitted to state department of public welfare: Name, regiment number and company letter of veteran; date of enlistment, length of service, names and relationship of persons assisted, ages of children assisted; monthly record of payments, yearly recapitulations, amount due from state. Includes attestation of selectmen, date return submitted to state auditor. Arr. alph. by name of veteran and chron. thereunder. No index. Hdw. 150 pp. 16 x 9 x ½.

Maps and Plans
(See also entries 77, 78)

13. (PLANS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF STREETS, ROADS, AND BRIDGES), 1891-1934. 3 rolls.
Names of proposed streets; location of gradings, extensions; relocating of streets, spillways, culverts, and retaining walls; state highway alterations; construction, remodeling of bridges. Harry F. Hastings, F. W. Davis. Black-and-white, blueprint. 1":10'. 4 x 36.

14. (PLANS OF CONDUITS AND MANHOLES), 1909-32. 1 vol.
Communications plans drawn up by construction engineer of the New England Telephone and Telegraph Company: Proposed additional attachments on cables and wires on poles; location of main and underground conduits, manholes. New England Telephone and Telegraph Company construction engineer. Black-and-white, blueprint. 1":50'. 6 x 30.

15. (BUILDING PLANS OF MEMORIAL HALL AND SCHOOL BUILDINGS), 1911-21. 4 rolls.
Plans and specifications for remodeling, roofing, heating, and ventilating of Memorial Hall, Highland Street School, Ellen Bigelow School: Location, dimensions of each unit used in construction. Various authors. Boston, publisher unknown. Black-and-white, blueprint. 1/8":1'. 4 x 24.

16. (PLANS OF STREETS SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL BY ATHOL GAS AND ELECTRIC LIGHT COMPANY), 1913-30. 2 rolls.
Names of streets; location of street-lighting circuits, light poles with extension tops, extra poles for span wires, conduit under Boston and Maine and Boston and Albany Railroad bridge on Tunnel Street. General Engineering Co., Springfield. Blueprint. 1":50'. 4 x 28.

Selectmen - Maps and Plans [17-21]

17. (PLANS OF VERMONT AND MASSACHUSETTS RAILROAD COMPANY), 1914-34. 3 rolls.
Lay-out of railroad operated by Boston and Maine Railroad Company: Location of switches, regrading; location, length of tracks. Office of valuation engineer, Boston. Blueprint 1":200'. 3 x 24.

18. (RESIDENTIAL AND BUSINESS MAP OF ATHOL), 1895. 1 map.
Location of residences, rivers, brooks, cemeteries, parks, railroads, streets, churches, house lots, public buildings; names of occupants of dwellings. Includes business directory: Names, addresses of banks, insurance companies, retailers. D. L. Miller, New York. Colored. 1":200'. 72 x 48.

19. (CONSTRUCTION PLANS OF SURFACE-DRAINAGE SYSTEM), 1908. 1 roll.
Plans and profiles of proposed surface-drainage work on Main Street between Crescent and Traverse Streets: Location of pipe lines, outlets in river, sewers, catch basin; location, size of pipe. Waring, Chapman, Farquhar. Black-and-white, blueprint 1":50' 16 x 30

20. (PLAN OF PROPOSED PARK AND PLAYGROUND), 1921 1 sheet.
Areas proposed for baseball field, tennis court, children's play area, parade ground, skating rink, amphitheater, band and public speaking stand; location of abutting streets. Massachusetts Agricultural College, Amherst. Black-and-white. 1":30'. 30 x 25.

Miscellaneous

21. BONDS, JURY LIST, PERAMBULATION CERTIFICATES, AUDITOR'S REPORTS, ETC., 1920--. 15 folders in 1 file drawer.
Contains:

i. Advisory Committee - Minutes of Meetings, 1922-29, entry 159.

ii. Agreements with telephone company relative to burial of cable, 1937: Citation of order permitting laying of cable, location of proposed cable, statement of release of municipality by telephone company from damages; costs, expenses incurred; agreement to execute a bond for faithful performance of this agreement, amount of bond, signature of plant manager, date of agreement.

iii. (Annual Report of Fence Viewers), 1920, 1924, entry 389.

iv. Annual Reports of New England Telephone and Telegraph Company, Athol Gas and Electric Company, 1934--: Narrative report on trend of business; detailed financial statement.

v. Jury list, copy of, 1935--: Name of municipality; names, addresses, occupations of persons selected; dates jurors are on call. For annual published list 1886--, see entry 2-i.

vi. Perambulation certificates, 1936-37: Statement of selectmen of adjoining municipalities that boundaries are satisfactory, signatures of selectmen, date of perambulation; date received, recorded by town clerk. For certificates 1886-1915, see entry 24; for record of perambulations 1734--, see entry 30-iii.

BONDS, JURY LIST, PERAMBULATION CERTIFICATES, AUDITOR'S REPORTS, ETC. (Cont'd)

vii. Reports of state auditors, 1928-36. Analysis of finances of each department; financial statement of reconciliation of town treasurer's cash, balance sheet; signatures of director and assistant director of accounts, state department of corporation and taxation, division of accounts; date of report. For published reports 1929, 1931, 1933, see entry 2-ii; for annual published reports of town auditor and accountant 1879-96, 1899-1902, 1909-10, 1913-15, 1917--, see entry 148.

viii. (Veteran's World War Service Record), 1917-19, entry 70.

Arr. by subject. No index. Hdw., typed. 11 x 14 x 17. Va., town cl. off., rm. 14, first fl., Memorial Bldg.

22. SELECTMEN - MISCELLANEOUS PAPERS, 1820-1933. 1 bdl.

Contains.

i. Bill of mortality for Athol, 1820-47. Name, age of deceased; cause, date of death; name of parent if deceased is a child; total number of deaths for year

ii. Certificate of illegal residence, 1915. Name of person illegally registered, reason for failure to register, attestation of notary public, signature of town clerk, date of certificate.

iii. Contracts awarded for purchase of road-building machinery, 1920. Name of municipality, names of contracting parties, type of machinery purchased; amount, terms, date of contract; signatures of machinery-company officials.

iv. Correspondence from state commission of state aid and pensions relative to requests for increase in aid allotted, certification of recipients, 1912-14. Includes list of state aid recipients.

v. Enrollment of active militia, undated. Name of municipality; name, birthplace, age, marital status, occupation, number, rank of militiaman; district number. For military lists 1890-1920, 1922-35, 1937--, see entries 66, 67.

vi. Letters and papers relative to land taken by eminent domain for cemeteries and schools, 1898, 1902, 1921, 1923. Name of property owner; location, area, dimensions of land; amount of fee, award; signatures of selectmen and county sheriff, date of order, date notice served by sheriff.

vii. Petitions for special town meetings consider placing of certain articles in warrants, 1912-23. Purpose, number of article; place, date of meeting.

viii. Petition for recount of votes, 1909. Name of office contested, justice of the peace; date of petition, date sworn before justice of the peace, signatures of petitioners.

ix. Returns from state commissioner of state aid and pensions acknowledging monthly reports from town, 1900-1915. Names of municipality, commissioner; amount charged, allowed; date of return, remarks.

SELECTMEN - MISCELLANEOUS PAPERS (Cont'd)

x. Specifications for sidewalks and curbings, 1920: Conditions of specifications; location of sidewalk, curbing; dimensions, length of sidewalk; type of material used; amount agreed upon according to specifications, date contract to be fulfilled, signature of contractor.

xi. Specifications for surface-draining system, 1920: Order of procedure, condition of drains, inspections and tests to be made, alignment, grades, precautionary measures to be taken; excavation, repaving of streets; types of material used; terms of contracts, signatures of contractor.

xii. Subscriptions to raise bounty for soldiers during Civil War, 1862: Names of subscribers, amount of subscription

xiii. Transcript of court case involving town of Athol, 1913: Names of litigants, attorneys for litigants, witnesses; name of presiding justice; summary of testimony offered, case number, date of session.

Arr. by subject. No index. Hdw 13 x 13 x 6

23. TOWN MEETING WARRANTS, 1889-1925 3 bdls (1 bdl , 1889-1908, dated; 2 bdls , 1889-1925, unlabeled) Prior records destroyed. Notices of town meetings List of articles to be voted upon; purpose, place, date of meeting; signatures of selectmen and town clerk; constable's return. 1 bdl , 1889-1908, no arr.; 2 bdls , 1889-1925, arr. by date of meeting. No index. Hdw., typed 10 x 8 x 4.

For annual published warrants 1885, see entry 2-iii.

24. PERAMBULATING TOWN LINES, 1886-1915. 1 bdl (dated) Statements of selectmen of adjoining municipalities relative to perambulation and renewal of town lines, date of perambulation, signatures of selectmen. Arr. by date of perambulation No index. Hdw 9 x 4 x $\frac{1}{2}$

For perambulation certificates 1936-37, see entry 21-vi, for record of perambulations 1734--, see entry 30-iii.

25. CORRESPONDENCE, 1911-18, 1927-- 3 letter files, 6 steel file drawers (3 letter files, 1911-18, 4 file drawers, 1927-35, dated; 2 file drawers, 1936--, unlabeled). Records 1892-1910, 1919-26 destroyed. Title varies: Letters, 1911-18, 3 letter files; no title, 1936--, 2 steel file drawers.

Incoming and outgoing correspondence relative to town notes, licenses, pole locations, health measures, welfare cases. Arr. alph. by name of correspondent. No index. Hdw., typed. Letter files, 13 x 10 x 3; file drawers, 11 x 13$\frac{1}{2}$ x 26. Memorial Bldg.- 3 letter files, 1911-18, bsmt. va.; 6 steel file drawers, 1927--, sel. off., rm. 11.

26. (Copies of Outgoing) LETTERS, 1884-91. 1 vol.

Correspondence of selectmen and overseers of poor with municipalities relative to legal settlement and disposition of cases of indigents living in Athol; to water department relative to town water supply, repair of bridges; to chief engineer of state board of health requesting opinion of quality of water of Phillipston Pond for domestic use; to bridge-building concerns relative to repairs on bridge, date of beginning construction of new bridge. Arr. by date of correspondence. Indexed alph. by name of correspondent. Hdw. 500 pp. 10 x 12 x 1.

27. (Miscellaneous) RECORDS, 1884-98. 1 vol.

Contains:

i. (Minutes of Meetings of Registrars of Voters), entry 84.

ii. Record of liquor licenses granted: Name, business address of licensee; conditions, date of granting and recording of license; signature of chairman of selectmen, town clerk.

iii. Record of stray animals, 1891: Description of animal; date of notification, recording; signature of town clerk. For record 1775-1815, see entry 30-vi.

Arr. by subject. No index. Hdw. 300 pp. 10 x 8 x 1.

28. RECORD OF SELECTMEN - TOWN OF ATHOL, 1876-84. 1 vol. (marked Book 2).

Contains:

i. Copies of notices to outside municipalities for welfare aid rendered: Name of municipality, name of person or family aided, amount of aid rendered, date of notice.

ii. Expenditures for departmental supplies and maintenance: Name of payee; amount, purpose, date of expenditure.

iii. Record of applications from nonresidents for welfare aid: Name of municipality where applicant has legal settlement, name of applicant, reasons for application and date thereof.

iv. Record of denials of welfare aid by outside municipalities: Name of municipality denying aid, name of applicant, reason for denial and date thereof.

v. Road building expenditures for repairs to roads and bridges, supplies and equipment, construction work, salaries. Name of payee; amount, purpose, date of expenditure.

Arr. by subject and chron. thereunder. No index. Hdw. 200 pp. 10 x 8 x 1. Va., board of public welfare off., rm. 22, second fl., Memorial Bldg.

29. (Record of) APPOINTMENTS (of Town Officers), 1881-97. 1 bdl. (dated).

Name, tenure of office of appointee; name of office to which appointed, date of appointment, signatures of selectmen. No arr. No index. Hdw. 9 x 4 x 4.

II. TOWN CLERK[1]

The first town clerk was not chosen until the year following the incorporation of Athol, and the records of the two town meetings held in 1762 were signed by the moderator, and presumably kept by him.[2] A town clerk was elected in 1763, and the office has been filled since that year.[3] In

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1. For the background, statutory origin, development, and functions of this office, see Town and City Government in Massachusetts.

2. History of Worcester County, D. H. Hurd, ed., 2 vols., Philadelphia, 1889, II, p. 1030; Town Records, I, p. 6.

3. Town Records, I, p. 6; IX, pp. 194, 264; XI, p. 330.

1897 and 1898 one of the selectmen was elected to the position.[1] The tenure of office was increased from one to three years in 1908.[2] The town clerk is a member, ex officio, of the board of registrars of voters.[3] Since 1898 he has been authorized to appoint an assistant annually.[4]

Except where otherwise noted, all records are in the vault off town clerk's office, room 14, first floor, Memorial Building, Main Street.

Minutes and Reports

30. RECORDS - TOWN OF ATHOL, 1734--. 11 vols. (9 vols., 1734--, each marked 1-11; 2 vols., 1734-1834, each marked 1-11, dated). Title varies: Meetings Etc., Births, Marriages, Deaths, Intentions, Town of Athol, 1734-92, 1 vol.; Town Meetings Etc., Town of Athol (Part 1) - Births, Marriages, Deaths, Intentions, Miscellaneous, Town of Athol (Part 2), 1737-1844, 1 vol.; Athol Records, 1827-71, 2 vols.

Minutes of town meetings, 1862-92: Discussion and decisions relative to town-meeting warrants, election of officers, appointment of committees; date, place of meeting. Also contains:

i. Division of fences, 1795-1870: Names of contracting parties; dimensions of land fenced off, number of rods from road, location of stakes; signature of clerk, date of recording. For annual report of fence viewers 1920--, see entry 389.

ii. Lay-out of town roads, 1777-1833: Location of beginning and ending of roads, showing markers, bounds; date of acceptance at town meeting, signatures of selectmen. For separate record compiled by clerk 1762--, see entry 9; for copy of lay-outs 1793-1917, see entry 10.

iii. Perambulations of town lines: Names of adjoining municipalities; location of stakes, measurements of lines; date of selectmen's meeting, perambulations; signatures of clerk and selectmen. For perambulation certificates 1920--, see entry 21-vi, for selectmen's statements of perambulations 1886-1915; see entry 24.

iv. Receipts acknowledging payment of ministerial salary, 1770-1825: Name of payer; amount, date of receipt; signature of payee. For record of assessments for salaries 1769-1827, see entry 129.

v. (Record of) Marriage Intentions, 1737-1851, entry 44.

vi. Record of stray animals lost and found, 1775-1815: Name of finder, description of animal; date of loss, finding. Includes notice that owner may reclaim animal by paying for feed. For record 1891, see entry 27-iii.

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1. Annual Reports, 1897, p. 3; 1898, p. 3.
2. Town Records, IX, p. 253.
3. Ibid., VI, p. 200; Annual Reports, 1937, p. 10.
4. Ibid., VII, p. 377, XI, p. 347; Annual Reports, 1898-1938.

RECORDS - TOWN OF ATHOL (Cont'd)

vii. Records of Births, 1737-1844, entry 39.

viii. Records of Deaths, 1737-1844, entry 49.

ix. Records of Marriages, 1737-1844, entry 45.

Arr. by subject. For index, see entry 31. Hdw. to 1928, typed thereafter. 500 pp. 16 x 11 x 2½.

31. (Index to) RECORDS - TOWN OF ATHOL, 1762--. 6 file boxes (A-Z)

Nature of subject, volume and page reference. Arr. alph. by subject. Typed. 4 x 6 x 16.

32. RECORDS OF TOWN MEETINGS, 1907-14. 1 cardboard box.

Notes on proceedings taken by clerk, copy of articles in town-meeting warrants, notations of changes made in and disposition of articles; date of meeting. No arr. No index. Hdw., typed. 4½ x 8 x 10. Bsmt. va., Memorial Bldg.

33. PROPRIETORS OF PEQUOIAG, June 26, 1734-1824. 2 vols. (1, 2, dated). System discont. 1824.

Contains:

i. List of proprietors, copy of, June 26, 1734: Name of proprietor, proprietor's lot number.

ii. Minutes of meetings, 1749-1824: Discussion and decisions relative to town-meeting warrants, election of officers and committees, approval of accounts, construction of roads; date of meeting. Includes, occasionally, copy of acts of the General Court.

iii. Record of lots and divisions of land, 1758-84: Name of grantor, grantee; names of surveyors, surveying committee; details of divisions of lots with boundaries, date of recording.

List of proprietors arr. alph. by name of proprietor; minutes arr. by date of meeting, land records arr. by date of recording. Scattered records indexed (incomplete) alph. by name of landowner; for separate index, see entry 34. Hdw. 177 pp. 13 x 8½ x 1, 291 pp. 13 x 8½ x 1½.

34. INDEX (to) PROPRIETORS' RECORDS - BOOK NO. 1 and 2, 1734-1824. 1 file box.

Name of subject, volume and page reference. Arr. alph. by subject. Typed. 4 x 6 x 16.

35. (ANNUAL REPORT OF TOWN CLERK), 1888--. In Annual Reports of the Town Officers, entry 2.

Contains record of:

i. Licenses issued:

a. Dog licenses: Name of dog owner, number of licenses issued.

b. Liquor licenses, total number of, 1889-1903.

ii. Vital statistics: Number, dates of births, marriages, deaths.

Vital Statistics
(See also entries 22-i, 35-ii, 170, 270)

36. ATHOL (Published) VITAL RECORDS, 1762-1849. 1 vol.
Contains record of:
i. Births: Name, date of birth of child; names of parents.
ii. Deaths: Name, date of deceased; names of parents.
iii. Marriages: Names of contracting parties, date of marriage.
Arr. alph. by names of principals. No index. Ptd. 230 pp. 6 x 8 x 1¼. Worcester, Franklin P. Rice, 1910. Worcester Antiq. Soc., Worcester. (Also 1 vol. in Widener Lib., Harvard University, Cambridge.)

37. BOOK NO. 3 BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS, 1843-92. 2 vols. (3, 4). System estab. 1843, discont. 1892.
Contains: Records of Births, entry 39; Records of Marriages, entry 45; Records of Deaths, entry 49. Arr. chron. For index to births, see entry 40; for index to marriages, see entry 46; for index to deaths, see entry 50. Hdw. on ptd. form. 55 pp. 18 x 11½ x ½ to 375 pp. 16 x 11 x 2½.

38. VITAL RECORDS, TOWN OF ATHOL, 1934--. 1 vol.
Contains: Records of Births, entry 39; Records of Marriages, entry 45; Records of Deaths, entry 49. Arr. chron. For index to births, see entry 40; for index to marriages, see entry 46; for index to deaths, see entry 50. Typed on ptd. form. 40 pp. 17 x 14½ x 1.

39. RECORDS OF BIRTHS, 1893-1933. 3 vols. (5-7). 1737-1844 in Records - Town of Athol, entry 30-vii; 1843-92 in Book No. 3 Births, Marriages, Deaths, entry 37; 1934-- in Vital Records, Town of Athol, entry 38.
Name, sex, color of child; place, date, condition of birth; names, address, birthplaces of parents; occupation of father, date of filing. Arr. by date of birth. For index, see entry 40. Hdw. on ptd. form. 150 pp. 18 x 12 x 2.
For published records 1762-1849, see entry 36-i.

40. (Index to Records of) BIRTHS, 1737--. 3 file drawers (A-Z).
Name, date of birth of child; volume and page reference. Arr. alph. by name of child. Typed. 4½ x 11½ x 28.

41. BIRTHS (Original Returns), 1890--. 24 vols. Prior records destroyed.
Name, sex of child; place, date of birth; names of parents; signature, address of attending physician; attestation of clerk, date of filing. Arr. by date of birth. No index. Hdw. to 1920, hdw. and typed thereafter. 200 pp. 6½ x 8½ x 3.

42. IMPOUNDED BIRTHS RETURNS, 1897--. 2 vols. Title varies: Depositions, 1897-1933.

Correction of birth records in Records of Births, entry 39, Vital Records, Town of Athol, entry 38: Name of municipality; name, sex, color of child; place, date, condition of birth; names, birthplaces, ages, color, occupations of parents; name, address of attendant, informant; relationship of informant to child, evidence to substantiate corrections, registered number; number, date, original return and statement of receipt thereof; attestation of clerk and date thereof, volume and page reference to entry 39. Also contains:

i. Correction of death records in Records of Deaths, 1918-24, entry 49: Name of municipality; name, addresses, birthplace, sex, color or race, marital status, occupation of deceased; cause, place, date of death; place, date of burial, cremation or removal; duration of residence in municipality where death occurred; name of father, maiden name of mother, birthplaces of parents; name, address, certification, signature of informant; name, address of undertaker; certification, date of signature, official designation of agent of board of health or other authorized person that death certificate was issued before issue of burial permit; attestation of state registrar of vital statistics and date thereof. Includes deposition: Name of municipality, county, deceased; signature, address, relationship of deponent to deceased; statement, date of deposition; attestation of clerk or assistant clerk.

ii. Correction of marriage records in Records of Marriages, 1915-29, entry 45: Names, addresses, ages of contracting parties; place, date of marriage; name, address of informant; names of witnesses, person officiating; date of deposition, attestation of clerk.

iii. Delayed certificates of births, 1905--: Name, sex, color of child; place, date of birth; names, addresses, ages, color, occupations of parents; name, address of informant; number, date of certification; signature, title, address of attendant; attestation of clerk. Includes depositions: Name, address, position of deponent; name of child, notary public; cause of delay, nature of evidence substantiating affidavit; date of birth, deposition; signature of clerk.

Arr. chron. No index. Hdw. and typed on ptd. form. 250 pp. 8 x 9 x 3.

43. (Notices of) MARRIAGE INTENTIONS, 1914--. 19 blds., 4 vols. (dated).

Names, addresses, birthplaces, ages, color, occupations, prior marital status of contracting parties; names of parents, maiden names of mothers; proof of age submitted; attestations of parents consenting to marriage of minors, volume and page reference to (Record of) Marriage Intentions, entry 44; number, date of notice; date of issue of marriage certificate. Includes copies of divorce decrees (if previously married), copies of judge's decree of expediency of marriage of minors, petitions for permission to marry without delay. Arr. by date of notice. 1914-33, no

index; 1934--, indexed alph. by name of contracting parties. Hdw. and typed on ptd. form. Bdls., 9 x 8 x ½; vols., 130 pp. 11 x 9 x 1. Memorial Bldg.: 19 bdls., 1914-32, bsmt. va.; 4 vols., 1933--, va. off cl. off.

44. (Record of) MARRIAGE INTENTIONS, 1851-1933. 4 vols. System discont. 1933. 1737-1851 in Records - Town of Athol, entry 30-v.

Names, addresses, birthplaces, ages, color, occupations, prior marital status of contracting parties; number, date of intention. Includes 1851-98, name of town clerk, date of entry; 1898-1926, birthplaces of parents; 1926-33, maiden name of bride if widowed or divorced, names of parents, maiden names of mothers. Arr. by date of intention. 1851-98, no index; 1898-1933 indexed alph. by names of contracting parties. Hdw. on ptd. form. 150 pp. 15 x 11 x 2.

45. RECORDS OF MARRIAGES, 1893-1933. 3 vols. (5-7). 1737-1844 in Records - Town of Athol, entry 30-ix; 1843-92 in Book No. 3 Births, Marriages, Deaths, entry 37; 1934-- in Vital Records - Town of Athol, entry 38.

Names, addresses, ages, color, occupations, prior marital status of contracting parties; places, dates of birth; names of parents, name, address, title of person officiating; number, date of marriage. Arr. by date of marriage. For index, see entry 46. Hdw. on ptd. form. 185 pp. 18 x 12 x 2.

For published record 1762-1849, see entry 36-iii.

46. (Index to Records of) MARRIAGES, 1737--. 3 file drawers (A-Z).

Names of contracting parties, date of marriage, volume and page reference. Arr. alph. by names of contracting parties. Typed. 4½ x 11½ x 8.

47. (Returns of) MARRIAGES, 1890--. 19 vols.

Names, addresses, birthplaces, ages, occupations, prior marital status of contracting parties; place, date of marriage; names, birthplaces or fathers; maiden names, birthplaces of mothers; title of person officiating, date of filing of intention. Arr. by date of marriage. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form to 1914, typed on ptd. form thereafter. 200 pp. 6½ x 8½ x 2.

48. (PARENTS' CONSENT TO MARRIAGE), 1874-97. 1 bdl.

Names of parents, contracting parties; signatures of parents, date of consent. No arr. No index. Hdw. 9 x 4 x 1. Bsmt. va., Memorial Bldg.

49. RECORDS OF DEATHS, 1893-1933. 3 vols. (5-7). 1737-1844 in Records - Town of Athol, entry 30-viii; 1843-92 in Book No. 3 Births, Marriages, Deaths, entry 37; 1934-- in Vital Records - Town of Athol, entry 38.

Name, address, age, sex, color, condition of deceased; cause, place, date of death; place of burial; names, birthplaces of parents; date of filing. Arr. by date of death. For index, see entry 50. Hdw. on ptd. form. 200 pp. 18 x 12 x 2.

For published record 1762-1849, see entry 36-ii.

50. (Index to) RECORDS OF DEATHS, 1737--. 2 file drawers (A-Z). Name of deceased, date of death, volume and page reference. Arr. alph. by name of deceased. Typed. 4½ x 11½ x 28.

51. (Returns of) DEATHS, 1882--. 26 vols. Prior records destroyed. Name, address, birthplace, age, sex, color, occupation, marital status of deceased; cause, date of death; place, date of burial; names, birthplaces of parents; name of informant; name, address of undertaker; attestation of county medical examiner, town clerk; date of attestation. Arr. by date of death. No index. Hdw. and typed on ptd. form. 200 pp. 7½ x 9 x 2.

Property Records
(See also entries 77, 94-vi, 116, 341-344)

52. (Transcriptions of) MORTGAGES OF PERSONAL PROPERTY - TOWN OF ATHOL, 1832--. 25 vols. (1-25). System estab. 1832. Title varies slightly.

Name, address of mortgagor, mortgagee; location, description of property; conditions, date of mortgage; conveyance, defeasance, habendum clause; amount, acknowledgment of receipt of consideration; signature, seal of mortgagor; signature of witness. Includes oath of acknowledgment: Name of affiant; place, date of oath; signature, seal of justice of the peace; signature of clerk; date, time of filing. Also includes notations of discharge of mortgage: Name of mortgagee, discharge clause; place, date of discharge; signature of mortgagee. Also contains transcriptions of:

i. Assignments of wages, 1871-1920: Name, address of assignor, assignee, employer of assignor; conditions, date of assignment; amount of consideration, wages assigned and reasons therefor; signature, seal of assignor; signature of witness. Includes oath of acknowledgment: Place, date of oath; signature of justice of the peace, clerk; date, time of filing.

ii. Attachments on personal property, 1862-97: Names of litigants, date of attachment, filing. For copies of attachments 1875-1935, see entry 56-i.

iii. Married women's business certificates 1900-1923. For original certificates 1900--, see entry 56-iii.

iv. Telephone pole and wire location permits, 1901-10: For description, see entry 63. For petitions for locations 1901-11, see entry 81.

Mortgages arr. by date of receipt of instrument; other records arr. by date of filing. 14 vols., 1832-61, 1882-87, 1893-1920, indexed alph. by name of mortgagor; 6 vols., 1861-82, 1887-93, no index; for index, 1920--, see entry 53. Hdw. to 1934, typed thereafter. 400 pp. 16 x 11 x 13. Memorial Bldg.: 12 vols., 1832-70, 1895-96, 1899-1901, 1908-9, va. off cl. off.; 13 vols., 1871-99, 1901-10, bsmt. va.

53. INDEX TO (Transcriptions of Mortgages of) PERSONAL PROPERTY, 1920--. 2 vols. (dated). System estab. 1920.

Name of mortgagor, mortgagee; title, date of receipt of instrument;

volume and page reference. Arr. alph. by name of mortgagor. Hdw. 50 pp. 9½ x 12 x 1, 75 pp. 16 x 10½ x 1.

54. (Uncalled-for Personal Property) MORTGAGES, 1895-1922. 1 bdl. (dated).

For description, see entry 52. Also includes date, time of filing; signature of clerk. No arr. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 9 x 9 x 2½. Bsmt. va., Memorial Bldg.

55. TOWN DEEDS (and Orders, Easements, Releases) ETC., 1785--. 187 envelopes in 1 file box.

The instruments described below (except orders for taking land) include the following oath of acknowledgment: Name of affiant; place, date of oath; signature, seal of justice of the peace or notary public; signature of county register of deeds; date, time instrument received, entered, examined.

i. Agreement to right-of-way: Names, addresses of parties to agreement; location, description of property; purpose, grantor's reference to reservation of right-of-way; statement that municipality fenced off right-of-way; date of instrument; signatures, seals of parties to agreement.

ii. Deeds to property purchased by town: Name, address of grantor, grantee; location, description of property; covenants, and warranties; conveyance, habendum clause; grantor's acknowledgment of receipt of payment, volume and page reference to property records in county registry of deeds; signature, seal of grantor; signature of witness, date of instrument.

iii. Order for taking land: Name of municipality, state; location, description of property; declaration of taking and reason therefor, date of town meeting when taking was voted upon, date of instrument; date order received, examined, entered; signatures of selectmen.

iv. Release of liability: Name of municipality; name, address of party releasing municipality; cause, date of release; nature of liability from which municipality was discharged, amount of consideration, releasor's acknowledgment of release of payment; signature, seal of releasor; signature of witness.

v. Sewer easements: Name, address of grantor, grantee; location, description of property; amount of consideration, covenants and warranties; conveyance, habendum clause; date of instrument; signature, seal of grantor.

Arr. by envelope no. For index to deeds, see entry 71-vii; other records not indexed. Agreements, hdw., typed; other records, hdw. and typed on ptd. form. 11½ x 5 x 16.

56. BUSINESS CERTIFICATES, MARRIED WOMEN'S CERTIFICATES - ATTACHMENTS, 1877--. 1 file box.

Contains:

BUSINESS CERTIFICATES (Cont'd)

i. Attachments (copies) on real and personal property, 1877-1935: Names of litigants, name of court; amount of attachment, recitation of writ, date of hearing, attestation of clerk. For transcriptions of attachments on personal property 1862-97, see entry 52-ii.

ii. Business certificates of individuals doing business under name other than own, 1908--: Name of applicant, nature of business, date of certificate, signature of applicant.

iii. Business certificates of married women doing business on their own account, 1900--: For description, see ii. For transcriptions 1900-1923, see entry 52-iii.

Certificates arr. by certificate no.; attachments, no arr. Attachments, no index; for index to certificates, see entry 71-i. Certificates, hdw., typed; attachments, hdw. and typed on ptd. form. 11½ x 5 x 16.

57. (Real and Personal Property) ASSIGNMENTS, 1900--. 1 file box. Name of assignor, assignee; description of property; amount, number, date of assignment; due date of payment, date of recording; signature of assignor, assignee; attestation of clerk. Arr. by assignment no. For index, see entry 71-vi. Hdw. and typed on ptd. form. 11½ x 5 x 16.

Licenses

(See also entries 27-ii, 35-i, 130-vi, 150)

58. (Record of Miscellaneous) LICENSES (Issued), 1899--. 3 vols. Name, residence, business address of licensee; type, date of issue and expiration of license; amount of fee, signatures of selectmen. Arr. by date of issue. No index. Hdw. 325 pp. 14 x 8 x 1.

59. DOGS (Stubs of Licenses Issued), 1929-32. 6 vols., 1 bdl. (1 vol., 1929-30, unlabeled; 5 vols., 1 bdl., 1929-32, dated). Prior records destroyed. No title, 1929-30, 1 vol.

Name, address of licensee; name, age, breed, sex, color of dog; amount of fee, number of license; date of issue, expiration; signature of clerk, Arr. by date of issue. For index, see entry 60. Hdw. on ptd. form. Vols., 300 pp. 8 x 6 x 2; bdl., 4 x 4 x 4. Memorial Bldg.: 1 vol., 1929-30, bsmt. va.; 5 vols., 1 bdl., va. off cl. off.

For copies of licenses 1933--, see entry 61.

60. INDEX TO DOG LICENSES, 1929-32. 1 vol. (dated). System discont. 1932.

Index to Dogs (Stubs of Licenses Issued), entry 59: Name of dog owner; type, number, date of issue of license; volume and page reference. Arr. alph. by name of dog owner. Hdw. 100 pp. 8 x 7 x 1.

61. (Carbon Copies of) DOG LICENSES (Issued), 1933--. 3 bdls., 3 vols. (3 bdls., 1933-37, dated; 3 vols., 1938--, unlabeled). Title varies: Dogs, 1933-34, 1 bdl.; no title, 1938--, 3 vols. For description, see entry 59. Arr. alph. by name of licensee. No index. Typed on ptd. form. Bdls., 10 x 6 x 5; vols., 300 pp. 10 x 6 x 5.

62. RECORD OF DOG LICENSES (Issued), 1894-96. 1 vol. Name of dog owner; name, age, sex, breed, color of dog; amount of fee received; number, date of issue of license. Arr. by date of issue. No index. 200 pp. 8 x 6 x 1. Bsmt. va., Memorial Bldg.

Pole Locations
(See also entry 81)

63. POLE AND WIRE LOCATIONS, 1911--. 5 vols. (1-5). Record of permits issued for telephone and wire locations. Name of petitioner, street; location, type, height, number of poles; number of wires on poles, date of permit, signatures of selectmen. Arr. by date of permit. For index, see entry 71-v. Typed. 135 pp. 11 x 9 x 1¼.

For transcripts 1901-10, see entry 52-iv; for petitions for permits 1901-11, see entry 81.

Special Committees
(See also entries 2-iv, 21-vii, 68, 251)

64. COMMITTEE REPORTS, 1893-1909. 2 bdls. (dated). Reports of various committees relative to street improvements, study of grade crossings, fire-alarm system, town seal: Citation of authorization of work, analysis of problem, summary of investigation methods, recommendations; date of report, signatures of committee members. No arr. No index. Hdw., typed. 10 x 4 x 2. Bsmt. va., Memorial Bldg.

65. RECORDS (Minutes of Meetings) OF COMMITTEE ON CELEBRATION OF 150th ANNIVERSARY, 1910-12. 1 vol. Discussion and decisions relative to appointment and reports of subcommittee, plans for celebration, requests for appropriations, approval of expenditures; date of meeting. Includes appointment of committee by moderator, copies of articles in town-meeting warrants relative to celebration. Arr. by date of meeting. No index. Hdw. 300 pp. 10½ x 8½ x 1¼.

Military Records
(See also entry 22-v)

66. LIST OF PERSONS LIABLE FOR MILITARY SERVICE, 1890-1920. 1 bdl. Missing: 1897-1900. Name, address, age, occupation of eligible person. Arr. alph. by name

of eligible person. No index. Hdw. 12 x 6 x 6. Bsmt. va., Memorial Bldg.

67. MILITARY LIST, 1918, 1922-35, 1937--. 17 vols.
List of residents of precincts 1 and 2 eligible for military duty, compiled by assessors: Name, present address, address prior to current year, age, occupation of eligible person. Includes statement of assessors that list is correct, date of filing with clerk, date list sent to adjutant general. Arr. by name of st. and thereunder by st. no. No index. Mimeographed. 150 pp. 10 x 9 x 3/4.

68. RECORD (of Athol's Service in Civil War), 1861-65. 1 vol.
Record compiled by committee authorized by the town to describe Athol's services in Civil War: Personal history of veteran; amount of town, private bounty paid to veteran; record of families of veterans receiving aid from town. Includes historical narrative of town at beginning of war, excerpts from town-meeting minutes relating to the war; copies of orders to report to duty, certificates of resignation from military rank because of illness, military commissions from secretary of commonwealth. Also contains: Copies of subscriptions to render aid to persons affected by the war: Name of subscriber, manner of rendering aid, statement that subscriber will pay promised amount, signature of subscriber. Arr. by name of veteran. Indexed alph. by name of veteran. Hdw. 408 pp. 13 x 8½ x 3/4.

69. (LIST OF SOLDIERS IN CIVIL WAR), 1861-65. 1 vol.
Name, address of soldier; names, ages, relationship of dependents, amount, date of payment of aid to dependents; date of enlistment, discharge. Arr. alph. by name of soldier. No index. Hdw. 50 pp. 15 x 5¼ x ½.

70. (VETERANS' WORLD WAR SERVICE RECORD), 1917-19. In Bonds, Jury Lists, Perambulation Certificates, Auditor's Reports, Etc., entry 21-viii.
Name, address, birthplace, physical description, marital status of veteran; age at time of enlistment, place veteran reported for duty, designation of company to which assigned; record of promotions, citations, medals awarded, punishments, convictions; nature of prior service, name of nearest relative; date of enlistment, discharge.

Miscellaneous

71. (Index to) POLE, WIRE, AND CONDUIT LOCATION ORDERS - PLANS - DEEDS - ASSIGNMENTS - BUSINESS CERTIFICATES - AND MISCELLANEOUS PAPERS, 1762--. 1 file drawer.
Contains indexes to:
i. Certificates in Business Certificates, Married Women's Certificates - Attachments, 1908--, entry 56-ii, -iii. Name of applicant, business; number, date of certificate.

POLE, WIRE, AND CONDUIT LOCATION ORDERS (Cont'd)

ii. Layouts of Streets and Roads (Compiled by Town Clerk), entry 9: Name of street, section concerned; number of plan, layout; date of plan.

iii. Miscellaneous papers and documents in Veterinaries' Certificates of Spayed Dogs (and) Miscellaneous Papers and Documents, 1787, 1799, 1860, 1901-11, 1934, entry 72: Name of person or subject, summary of contents; number, date of instrument.

iv. (Miscellaneous Records), 1860-1923, entry 73: Type, inclusive dates of record; number of bundle.

v. Pole and Wire Locations, 1911--, entry 63: Name of public utility company, street; location of poles, wires; volume and page reference, date of permit.

vi. (Real and Personal) Property Assignments, 1900--, entry 57 Name of assignor, assignee; number, date of filing of assignment

vii Deeds in Town Deeds (and Orders, Easements, Releases) Etc., 1785-- entry 55-ii Name of grantor, grantee; summary, date of deed; number of envelope

Arr by subject and thereunder alph by name Typed $4\frac{1}{2}$ x $11\frac{1}{2}$ x 28 Cl off

72. VETERINARIES' CERTIFICATES OF SPAYED DOGS (and) MISCELLANEOUS PAPERS AND DOCUMENTS, 1787, 1799, 1860, 1901-11, 1925--. 1 file box

Veterinaries' certificates, 1925-- Name of municipality; name, age, breed of dog; name, address of owner. Also contains the following miscellaneous records: Plan of meetinghouse 1787, copy of State Tax Act with demand for payment of Athol's share of state taxes, 1799, minister's letter of acceptance of position, 1860; petitions from public utility companies for pole locations, 1901-11; traffic regulations for Athol, 1934 Veterinaries' certificates arr. alph by name of dog owner; other records arr. by subject. For index to miscellaneous records, see entry 71-iii; certificates, no index Miscellaneous records hdw., typed, hdw. and typed on ptd. form, certificates, hdw on ptd form. $11\frac{1}{2}$ x 5 x 16.

73. (MISCELLANEOUS RECORDS), 1860-1923 11 bdls System discont. 1923

Election warrants for town and state primaries, election recounts, county treasurer's receipts for dog-tax transfers, married women's business certificates, sewer specifications and contracts, miscellaneous papers of water commissioners No arr For index, see entry 71-iv. Hdw., ptd 6 x 4 x 4.

74. REPRESENTATIVES' RETURNS - REP. (Republican) AND DEM (Democratic) TOWN CO. (Committee) RETURNS, 1899-1922 1 bdl.

Returns of candidates' election expenditures. Name of payee; amount, purpose, date of expenditure, date of payment; signature, address of

candidate; date of appearance before county justice of the peace, signature of justice of the peace. No arr. No index. Typed on ptd. form. 10 x 4 x 1. Bsmt. va., Memorial Bldg.

75. NOMINATION PAPERS - TOWN OFFICERS, 1896-1901. 1 bdl.
Nomination papers of candidates for town offices: Name of municipality; name, address of candidate; name, term of office; name of person filing papers with clerk; signatures, addresses of subscribers; attestation before county justice of the peace, certification by assessors that certain number of subscribers are qualified voters; date, time of filing; signatures of assessor and clerk. No arr. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 11 x 4 x 5. Bsmt. va., Memorial Bldg.

76. RECORD (of Street Numbering), 1895--. 2 vols. No title, 1896--.
Record of numbers assigned to land abutting streets. Name of street, numbers assigned to each section, position of abutters. 1896-- includes name of property owner, description of property, date number given or changed. 1 vol., 1894-96 no arr; 1 vol., 1896--, arr. alph by name of st. 1894-96 indexed alph. by name of st.; 1896--, no index. Hdw. 600 pp. 14 x 9 x 1½. 1 vol., 1894-96, va off cl off; 1 vol., 1896--, off. of W. G. Lord (town historian), 64 Exchange St.

77. PLANS OF STREETS AND ROADS, TOWN OF ATHOL, 1898-- 2 vols. (1, 2) and 2 duplicate vols., blueprints.
Plans and profiles showing name, address of surveyor, artist; location of street, roads; scale, number, place of recording, date of plan; name of clerk, date of acceptance, filing; signatures of selectmen. Arr by date of plan. No index. Blueprint, black-and-white. 200 plans. 21 x 36 x 2.

78. A PLAN OF THE TOWN OF ATHOL, 1762. 1 lambskin sheet.
Plan showing location of land plots. Name of owner, plot number, location of brooks, compass direction. Hand-drawn. No scale. 29 x 25.

79. RAILROAD POLICE APPOINTMENTS, 1882-1922. 2 bdls.
Notifications by aldermen or selectmen of various municipalities making appointments, submitted to general superintendent of railroads and returned by him to town clerk. Citation of law governing appointment, date of notice, signature of general superintendent of railroad. No arr. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 9 x 3 x ½. Bsmt. va., Memorial Bldg.

80. (RECORD OF NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR NATURALIZATION), 1885-1900. 1 vol.
Record of persons applying for naturalization. Name, address, age, occupation of applicant; name of court, date of receipt of notice. Arr. by date of receipt of notice. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 75 pp. 9 x 12 x ½.

Town Clerk -
Miscellaneous

81. RECORDS (of Fifth Massachusetts Turnpike Corporation), 1803-83. 1 vol.
Names of officials, receipts and expenditures of corporation, location of toll gates, election of officials, date of meeting. Includes copy of incorporation act. Arr. by date of meeting. No index. 200 pp. 13 x 8 x 1½.

82. DOG LIST (Submitted by Assessors), 1903, 1907. 1 bdl.
Names, addresses of dog owners; number of male, female dogs. Includes clerk's notation of payment of license fee. Arr alph by name of dog owner. No index. Hdw. 8 x 4 x 1 Bsmt. va , Memorial Bldg.

83. PEW HOLDERS'-ORTHODOX EVANGELINE (and) CONGREGATIONAL (Churches), 1886 1 bdl (dated)
Petitions to county justice of the peace to issue warrant to call a meeting of pew holders. Order to notify pew holders of meetings; list of articles to be voted on; place, date, time of meeting; signatures of pew holders. Also contains: Minutes of meetings of pew holders. Articles voted on; place, date of meeting; signature of clerk of church. Arr. by date of meeting. No index. Hdw 8 x 3 x ½ Bsmt va , Memorial Bldg.

III. REGISTRARS OF VOTERS[1]

In accordance with a legislative act of 1884,[2] the selectmen in that year appointed three registrars of voters to serve for one-, two-, and three-year terms, with the town clerk as an ex officio member of the board.[3] The registrars serve on the rotation plan of tenure, but the number of the board has varied from three to five annually; four have served each year beginning with 1894. In 1898 one of the registrars was also a selectman.[4]

Except where otherwise noted, all records are in the town clerk's office, room 14, first floor, Memorial Building, Main Street. In addition to the following records, see entry 3-iii for expenditures for new voting system 1859-1916.

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1. For the background, statutory origin, development and functions of this office, see Town and City Government in Massachusetts.
2. Acts, 1884, ch 298, sec 14.
3. Town Records, VI, 20, see entry 30.
4. Ibid., XI, 349; Annual Reports, 1884-1939, passim, see entry 2.

Minutes and Reports
(See also entry 93)

84. RECORDS OF THE REGISTRARS OF VOTERS AND ELECTION OFFICERS - CURRENT, 1936--. 1 vol.

Contains:
i. (Minutes of Meetings of Election Officers), entry 85.
ii. (Minutes of Meetings of Registrars of Voters), entry 85.
iii Reports (copies) relative to certification of assessed polls and registered voters, submitted to Secretary of Commonwealth. Precinct number; number of assessed polls, registered voters at close of registration period; signatures of registrars.

Meetings arr by date of meeting; reports arr by date of report No index Typed. 50 pp. 11½ x 10 x ¼.

85. (MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF REGISTRARS OF VOTERS), 1884-98, 1936-- 1884-98 in (Miscellaneous) Records, entry 27-i; 1936-- in Records of the Registrars of Voters and Election Officers - Current, entry 84-ii.

Discussion and decisions relative to departmental administration, applications for voting privilege, checking of voting list; place, date, time of meeting, time of adjournment.

86. (ANNUAL REPORT OF REGISTRARS OF VOTERS), 1904 In Annual Reports of the Town Officers, entry 2.

Names, total number of voters.

Records of Voters
(See also entry 84-iii)

87. GENERAL REGISTER OF VOTERS, 1884-- 7 vols. (2 vols., 1884-94, unlabeled; 5 vols., 1894--, 1-5) Title varies. No title, 1884-89, 1 vol., Old Register, 1890-94, 1 vol.

List of persons eligible to vote. Name, birthplace, age, citizenship status of eligible person, address on May 1 of prior year, at date of registration; nature, place of occupation; date of registration, remarks. Arr alph by name of eligible person. For indexes, see entries 88, 89. Hdw on ptd form. 200 pp. 10 x 16 x 2.

88. (Index to) REGISTERED VOTERS - MEN & WOMEN - PRECINCTS 1 and 2, 1884-- 1 file drawer, and 2 file boxes, 1884-1912, duplicates.

Separate indexes for men and women. Name, address, precinct number of voter, volume and page reference, date of registration. Arr by precinct, thereunder, alph by name of st., and thereunder alph. by name of voter. Hdw and typed on ptd. form. 4½ x 11½ x 28.

89. CARDS REMOVED FROM VOTERS FILE, 1934--. 1 file box. System estab. 1934.
Card index to General Register of Voters, entry 87. For description, see entry 88. Also includes reason, date person ceased to be a voter. Arr. alph. by name of voter. Hdw. on ptd form 4 x 6 x 16.

90. VOTERS' REGISTRATION CARDS, 1936-- 2 file boxes. System estab. 1936.
Cards filled out by registrant, and information thereon transferred to General Register of Voters, entry 87. Name, address, residence on January 1, birthplace, age of registrant; citizenship, voting status; date of registration, volume and page reference to entry 87. Arr. alph. by name of registrant. No index. Hdw. on ptd form. 4 x 6 x 16.

91. NAMES ADDED TO VOTING LIST, 1900-1911 1 bdl. Prior and subsequent records destroyed
List of voters submitted by assessors. Name, address, age, occupation, precinct number of voter; signatures of assessors. Arr. alph. by name of voter. No index. Hdw. 10 x 8 x 1.

Election Records
(See also entries 22-viii, 77)

92. RECORDS (of Primaries and Elections), 1899-- 17 vols., 1 bdl.
Name of candidate, office to be filled; names of election officers; number of votes for each candidate cast in each precinct, total number of votes cast, date of election. Includes precinct clerk's memoranda relative to primaries and elections. Arr. by date of election. No index. Hdw. to 1933, typed thereafter. Vols., 150 pp. 10 x 8 x 3/4; bdl., 14 x 9 x 4. Memorial Bldg.: 17 vols., 1899--, va., off town cl. off., first fl; 1 bdl., 1900, 1911-25, bsmt va.

93. ELECTIONS, RECOUNTS, TOWN MEETING NOTES, 1933-- 32 folders in 1 file box.
Reports of expenditures for political campaigns, receipts from ballot clerks signifying receipt of ballots, carbon copies of town-meeting and election warrants, notes at regular and special meetings, working sheets for compilation of votes at elections, petitions for recounts, copy of report relative to results of recount. Arr. by subject. No index. Hdw., typed. 11 x 14 x 17.

IV ELECTION OFFICERS[1]

Prior to 1911 the election officers appear to have been regarded as

1 For the background, statutory origin, development and functions of this office, see Town and City Government in Massachusetts

temporary employees instead of regular town officers, but beginning in that year, and annually thereafter up to the present time, they have been listed in the annual reports with the other officials appointed by the selectmen. The election officers are divided into two groups, each group serving one of the two precincts. They consist, in each case, of a warden, a clerk and a deputy clerk, and inspectors and deputy inspectors. In the case of these last two officers, the number appointed has been subject to some variation. In 1911, when they are first listed as town officers, there were two inspectors and two deputy inspectors for each precinct. Two inspectors were appointed annually in each precinct through 1933. In 1934, and through 1938, there have been four inspectors in Precinct I, and either three or four in Precinct II. In 1913 the number of deputy inspectors serving in both precincts was four, but this was reduced to two in 1914. The number has since varied, with four appointed for 1938. In 1934, and regularly each year since that time, each precinct has had, in addition to the other election officers listed above, a deputy warden.[1]

93A. (MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF ELECTION OFFICERS), 1936--. In Records of the Registrars of Voters and Election Officers - Current, entry 84-i.

Meetings held prior to elections: Statement of procedure to be followed at time of election relative to posting of instructions and inspection and locking of ballot box; time of closing of polls; names, duties of officers; date, time of meeting. Also contains election results showing number of votes for each candidate, attestation of clerk of election officers.

V. ASSESSORS[2]

At the first town meeting, held on March 29, 1762, it was voted that the selectmen act as assessors.[3] This was continued for a period of ten years.[4] From 1773 until 1788 three assessors, not selectmen, were elected,[5] after which the selectmen again served until 1853.[6] Thereafter for many years the board of assessors, although elected independently, included in many instances, one or more selectmen, and in 1866, 1869, 1870, 1885 and 1894 all of the assessors were selectmen, and at the same

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1. Annual Reports, 1911-39, passim, see entry 2.
2. For the background, statutory origin, development and functions of this office, see Town and City Government in Massachusetts.
3. Town Records, I, 2, see entry 30.
4. Ibid., I, 2, 66.
5. Ibid., pp. 78, 157.
6. Ibid., p. 162; III, 391.

time in some years, overseers of the poor and road commissioners as well.[1] Beginning with 1910 no assessor has at the same time been a member of the board of selectmen.[2] In 1895 the town established the plan of rotation in office and made the term of office three years.[3] One assessor acts as chairman and one as clerk.[4]

Except where otherwise noted, all records are in the cabinet, assessors' office, room 16, first floor, Memorial Building, Main Street. In addition to the following records, see entry 82 for dog lists submitted to town clerk 1903, 1907; entry 91 for list of voters submitted to registrars of voters 1900-1911.

Reports

94. (ANNUAL REPORT OF ASSESSORS), 1860-61, 1866, 1868-70, 1872, 1874-76, 1879-81, 1884, 1888-95, 1899, 1901, 1903-6, 1908-9. In Annual Report of the Town Officers, entry 2.

Contains:

i. Aggregates, tables of, 1888-89, 1895, 1899, 1901.

ii. Bank stockholders, list of, 1868, 1870, 1874-75, 1880-81, 1884, 1888, 1895, 1899, 1901: Name of stockholder, bank; total amount of holdings.

iii. Corporation taxes, list of, 1899, 1901, 1903-6, 1908: Name of corporation, amount of tax.

iv. Livestock valuation, 1860, 1866, 1868-70, 1872, 1874-75, 1880-81, 1884, 1888, 1895, 1899, 1901, 1909: Name of property owner, kinds of livestock owned.

v. Polls, 1860, 1866, 1868, 1870, 1874-75, 1880-81, 1884, 1888, 1895, 1901, 1903-6, 1909: Number of polls, amount of tax.

vi. Property records, 1860, 1866, 1868, 1870, 1874-75, 1880-81, 1884, 1888, 1895, 1901, 1903-6, 1909. Total real estate, personal property, state, county, and town tax; tax rate per $100; total number of livestock, acres of land taxed; total town valuation, names of assessors.

vii. Tax-exempt churches, list of, 1895, 1899, 1901.

viii. Town debt, total amount of, 1861, 1866, 1869-70, 1875-76, 1880-81, 1884, 1888, 1895, 1899, 1901.

ix. Valuation table (1888-89, 1901) of:

a. Bank stockholders, resident and nonresident: Name, address of stockholder; number of holdings.

b. Companies owning steam boilers: Name, address of company; names of manufacturers; horsepower, number, date of manufacture of boiler.

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1. Annual Reports, 1858-94, passim, see entry 2.
2. Ibid., 1910-39, passim.
3. Town Records, VII, 140, 194; XI, 330, see entry 30.
4. Annual Reports, 1910-39, passim, see entry 2.

(ANNUAL REPORT OF ASSESSORS)
ix. Valuation table (1888-89, 1901) of: (Cont'd)
c. Corporations: Name of corporation; type, total valuation of property.
d. Property owners: Name, address of owner; number of polls in family, amount of tax; total state, county, town tax; grand total valuation.

Valuations
(See also entries 94-iv,-vi,-ix, 99)

95. (Real and Personal Property) VALUATION LIST FOR THE (Town) OF (Athol), 1810, 1830-52, 1865--. 125 vols. (45 vols., 1810, 1830-52, 1865-99, dated; 40 vols., 1900--, dated, Prec. 1; 40 vols., 1900--, dated, Prec. 2).
Name of taxpayer; amount of full and reduced valuation, description of real and personal property; total real, personal property tax; total assessment. 1830 includes amount of ministerial tax. Also contains: Valuation List for the (Town) of (Athol - Record of Poll Assessments), 1830-52, 1865-1920, entry 101. Arr. alph. by name of taxpayer. No index. Hdw. to 1845, hdw. under ptd. head thereafter. 20 pp. 6 x 4 x 1/8 to 200 pp. 18 x 16 x 1. Memorial Bldg.: 1 vol., 1810, in bdl. marked Old Records, Taxes Assessed 1811-- Etc., 110 vols., 1830-52, 1865-1931, bsmt. va.; 14 vols., 1932--, va., coll. off., rm. 15, first fl.
For tax receipts 1886--, see entry 121; for commitments 1855--, see entry 122.

96. (ACTIVE FIELD VALUATION CARDS), 1916--. 18 file boxes (A-Z). Prior records destroyed.
Contains valuation cards of:
i. Polls and personal property: Name, present address, address on April 1 of previous year, precinct number, nationality, occupation of taxpayer; valuation of stock in trade, cattle, poultry, machinery, other ratable property; date of assessment.
ii. Real estate: Name, address, precinct number of taxpayer; location of property; number, valuation of houses, barns; number of square feet and acres, valuation of land, total valuation; volume and page reference to (Abstracts of Property Deeds), entry 116; date of assessment.
Arr. alph. by name of taxpayer. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 6 x 8 x 18.

97. (INACTIVE FIELD VALUATION CARDS), 1916--. 25 bdls. Prior records destroyed.
For description, see entry 96. Also includes reason cards not active. Arr. alph. by name of taxpayer. No index. Hdw. under ptd. head. 5 x 8 x 4. Memorial Bldg.: 16 bdls., 1916-29, bsmt. va.; 9 bdls., 1930--, va., coll. off., rm. 15, first fl.

98. TAX LISTS, 1814-15. 1 folder.
Valuations of real and personal property: Name of taxpayer; location, description, valuation of property. Arr. alph. by name of taxpayer. No index. Hdw. 13 x 9 x 2. Worcester Antiq. Soc. Worcester.

Assessments

(See also entries 112, 115, 121-125, 127)

99. (CANVASSING SLIPS), 1934--. 66 bdls. in 2 file boxes. Prior records destroyed.
Slips used for determining poll, real and personal property assessments: Name, addresses as of January 1 of current and past year, age, nationality, occupation, war record (if any) of tax payer; names, ages of minors over five years old in family; number of polls, number liable for military duty; number of male, female dogs; number, valuation of livestock, unregistered motor vehicles; valuation of household furniture, other tangible personal property; name of real estate owner, date of listing, remarks Arr by name of st No index Hdw on ptd form 12 x 12 x 24.

100 (RECORD OF TAXABLE POLLS AND PERSONAL PROPERTY), 1934-- 3 vols System estab 1934
For description, see entry 99 Arr alph by name of property owner No index Hdw on ptd form 50 pp 15 x 24 x 1

101 VALUATION LIST FOR THE (Town) OF (Athol - Record of Poll Assessments), 1921-- 18 vols 1830-1920 in (Real and Personal Property) Valuation List for the (Town) of (Athol), entry 95.
Name, address of taxpayer; number of taxable polls in family, total tax on polls Arr alph by name of taxpayer No index Hdw under ptd. head 100 pp 18 x 16 x ½ Memorial Bldg : 11 vols , 1921-31, bsmt va , 7 vols , 1932--, va , tax coll off , rm 15, first fl

102 (POLL TAX ASSESSMENTS CARDS), 1921-- 2 file boxes System estab 1921
List of poll tax assessments from which commitments to tax collector are taken For description, see entry 101 Arr alph by name of taxpayer. Hdw on ptd. form 6 x 8 x 18 Assrs off

103 STREET LISTS OF ASSESSED POLLS OF THE TOWN OF ATHOL, 1935-- 4 vols (dated) Prior records destroyed
Name, address, residence prior to current year, age, nationality, occupation of taxpayer At beginning of each precinct list is a description of the precinct boundaries. Arr alph by name of st No index. Mimeographed 150 pp 12 x 10 x 1

104. COPY OF TOWN, STATE, COUNTY AND MINISTER TAX, 1811-12, 1820-23, 1825-26. 8 vols. (dated).
Town, state, and county tax: Name of taxpayer, number of polls in family; amount, date of poll, real and personal property assessment; total tax for each type of assessment, grand total. Also contains: Ministerial Tax, entry 129. Arr. alph. by name of taxpayer. No index. Hdw. 20 pp. 7 x 6 x $\frac{1}{4}$. In bdl. marked Old Records, Taxes Assessed 1811-- Etc., bsmt. va., Memorial Bldg.

105. COPY OF HIGHWAY TAX, 1816, 1820-26, 1832. 9 vols. (dated).
Tax levied in proportion to number of polls and amount of valuation: Name of taxpayer, number of polls in family; amount of poll, real and personal property assessment; total assessment. Arr. alph. by name of taxpayer. No index. Hdw. 60 pp. 7 x 6 x 1/8. In bdl. marked Old Records, Taxes Assessed 1811-- Etc., bsmt. va., Memorial Bldg.

106. A COPY OF A TAX ON SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 7 FOR SCHOOL HOUSE, 1817. 1 vol. (dated, $218.39).
For description, see entry 105. Arr. alph. by name of taxpayer. No index. Hdw. 4 pp. 7 x 6 x 1/8. In bdl. marked Old Records, Taxes Assessed 1811--, bsmt. va., Memorial Bldg.

107. (SEWER ASSESSMENT FIELD CARDS), 1910--. 2 file boxes.
Name, address of taxpayer; amount of assessment; nature (store, dwelling, etc.), year of rental; permit number. Arr. alph. by name of taxpayer. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 5 x 6 x 14.
For collector's record of assessments 1916--, see entry 124.

Abatements
(See also entries 3-i, 113, 114)

108. ABATEMENT RECORD, 1875--. 6 vols. (1 vol., 1875-95, marked 1886; 5 vols., 1909--, unlabeled). Missing: 1896-1908, 1924. Title varies slightly.
Name of taxpayer; amount, type, date of tax; amount, date of abatement; remarks. Arr. by date of abatement. No index. Hdw. under ptd. head. 200 pp. 8$\frac{1}{2}$ x 11 x 3/4 to 200 pp. 14 x 10 x 1. Memorial Bldg.: 3 vols., 1875-1923, bsmt. va.; 3 vols., cabinet, assrs. off.

109. (ABATEMENT CERTIFICATES), 1928--. 43 vols. Prior records destroyed.
Copies of certificates of poll, real and personal property tax abatements: Name of taxpayer; amount, date of abatement and reason therefor; number, date of certificate; signatures of assessors. Arr. by date of certificate and certificates numbered consecutively. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 86 pp. 4 x 8 x 1.

110. (APPLICATIONS FOR REAL ESTATE TAX ABATEMENT), 1933--. 8 bdls. Prior records destroyed.
Name, address of applicant; location, description, area of property; number of street, plan of lot; amount of assessed valuation, estimated tax; total valuation, applicant's statement of facts relative to real estate. Arr. by date of application. No index. Hdw. under ptd. head. 10 x 4 x 5.

Motor Vehicle Excise
(See also entry 125)

111. (VALUATION CARDS), 1934--. 24 file boxes. (dated, and A-Z for each year). Prior records destroyed.
Cards sent by state department of corporations and taxation to determine assessments in proportion to valuation of vehicle: Name of vehicle owner, insurance company; make, model, valuation, number of cylinders or rated capacity, year of manufacture of vehicle; engine, manufacturer's number; amount of registration fee. Arr. alph. by name of vehicle owner. Hdw. and typed on ptd. form. Memorial Bldg.: 10 file boxes, 1934-35, cabinet, assrs. off.; 14 file boxes, 1936--, va., coll. off., rm. 15, first fl.

112. MOTOR VEHICLE EXCISE TAXES OF THE TOWN OF ATHOL, 1929--. 10 vols. (dated).
Record of assessments compiled from (Motor Vehicle Excise Cards), entry 111: Name, address of vehicle owner; name of manufacturer; make, type, model, year of manufacture of vehicle; amount, statement of purpose, manner of payment of tax. Arr. alph. by name of vehicle owner. No index. Hdw. under ptd. head. 75 pp. 28 x 16 x 1. Memorial Bldg.: 6 vols., 1929-34, bsmt. va.; 4 vols., va., coll. off., rm. 15, first fl.

113. (COPIES OF ABATEMENT CERTIFICATES), 1929--. 11 vols.
Name, address of taxpayer; make, year of manufacture of vehicle; amount of tax levied, due, abated; reason for abatement, total amount of tax; number, date of certificate; signatures of assessors. Arr. by date of certificate and certificates numbered consecutively. No index. 25 pp. 5 x 8 x 1 to 250 pp. 12 x 10 x 1.

114. (Record of) MOTOR VEHICLE EXCISE ABATEMENT, 1929--. 2 vols.
Name of vehicle owner; description, registration number of vehicle; reason for not collecting tax; amount, date of abatement; date of commitment, remarks. Arr. by date of abatement. No index. Hdw. under ptd. head. 100 pp. 12 x 10 x 1.

Miscellaneous

115. (ABSTRACTS OF PROPERTY DEEDS), 1911--. 31 vols. System estab. 1911.
Name of grantor, grantee; location, description of property; amount of consideration, location of plan book, abstract number, volume and page reference to property records in county registry of deeds; date reported, recorded. Includes sketch of property. Arr. by date of recording. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 100 pp. 6 x 8 x 12.

116. (CORRESPONDENCE), 1936--. 2 file boxes. Prior records destroyed.
Correspondence with state department of corporations and taxation relative to tax rates, abatements and exemptions, special assessments; with taxpayers relative to applications for voting registration, abatements; with board of public welfare relative to assessments. Arr. alph. by name of correspondent. No index. Hdw., typed. 12 x 12 x 24.

117. (PLANS OF REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENTS), 1923--. 9 plans.
Plans of Athol Park, Maple Park, Mountain View Park, Park View, Howard Blanchard Cottage lots, Busbee Park Cottage lots, showing names of streets, ponds; number, area, dimensions of each house lot. H. F. Hastings. Blueprint. Scales vary. 24 x 18. Va., coll. off., rm. 15, first fl., Memorial Bldg.

118. (PLAN OF GOODALE HEIGHTS), 1910. 1 plan.
Plan showing name of property owner, names of abutting streets; name, width of street in development; number, dimensions, areas of house lots. Parker, Bateman and Chase, Fitchburg. Blueprint. 1":40'. 24 x 18. Va., coll. off., rm. 15, first fl., Memorial Bldg.

119. (PLAN OF LAND AND APARTMENTS OF THE S. B. STARRETT HEIRS), 1923. 1 plan.
Plan showing names of abutting streets; names, widths of streets in development; number, area of each house lot; location, dimensions of rights-of-way between house lots. Parker, Bateman and Chase. Fitchburg. Blueprint. 1":20'. 24 x 18. Va., coll. off., rm. 15, first fl., Memorial Bldg.

VI. COLLECTOR OF TAXES[1]

The office of collector of taxes was created in 1788, to take over the duties formerly performed by the constables.[2] The position was at

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1. For the background, statutory origin, development and functions of this office, see Town and City Government in Massachusetts.
2. Town Records, I, 2, 6-10, 55, see entry 30.

first auctioned off to the lowest bidder, who was then elected for one year as tax collector, and immediately thereafter made a constable.[1] This practice was continued until 1857.[2] For the next three years the treasurer was authorized to collect taxes.[3] In 1861, however, the town reverted to the system of auctioning off the position,[4] and this custom was maintained for twenty-five years. In 1887 it was discontinued and the present system of electing a collector of taxes annually on the same basis as other elective town officers was established.[5] The Annual Report of 1880 includes items showing payments on a commission basis, which were made in that year to cover collections extending back as far as the year 1873.[6] In 1899, and for some years thereafter, the printed report is entitled "Report of the Tax Collectors", although but one collector was elected annually.[7] The term of office is one year.[8]

Except where otherwise noted, all records are in the basement vault, Memorial Building, Main Street.

In addition to the following records, see entry 355 for collector's account with sewer commissioners 1894--.

120. (ANNUAL REPORT OF COLLECTOR OF TAXES), 1887-88, 1893--. In Annual Reports of the Town Officers, entry 2.

Contains:

i. Narrative report on care of cemeteries, number of lots sold, 1887-88, 1896-97.

ii. Nonresident bank stockholders, list of, 1887-88: Name of stockholder, bank; amount of holdings.

iii. Taxes, classification of: Types, total amount of taxes collected and uncollected; amount deposited with town treasurer; net amount of abatements, collections of principle and interest.

121. TOWN OF ATHOL - CASH (Receipts) - COLLECTOR'S DEPT., 1886--. 13 vols., 4 bdls. (dated). Missing: 1905-19, 1931. Title varies slightly.

Receipts from collection of taxes: Name of taxpayer; amount, type, date of payment of tax; amount of abatement, interest; total receipts. 1920 includes amount of payment made to treasurer, sheet number, date of receipt. 4 vols., 1886-1904, arr. by type of tax and thereunder by date of payment; 9 vols., 4 bdls., 1905--, arr. alph. by name of taxpayer.

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1. Ibid., p. 521.
2. Ibid., IV, 83.
3. Ibid., pp. 108, 165.
4. Ibid., p. 190; VI, 93.
5. Ibid., VI, 139; Annual Reports, 1887-1939, passim, see entry 2.
6. Ibid., 1880, p. 34.
7. Ibid., 1899 et seq.
8. Town Records, XI, 331, see entry 30.

No index. Hdw. under ptd. head. Vols., 200 pp. 16 x 11 x 1 to 500 pp. 12½ x 19 x 2½; bdls., 12½ x 19 x 2½. Memorial Bldg.: 9 vols., 1886-1923, 1929-34, 4 bdls., 1924-28, bsmt. va.; 4 vols., 1935--, va., coll. off., rm. 15, first fl.

122. TOWN OF ATHOL TAX COMMITMENT - TAX COLLECTOR'S DEPT., 1855--. 75 vols. (dated). Missing: 1860-62, 1877. Title varies: No title, 1855-1933, 1938--, 43 vols.; Tax collector, 1905-16, 12 vols.

Name, address of taxpayer; amount, date of assessment; payment; amount of abatement, interest. Includes: 1855-73, amount of highway tax; 1855-1916, number of polls, amount of real and personal property tax, total tax; 1917--, amount of special assessments, total tax including special assessments. Also contains: Poll Tax (Commitments), 1855-59, 1863-76, 1878-1920, entry 123. Arr. alph. by name of taxpayer. No index. Hdw. to 1869, hdw. under ptd. head thereafter. 225 pp. 6 x 11 x 1 to 200 pp. 12½ x 22 x 1½. Memorial Bldg.: 70 vols., 1855-1933, bsmt. va.; 5 vols. 1934--, va., coll. off., rm. 15, first fl.

For valuation lists 1810, 1830-52, 1865--, see entry 95.

123. POLL TAX (Commitments), 1921-37. 17 vols. (dated). 1855-59. 1863-76, 1878-1920 in Town of Athol Tax Commitment - Tax Collector's Dept., entry 122; 1938-- in (Poll, Motor Vehicle Excise Commitments), entry 126.

Name, address of taxpayer; amount, date of commitment, payment; remarks. Arr. alph. by name of taxpayer. No index. Hdw. under ptd. head. 300 pp. 10 x 14 x 1. Va., coll. off., rm. 15, first fl., Memorial Bldg.

For assessments, see entry 101.

124. SEWERS (Assessments), 1916--. 20 vols., 8 bdls. (19 vols., 8 bdls., 1916-37, unlabeled; 1 vol., 1938--, dated). Missing: 1927-29. System estab. 1916. Title varies: Jou., 1916-20, 1922-26. 10 vols.; Led., 1921, 1 vol.; no title, 1930-37, 8 bdls.

Record of assessments for construction and maintenance of sewers: Name, address of property owner; amount of assessment. 1930-- includes amount of property valuation, date of assessment, amount of payment. Arr. alph. by name of property owner. No index. Hdw. Vols., 125 pp. 8½ x 7 x ¼ to 200 pp. 10 x 16 x 1; bdls., 10 x 16 x 1. Memorial Bldg.: 19 vols., 1916-26, bsmt. va.; 8 bdls., 1 vol., 1930--, va., coll. off., rm. 15, first fl.

For assessors' record of assessments 1910--, see entry 107.

125. (MOTOR VEHICLE EXCISE COMMITMENTS), 1929-37. 8 vols. 1938-- in (Poll, Motor Vehicle Excise Commitments), entry 126.

Name, address of taxpayer; amount of tax, abatement, refund; amount, date of payment of tax. Arr. alph. by name of taxpayer. No index. Hdw. and typed under ptd. head. 250 pp. 17½ x 15 x 1½. Memorial Bldg.: 5 vols., 1929-34, bsmt. va.; 3 vols., 1935-37, va., coll. off., rm. 15, first fl.

For assessments, see entry 112; for abatements, see entries 113, 114.

126. (POLL, MOTOR VEHICLE EXCISE COMMITMENTS), 1938--. 1 vol. Contains: Poll Tax (Commitments), entry 123; (Motor Vehicle Excise Commitments), entry 125. Arr. alph. by name of taxpayer. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 200 pp. 20 x 16 x 1. Va., coll. off., rm. 15, first fl., Memorial Bldg.

127. DAY BOOK (Record of Uncollected Taxes), 1886-1917. 2 vols. (dated). Missing: 1915-16. No title, 1908-17.
Name of taxpayer; amount, type of tax due, date of recording. Arr. alph. by name of taxpayer. No index. Hdw. 250 pp. 14 x 8 x 1.
For collector's report of uncollected taxes 1887-88, 1893--, see entry 120-iii; for treasurer's report of unpaid taxes 1879-99, see entry 130-ix.

128. REC. (Record of Street-Sprinkling Assessments), 1917-25. 8 vols. Missing: 1918-19.
Name of property owner; amount of valuation, assessment. Arr. alph. by name of property owner. No index. Hdw. 125 pp. $8\frac{1}{2}$ x 7 x $\frac{1}{4}$.

129. MINISTERIAL TAX, 1769-1827. 1 bdl. 1811-12, 1820-23, 1825-26 in Copy of Town, State, County and Minister Tax, entry 104.
Record of tax levied for support of church and to pay minister's salary: Name of taxpayer; amount, date of payment of tax. Arr. alph. by name of taxpayer. No index. Hdw. 6 x 10 x 4.
For receipts acknowledging payment of ministerial salary 1770-1825, see entry 30-iv.

VII. TREASURER[1]

This office has remained virtually unchanged since its inception. The first town treasurer was elected when the town was organized, in 1762,[2] and the office has been filled by annual election since that time.[3]

Except where otherwise noted, all records are in the vault, treasurer's and accountant's office, room 12, first floor, Memorial Building, Main Street. In addition to the following records, see entry 310 for orders to pay for labor performed on the highways 1900-1916; entry 383 for orders to pay firemen 1878-88, 1897-98.

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1. For the background, statutory origin, development and functions of this office, see Town and City Government in Massachusetts.
2. Town Records, I, 2, see entry 30.
3. Ibid., XI, 329.

Reports

130. (ANNUAL REPORT OF TREASURER), 1870, 1875--. In Annual Reports of the Town Officers, entry 2.

Contains:

i. Assets and liabilities, list of, 1875-76, 1880-1918.

ii. Balance sheet, 1886-1918: Analysis of town funds, receipts and expenditures.

iii. Expenditures for state aid and taxes, departmental maintenance, 1870, 1875-1929: Amount, purpose of expenditure; total expenditures.

iv. Insurance carried, amount of, 1896--. For insurance policies on town property 1936--, see entry 144.

v. Money borrowed by treasurer, total amount of, 1881-1918.

vi. Receipts from license issued, dog funds, 1881-1918: Amount, source of receipt; total receipts.

vii. Town debt, 1879-1931 Total amount of indebtedness.

viii Trust funds, 1886-1937: Name, accounting of fund; amount of expenditures, interest on each fund; number of funds.

ix. Unpaid taxes, total amount of, 1879-99. For record of uncollected taxes 1886-1917, see entry 127.

Receipts and Expenditures

(See also entries 146-i, -ii, 195, 249, 258, 265, 355-iii)

131. TOWN OF ATHOL - CASH (Book) - TREASURY DEPT., 1877--. 19 vols. Missing: 1901-3. Title varies: No title, 1877-1900, 4 vols.; Cash - Town of Athol, 1904-16, 6 vols.

Receipts: Name of payer, department credited; amount, source, date of receipt. Expenditures: Name of payee, department charged; amount, purpose, date of expenditure; check, voucher number. Arr. chron. No index. Hdw. 400 pp. 20 x 16 x 2. Memorial Bldg.: 18 vols., 1877-1935, bsmt. va.; 1 vol., 1935--, va., treas. and acct. off.

132. RECORD (Journal), 1855-1916. 8 vols. Missing: 1904-12 Discont. as record of treasurer 1916. Title varies: No title, 1855-63, 1 vol.; Journal, 1863-1903, 5 vols.

Original recording of departmental appropriation grants, adjusting and closing bookkeeping entries, transfer of appropriation credit between departments. Name of department or account, amount credited; explanation, date of entry. Arr. chron. No index. 300 pp. 18 x 4 x 2. Bsmt. va., Memorial Bldg

For record 1917--, kept by accountant, see entry 151.

133. LEDGER 1877-1916. 6 vols. Missing: 1891-98. Discont. as record of treasurer 1916.

Monthly summary of accounts as posted from Record (Journal), entry 132; Town of Athol - Cash (Book) - Treasury Dept., entry 131: Name, number of account; amount, date of debit, credit posting; account balance, voucher number. 5 vols., 1877-90, 1899-1916, arr. by month; 1 vol., 1916, arr. by name of dept. Indexed alph. by name of account. Hdw. 275 pp. 15 x 10 x 1. Bsmt. va., Memorial Bldg.

For record 1917--, kept by accountant, see entry 152.

Checks and Warrants

134. TOWN OF ATHOL - CHECK REGISTER - TREASURY DEPT., 1917--. 1 bdl., 6 looseleaf vols.

Record of checks issued: Name of payee; amount, number, date of issue of check; voucher number. Includes reconciliation of bank balance: Amount of deposit, withdrawal, checks outstanding. Arr. by date of issue. No index. Hdw. under ptd. head. Bdl., 14 x 14 x 1; vols., 500 pp. 14 x 14 x 3. Memorial Bldg.: 2 vols., 1 bdl., 1917-33, bsmt. va.; 4 vols., 1933--, va., treas. and acct. off.

135. (CANCELED CHECKS), 1927--. 41 cardboard boxes, 18 steel file boxes (dated). Prior records destroyed.

Name of payee, department charged, bank; amount, number, dates of issue and cancelation of check; signature of treasurer, endorsement of payer. Arr. by clerk no. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. Cardboard boxes, 4 x 12 x 16; steel file boxes, 10 x 5 x 16. Memorial Bldg.; 41 cardboard boxes, 1927-32, bsmt. va.; 18 steel file boxes, 1933--, va., treas. and acct. off.

136. (TREASURER'S WARRANTS RECEIVED FROM ACCOUNTANT), 1917--. 1 bdl., 1 file box.

Original warrants for departmental expenditures: Name of creditor, department charged; amount, due date of bill; sheet, voucher number; number, date of warrant; signature of approval of selectmen. Arr. by warrant no. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. Bdl., 8 x 4 x 6; file box, 3 x 5 x 16. Memorial Bldg.: 1 bdl., 1917-35, bsmt. va.; 1 file box, 1936--, va., treas. and acct. off.

137. TOWN OF ATHOL, TREASURY WARRANTS, TREASURY DEPT., 1937--. 1 vol. System estab. 1937.

Record of warrants received from accountant and approved by selectmen: Name of payer, appropriation or department charged; amount, date of bill; total amount, number of warrant; sheet, voucher number. Arr. by date of payment and vouchers numbered consecutively. No index. Hdw. under ptd. head. 200 pp. 16 x 14 x 2.

Trust Funds

(See also entries 3-vii, 130-viii, 149-ii to iv, 279-ii, 300)

138. CEMETERY TRUST FUNDS - TOWN OF ATHOL, 1884--. 4 vols. Title varies slightly.

Record of funds subject to state laws and to town bylaws: Name of fund, cemetery; amount, conditions, date of fund; amount of interest, lot number; amount received, expended for perpetual care. Arr. alph. by name of fund. 1884-1920, indexed alph. by name of fund; 1921--, no index. Hdw. to 1920, hdw. under ptd. head thereafter. 150 pp. 16 x 10 x 1 to 250 pp. 12 x 10 x 2.

Notes and Bonds
(See also entries 3-iv, 149-i, 312-i b)

139. DEPARTMENT OF CORPORATION AND TAXATION - DIVISION OF ACCOUNTS - BOOK OF FORMS FOR ISSUE OF TOWN NOTES, 1911--. 35 vols. (3 vols., 1911-14, 1920, unlabeled; 5 vols., 1914-19, 4-8; 27 vols., 1920--, 2-28, and labeled by inclusive note nos., 11-250). Prior records missing. Title varies: Bureau of Statistics, Town of Athol, Book of Forms for Issue of Town Notes, 1911-19, 7 vols.

Notes issued in anticipation of taxes: Name of purchaser; amount, rate of interest of loan; date of issue, maturity; signatures of certifying officers. Arr. by date of issue. No index. Hdw. under ptd. head. 10 pp. 19 x 12 x $\frac{1}{2}$. Memorial Bldg.: 11 vols., 1911-22, bsmt. va.; 24 vols., 1922--, va., treas. and acct. off.

140. TOWN OF ATHOL - DEBT RECORD, TREASURY DEPT., 1917--. 1 vol System estab. 1917.

Copy of record of debts on bond issues: For description, see entry 158. Arr. by date of issue. No index. Hdw. under ptd. head. 100 pp. 12 x 14 x 1

For published report of town debt 1861-1901 intermittently, see entry 94-viii.

141. (LOANS COUPONS OF BONDS ISSUED), 1931--. 14 file boxes. Prior records destroyed.

Name of bank, nature of loan, amount due bearer, amount of interest due; number, due date of payment of coupon. Arr. by coupon no. No index. Ptd. 3 x 5 x 16.

142. TREASURER, TAX COLLECTOR AND PERSONAL (Fidelity) BONDS, 1874-1914, 1931-34. 2 bdls. (1 bdl., 1874-1914, dated; 1 bdl., 1931-34, unlabeled). 1934-- in Warrants (Contracts, Bonds, Insurance Policies), entry 145-ii.

Fidelity bonds issued to town officers' to insure faithful performance of duties: Name of municipality to be indemnified; name, address, occupation of principal; name, address of surety; amount, conditions, duration, date of bond; signatures of principal and witnesses. Includes: 1874-1914, name of county, state; signatures of indemnifier, selectmen; 1931-34, signature of attorney drawing up bond. 1 bdl., 1874-1914, no arr.; 1 bdl., 1931-34, arr. by date of bond. No index. Hdw., hdw. on ptd. form to 1914; type, typed under ptd. head thereafter. 9 x 4 x 2$\frac{1}{2}$, 8 x 5 x 4.

143. LIQUOR LICENSE BONDS, 1885-1916. 2 bdls. (dated).

Name of municpality, county, principal, surety; amount, conditions, number, date of bond; signature of principal, witness, surety, treasurer; date of filing with town clerk. No arr. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 9 x 4 x 5.

Contracts and Insurance Policies
(See also entry 130-iv)

144. (INSURANCE POLICIES ON TOWN PROPERTY), 1936-37. 20 documents in 1 file box. Prior records destroyed. 1938-- in Warrants (Bonds, Contracts, Policies), entry 145-iii.

Name, address of insurance company, agent; location, description of buildings and property; nature, amount of insurance; conditions, number, dates of issue and expiration of policy; amount of premium paid. Arr. by date of issue. No index. Typed on ptd. form. 3 x 6 x 16.

145. WARRANTS (Contracts, Bonds, Insurance Policies), 1934--. 1 file box. Prior records destroyed.

Contains:

i. Duplicates of contracts awarded for construction of buildings, highways, and bridges, 1937--: Name of contractor; amount, terms, date of contract; signatures of certifying officers. Includes specifications and drawings.

ii. Treasurer, Tax Collector and Personal (Fidelity) Bonds, entry 142.

iii. (Insurance Policies on Town Property), 1938-- entry 144.

Arr. by subject. No index. Typed under ptd. head. 3 x 5 x 16.

Miscellaneous

146. DEPARTMENTAL PAYMENTS (and Acknowledgment of Payments, Applications for Retirement), 1936--. 2 file boxes. Prior records destroyed.

Contains:

i. Applications for retirement from town office under the contributory retirement system, 1937--: Name, title, date of birth, sex, salary of applicant; date of application, employment; signature of applicant.

ii. Receipts acknowledging departmental payments: Name of town officer making payment; amount, period, date of receipt; signature of treasurer, treasurer's agent.

iii. Schedule of departmental payments made to treasurer: Name of department; accounting, amount of payment; total amount of payments; number, date of schedule.

Applications arr. alph. by name of applicant, receipts arr. by date of receipt, schedules arr. by date of schedule. No index. Hdw. and typed on ptd. form. 11 x 13 x 20.

147. CORRESPONDENCE (With State Departments), 1923--. 6 file boxes. Prior records destroyed.

Correspondence with state treasurer relative to town financial business; with department of corporations and taxation relative to loans; with commissioner of state aid and pensions relative to aid rendered. Arr. alph. by name of correspondent. No index. Typed under ptd. head. 12 x 12 x 24.

VIII. TOWN ACCOUNTANT[1]

The year following the election of the first town officers, the selectmen were instructed to "reckon with" the treasurer.[2] Ten years later a committee of three was elected for the same purpose.[3] There is no record of any further action by the voters in this connection for many years. In 1859 the town elected a committee of three to "settle" with the treasurer, and this committee continued to be elected from time to time, although by no means continuously, through the year 1881.[4] In 1877 its duties were extended to include an audit of the accounts of the selectmen, treasurer, and the overseers of the poor.[5]

In 1882 an auditor was elected to examine the books of all town officers.[6] Elections to this office continued thereafter up to 1904, when the number of auditors was increased to two. Two auditors were regularly elected from 1904 through 1910, and one from 1911 to 1916.[7]

There was no statute defining the duties of the town auditor when the office was established, and the town did not precisely define his duties. The question as to whether bills against the town should be approved by him before payment or inspected after they had been paid, was raised by the first incumbent. For the solution of this problem, the selectmen, treasurer, school committee, and auditor held a conference and decided that the auditor should make a thorough inspection of all receipts and expenditures, examine all bills against the town which had been paid, and see that the proper vouchers were supplied.[8]

The auditor, in his report to the town in 1882, lists his duties as including the audit of the accounts of the treasurer, selectmen, school committee, fire department, and treasurer of the Silver Lake Cemetery Committee.[9] In 1884 he includes also the accounts of the town library and those of the Athol Law and Order League, and in 1885, the account of the tax collector.[10]

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1. For the background, statutory origin, development and functions of this office, see Town and City Government in Massachusetts.
2. Town Records, I, 83, see entry 30.
3. Ibid.
4. Annual Reports, 1859, p. 9; 1860-81, passim, see entry 2.
5. Ibid., 1877, p. 22.
6. Town Records, V, 4, see entry 30; Annual Reports, 1882, p. 34, see entry 2.
7. Ibid., 1883-1916, passim.
8. Ibid., 1882-83, pp. 33-36.
9. Ibid., 1882, p. 34.
10. Ibid., 1884, p. 30; 1885, p. 67.

In 1916 the town voted to abolish the office of auditor and to have the selectmen appoint a town accountant,[1] thus accepting the provisions of a legislative act passed six years previously. The town at the same time asked the director of the Bureau of Statistics of the Commonwealth to install a modern accounting system in accordance with the act.[2] The following year, 1917, the selectmen appointed an accountant to serve for a term of three years, and this practice has been continued through 1939.[3] The report of this official for the year 1928 designates the title of the office of "chief accountant."[4]

Except where otherwise noted, all records are in the vault, treasurer's and accountant's office, room 12, first floor, Memorial Building, Main Street. In addition the following records, see entries 136, 137 for treasurer's warrants received from accountant 1917--.

Reports

148. (ANNUAL REPORTS OF AUDITOR, ACCOUNTANT), 1879-96, 1899-1902, 1909-10, 1913-15, 1917--. In Annual Reports of the Town Officers, entry 2.

Contains reports of auditor to 1915, reports of accountant 1917--:

i. Balance sheet, copy of, 1917--:
   a. Assets: Amount of cash, accounts receivable, departmental bills, net bonded debt, securities.
   b. Liabilities, 1917--: Amount of revenue appropriations, overlay, tailings, reserve in closed banks, loans, funds.

ii. Report of audit of financial departments, 1917--: Findings on audit of receipts and expenditures. 1920-37 includes findings on audit of appropriations.

iii. Statement of findings of town auditor relative to financial activities of town departments. For report of audit of town accounts by state auditors 1928-36, see entries 2-ii, 21-vii.

149. DEPARTMENT OF CORPORATION AND TAXATION - DIVISION OF ACCOUNTS, REPORT OF FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS, 1912--. 27 vols. (labeled by name of municipality or fund; fiscal year ending, signature of official furnishing information). Title varies: Bureau of statistics - Return of Financial Transactions, 1912-19, 9 vols.

Copy of report submitted to state department of corporations and taxation: Name of municipality, official furnishing information, person receiving

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1. Town Records, X, 76, see entry 30.
2. Acts, 1910, ch. 498, sec. 3.
3. Town Records, X, p. 132; XI, 198, see entry 30; Annual Reports, 1916-39, passim, see entry 2.
4. Ibid., 1928, p. 233.

schedule; fiscal year; receipts from taxes, licenses and permits, fines and forfeits, grants and gifts, special assessments, various departments, public-service enterprises, cemeteries, trusts and funds; date report mailed from municipality, received by state department; remarks. Also contains:

i. Schedule C, report of outstanding debt: Name of municipality, fiscal year; name, type, purpose of loan; rate of interest; amount of annual payments, sinking funds, net debt; date of loan issue, maturity; signature of official furnishing information.

ii. Schedule E, report of public trust fund: Name of municipality, fund; fiscal year; amount of cash, appraised valuation of real property, savings-bank deposits; par valuation of securities on hand at beginning, end of year; sources of receipts, reasons for payments, date of report, signature of official furnishing information.

iii. Schedule G, report of investment fund: For description, see ii.

iv. Schedule H, report of cemetery perpetual care trust funds: For description, see ii.

v. Schedule I, report of municipal properties and public improvements: Name of municipality, fiscal year; cost of improvements in various departments for land and buildings, furniture and other property; total cost for each department, all departments; date of report, signature of official furnishing information.

Arr. by date of schedule and chron. thereunder. No index. Hdw. under ptd. head. 50 pp. 13 x 10 x ½. Memorial Bldg.: 18 vols., 1912-29, bsmt. va.; 9 vols., 1930--, va., treas. and acct. off.

Financial Records
(See also entry 264)

150. (Cash Book) TREASURER'S WARRANTS AND TREASURER'S RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES - AUDITING DEPARTMENT - TOWN OF ATHOL, 1917--. 12 vols. (3 vols., 1917-20, dated; 9 vols., 1921-36, 3-11, dated). System estab. 1917. Title varies: Town of Athol - Cash - Accounting Dept., 1917-36, 11 vols. Receipts from water charges, taxes, sewer assessments, licenses, loans: Name of payer, department credited; amount, source, date of income. Expenditures for departmental administration, salaries, repayment of loans, welfare aid, maintenance and equipment of town property: Name of payee, department charged; amount, purpose, date of payment. Arr. chron. No index. Hdw. to 1936, typed on ptd. form thereafter. 500 pp. 14 x 12 x 2. Memorial Bldg.: 10 vols., 1917-36, bsmt. va.; 2 vols., 1937--, va., treas. and acct. off.

151. JOURNAL - TOWN OF ATHOL - ACCOUNTING DEPT., 1917--. 2 vols. Original recording of departmental appropriation grants, adjusting and closing bookkeeping entries, transfer of appropriation credit between

departments: Name of department or account, amount credited; explanation, date of entry. Arr. chron. No index. Hdw. 500 pp. 10 x 10 x 2. Memorial Bldg.: 1 vol., 1917-34, bsmt. va., 1 vol., 1935--, va., treas. and acct. off.

For record 1871-97, 1909-16, kept by selectmen, see entry 4; for record 1855-1916, kept by treasurer, see entry 132.

152. TOWN OF ATHOL - LEDGER - ACCOUNTING DEPARTMENT, 1917--. 3 vols. No title, 1917-26, 1 vol.

Summary of accounts as posted from (Cash Book) Treasurer's Warrants and Treasurer's Receipts and Expenditures - Auditing Department - Town of Athol, entry 150; Journal - Town of Athol - Accounting Dept., entry 151: Name, number of account; amount, explanation, date of debit and credit posting; account balance. Arr. by name of dept. and chron. thereunder. No index. Hdw. 700 pp. 14 x 14 x 5. Memorial Bldg.: 2 vols., 1917-34, bsmt. va.; 1 vol., 1935--, va., treas. and acct. off.

For record 1891-1916, kept by selectmen, see entry 5; for record 1877-1916, kept by treasurer, see entry 133.

153. TOWN OF ATHOL - CLASSIFICATION OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS - ACCOUNTING DEPT., 1917--. 11 vols. System estab. 1917.

Monthly classification of receipts and expenditures for each town department: Name of department, payer or payee; amount, source or purpose, month of receipt or expenditure; amount brought forward from previous month; total yearly receipts, expenditures, balance; amount of refunds, transfers; page reference to (Cash Book) Treasurer's Warrants and Treasurer's Receipts and Expenditures - Auditing Department, Town of Athol, entry 150. Arr. by name of dept. and chron. thereunder. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 500 pp. 12 x 16 x 5. Memorial Bldg.: 9 vols., 1917-36, bsmt. va.; 2 vols., 1937--, va., treas. and acct. off.

154. TOWN OF ATHOL - BILLS RECEIVABLE - TREASURY DEPT., 1933--. 1 vol. System estab. 1933.

Schedule of bills receivable: Name of payee, department charged; amount, itemization, number, date of bill; amount, date of payment; account, sheet number. Arr. by date of bill. No index. Typed on ptd. form. 300 pp. 12 x 12 x 2.

155. JOURNAL - JUNE AUDIT, 1933 - June 1936. 1 bdl. (dated).

Copies of demands for payments to other towns, allowances and disallowances by state bureau of statistics for payments demanded by town, list of abated taxes, order of abatements of service charges or taxes, letters of authorization to transfer money from one fund to another. Arr. alph. by name of dept. and chron. thereunder. No index. Hdw., hdw. on ptd. form. Hdw. under ptd. head, typed. 12 x 10 x 6. Bsmt. va., Memorial Bldg.

156. TRIAL BALANCE, 1917--. 5 vols. System estab. 1917.

Monthly recapitulation of account balances of each town department: Name of account, debit or credit account balance, departmental balance. Arr. by month. No index. Hdw. on ptd. head. 100 pp. 20 x 10 x 1. Memorial Bldg.: 3 vols., 1917-33, bsmt. va.; 2 vols., 1934--, va., treas. and acct. off.

157. (VOUCHERS), 1931--. 146 file boxes (marked by inclusive voucher nos., dated). Records 1917-30 destroyed.
Authorizations to pay departmental bills: Name of creditor, department charged; amount, number, date of voucher; signatures of selectmen. Attached to each voucher is creditor's bill showing name, address of creditor; name of debtor; amount, itemization, date of bill. Arr. by voucher no. No index. Hdw. and typed on ptd. form. 12 x 5 x 16. Memorial Bldg.: 125 file boxes, 1931-37, bsmt. va.; 21 file boxes, 1938--, va., treas. and acct. off.

For records 1889-1916, kept by selectmen, see entry 7.

Bond Issues
(See also entries 141, 142, 312-i b)

158. TOWN OF ATHOL - DEBT RECORD - ACCOUNTING DEPARTMENT, 1917--. 1 vol. System estab. 1917.
Record of debts on bond issues: Name of purchases; purchase price, rate of interest, purpose, number of bond; amount, due date of payment; amount of interest, principal due each year; source of authority, date of issue. Arr. by date of issue. No index. Hdw. under ptd. head. 100 pp. 12 x 14 x 1.

For published report of town debt 1861-1901, intermittently, see entry 94-viii; for copy of debt record 1917--, see entry 140.

IX. ADVISORY COMMITTEE[1]

This committee was established in 1916, when the town authorized the moderator to appoint a committee of fifteen to make recommendations as to town expenditures. The town bylaws, as accepted December 11, 1916, provided for the subsequent appointment of five members in rotation every three years.[2] This was a direct outgrowth of the so-called appropriation committee, comprised of a group of self-appointed citizens who, prior to 1916, began to confer regularly with the departments and officials of the town. By the terms under which the advisory committee was established, active members of the earlier committee were officially appointed to office when the moderator made his first selections for this purpose.[3] The advisory committee organizes by electing a chairman, vice-chairman, clerk and assistant clerk.[4]

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1. For the background, statutory origin, development and functions of this office, see Town and City Government in Massachusetts.
2. Bylaws, Town of Athol, p. 2.
3. Annual Reports, 1937, p. 6; 1939, p. 6, see entry 2.
4. Bylaws, Town of Athol, p. 2.

159. ADVISORY COMMITTEE - MINUTES OF MEETINGS, 1923--. 6 vols. 1922-29 in Bonds, Jury List, Perambulation Certificates Auditor's Reports, Etc., entry 21-i.
Discussion and decisions relative to articles in town-meeting warrants, recommendations from various town departments, appropriations, election of officers; names of members present, date of meeting, signature of committee clerk. Arr. by date of meeting. No index. Typed. 50 pp. 12 x 10 x 1. 4 vols., 1923-28, va., town cl. off., rm. 14, first fl., Memorial Bldg., Main St.; 2 vols., 1929--, residence of C. W. Tyler (committee cl.), 1403 Main St.

X. CONTRIBUTORY RETIREMENT BOARD[1]

The contributory retirement system set up by the General Court in 1936[2] was accepted by a vote of the town on November 3 of that year.[3] In order to meet the requirements of the law, the town appropriated $2,500 to the retirement fund on September 13, 1937, and an additional $5,208 on February 21, 1938. The amount required from the town in 1939 was $7,824.[4] The selectmen, upon the town's acceptance of the act, appointed a board to administer the retirement fund, made up of the town treasurer, a member to represent the public, and the town accountant who serves ex-officio.[5] Seventy-six town employees accepted membership as of July 1, 1937. Nine new members have been added, eight have been lost by death or by resignation and five have been granted pensions, all up to the end of 1938.[6] A sum equal to five per cent of the earnings of the members has been deducted by the town, and has been invested in securities for which the board paid $13,639.65.[7] The board elects its own chairman, secretary, and treasurer.[8]

160. RECORDS (Minutes of Meetings of) BOARD OF RETIREMENT - TOWN OF ATHOL, 1937--. 1 vol. System estab. 1937.
Discussion and decisions relative to minutes of previous meeting, applications for pensions, articles approved in town-meeting warrants, proposed budget for coming year, election of officers; names, titles of persons eligible for retirement; place, date of meeting. Arr. by date of meeting.

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1. For the background, statutory origin, development and functions of this office, see Town and City Government in Massachusetts.
2. Acts, 1936, ch. 518.
3. Town Records, XI, 280, see entry 30.
4. Ibid., p. 231.
5. Ibid., p. 260; Annual Reports, 1938, p. 231 et seq., see entry 2.
6. Ibid., 1938, p. 231.
7. Ibid., p. 232.
8. Ibid., 1937, p. 6.

No index. Typed. 20 pp. 14 x 10 x 1. Treas. and acct. off., rm. 12, first fl., Memorial Bldg., Main St.

161. (ANNUAL REPORT OF THE RETIREMENT BOARD OF THE CONTRIBUTORY RETIREMENT SYSTEM), 1938--. In Annual Reports of the Town Officers, entry 2.

Name, age at retirement, period of service of pensioner; total number of members, provisions for membership eligibility.

For applications for retirement from town office 1937--, see entry 146-i.

XI. SINKING FUND COMMISSIONERS[1]

To supervise the bond issues and sinking fund investments of the Athol sewer department the town in 1894 elected three sinking fund commissioners.[2] The terms were for one, two, and three years, respectively.[3] From 1895 to date one commissioner has been elected annually for a three-year term.[4]

In addition to the following record, see entry 350-vi for published annual report on sinking fund 1900-1901, 1903-33; entry 355-ix for record of sinking fund 1894-1920.

162. (SEWER SINKING FUND BONDS), 1918--. 1 vol.

Record of collections on bonds bought for investments: Name of bank in which funds are deposited, municipality from which bonds were purchased; amount, date of bond; amount of deposit, money in bank; amount of interest from bonds, balance of fund on hand at end of year. Arr. by date of bond. No index. Hdw. 100 pp. 10 x 8 x ½. Desk of C. Stanley Newton, First National Bank Bldg., Main St.

XII. SCHOOL COMMITTEE[1]

Athol, in 1763, voted to "provide" a school committee of three to appoint a schoolmaster and to divide the money raised for school purposes,

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1. For the background, statutory origin, development and functions of this office, see Town and City Government in Massachusetts.
2. Town Records, VII, 65, see entry 30.
3. Ibid., p. 91; XI, 331.
4. Annual Reports, 1895-1939, passim, see entry 2.

School Committee Next entry p. 111

which for that year amounted to £13.6.8.[1] The following year the committee was increased to six members, three each to look after the school interests on either side of Millers River.[2]

Committees of three to thirty members began to operate as early as 1770, either to "provide schooling", or to "provide hire, or choose school masters", and this terminology was used almost yearly in the town record books up through 1822.[3] One noticeable exception occurred in 1775 when it was voted "not to raise money for schooling this year."[4] In 1766 a committee was commissioned to build two schools, one on West Hill and one on East Hill, each building to be 16' x 18' x 6½' in dimension.[5] For over a period of five years (1764-69) the town negotiated through chosen committees to sell the ministerial and the school rights; and when finally accomplished in 1769 they voted to appropriate the entire amount of interest on the money derived from the sale of the school rights plus half of that from the ministerial rights, for use of the schools.[6] Again, in 1770, the interest of this fund was appropriated toward keeping schools at "South End, North End, East part, South West part, and one on Chestnut Hill".[7] References to the use of this interest money for schooling continued to be made until 1793.[8]

The division of the town into school "squadrons" took several years to complete. In 1774 the committee laid out school boundaries for four squadrons on the south side of the river, and decided that West Hill, East Hill and Chestnut Hill each be a school squadron. Three years later they divided the east part of the town for the same purpose, and in 1779 it was voted that each school squadron have the benefit of its own money.[9] The assessors were directed to "divide the glass from the old meeting house" among the various school squadrons.[10]

In 1799 the town elected a committee of seven who divided the town into seven school districts.[11] Another district was added in 1835,[12] and

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1. Town Records, I, 7, see entry 30.
2. Ibid., I, 12.
3. Ibid., pp. 48, 93, 173, 208, 433, 502, 579; II, 11, 31, 47, 72, 99, 129, 143, 232, 294.
4. Ibid., I, 108.
5. Ibid.
6. Ibid., I, 11, 40, 50.
7. Ibid., p. 50.
8. Ibid., pp. 56, 80; II, 13.
9. Ibid., I, 90, 133, 184.
10. Ibid., p. 174.
11. Ibid., II, 74, 75.
12. Ibid., III, 100.

by 1847 there seems to have been thirteen districts.[1] The committees of 1865 and 1866 rearranged the boundaries of the school districts and cut the number to ten, and at the same time the town voted that the school money be drawn from the town treasury instead of being divided among the several districts.[2] The method of maintaining the school district system was abolished in 1868 and the school committee was authorized to draw money from the treasury to pay school expenses.[3]

Following the year 1822, the individuals elected to have jurisdiction over the care of the schools or schooling were designated as members of a committee, school agents, or a general school committee, and each year they numbered anywhere from three to thirteen. Not until 1829 do the town records begin to occasionally call these men the school committee, and thirty years passed before this committee was finally elected on the rotation plan of tenure.[4] Meanwhile a prudential committee came into existence in 1846 and each school district was given the privilege of choosing its own members. They served in conjunction with the elected school committee until the district system was abolished.[5] It is interesting to note that this same year, records the first payment of services to members of the school committee.[6] When the district school system was abolished in 1868, a committee appointed in the spring of that year by the selectmen, appraised each schoolhouse and rendered the following figures: #1, $2,500; #2, $4,500; #3, $825; #4, $1,000; #5, $310; #6, $425; #8, $125; #9, $925.[7]

A partial but gradual development of educational facilities in Athol can be traced in the records by watching such events as the appointment of the singing teacher for the early singing school of 1791 which continued to be mentioned until 1824;[8] the committee of thirteen members to "mature a school system . . . which shall embrace a High School", in 1856;[9] a superintendent of schools appointed by the school committee in 1870;[10] and the establishment of an evening school in 1871, although the committee in charge was restricted to expend not over $150 therefor.[11]

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1. Ibid., III, 269, 284, 290.
2. Ibid., IV, 285, 313, 324, 330.
3. Ibid., p. 381.
4. Ibid., II, 304, 327, 346; III, 16, 30; IV, 129.
5. Ibid., III, 254, 325, 371, 402; IV, 111, 148, 191, 214, 289, 353.
6. Ibid., IV, 385.
7. Ibid., pp. 381, 389.
8. Ibid., I, 569; II, 31, 87, 122, 162, 305.
9. Ibid., IV, 83.
10. Ibid., pp. 445-449.
11. Ibid., p. 483.

The town reports show that in 1882, 1883, and 1884, the selectmen were members of the school committees;[1] and that in 1869 the town clerk was one of the three members elected.[2] The school committee was increased from three to six members in 1893, with two members elected annually for a three-year term.[3]

A new school building, known as the Hapgood School, was completed in 1887. Of this edifice the school committee, in its annual report for that year, says:

> It stands nearly, if not exactly, on the location of the first church built in Athol about 1741, and which is said to have been burned by the Indians; only a few rods away is also the monument erected in memory of the first settlers in Athol, standing in the "Old Indian Burying Ground", the most ancient burial place of the town.[4]

The following year, 1888, saw the introduction into the schools of the study of music.[5] In 1889 a new schoolhouse was built in the lower village,[6] and in 1890 the Highland School, which had been constructed on identical lines, was completed and turned over to the town for educational purposes by the building committee.[7]

The year 1893 marked the beginning of centralized school jurisdiction under a superintendent, who was selected and employed for this purpose by the school committee.[8] In its report for this year the committee says, in part:

> This town has some serious problems to face in the near future and the one of school accomodations is one of greatest moment. Last September there were one hundred and forty-two seats in the primary schools in the Highland and Main Street buildings, and one hundred and forty-seven pupils. Fifty pupils in each room are too many, but here we had seventy-three. . . So your committee, after carefully considering the matter of location, opened three schools in the Academy of Music building, which for a short time relieves the pressure on the lower grades, but the higher grades are crowded now and must have attention. . . . To meet the needs

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1. Annual Reports, 1882, p. 25; 1883, p. 28; 1884, p. 13, see entry 2.
2. Ibid., 1869, p. 4.
3. Town Records, VI, 481, see entry 30.
4. Annual Reports, 1887, p. 58, see entry 2.
5. Ibid., 1888, p. 53.
6. Ibid., 1889, p. 75.
7. Ibid., 1890, p. 17.
8. Ibid., 1893, p. 66.

> of the whole town . . . a building should be located as centrally as possible, so as to be accessible to the greatest number of scholars.[1]

Supplementing this request, the superintendent of schools, in his report for the same year, shows that the average number of pupils attending schools was 1,146, and that the total registration for the school year was 1,645.[2]

In 1894 a new schoolhouse was completed to replace the older building of the Lake Park School.[3] Says the committee:

> It is located where it will accomodate a larger number of children than any other school building in town. The lot contains an acre of ground and is surrounded on four sides by streets forty feet wide; thus insuring abundance of light and air. The building is a handsome brick and brown stone structure, and contains six rooms arranged for all the grades up to the High School. . . . This makes the forth brick building our town has erected for school purposes in seven years at a cost of $81,000, of which amount $24,000 has been paid. All of the buildings are handsome and commodious. . . .[4]

In 1895 there appears for the first time the annual report of the instructor of music, a position which has been filled regularly since it was established by the school committee in 1888.[5] The reports of this teacher continue to appear, in most years, up through 1939.[6] In 1915 the title is given as that of supervisor of music; for the most part the older designation has been used.

In 1895 the teaching of drawing was added to the school curriculum. Reports of this department appear more or less regularly, with different titles as time goes on. During the first years these reports are signed by the teacher of drawing; in 1898 the title appears as the supervisor of drawing and nature;[7] later the old designation is used. The term supervisor of drawing is used in 1915,[8] and thereafter until 1927 when the title is given as that of art supervisor. This is the title used in 1939.[9]

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1. Ibid., p. 68.
2. Ibid., p. 71.
3. Ibid., 1894, p. 73.
4. Ibid.
5. Ibid., 1895, p. 98.
6. Ibid., 1895-1939, passim.
7. Ibid., 1898, p. 109.
8. Ibid., 1915, p. 143.
9. Ibid., 1927-39, passim.

School Committee Next entry p. 111

The school committee, in its report for 1897, says:

> We believe that the time has come when this town should support an evening school, at least for the four months of December, January, February and March.[1]

Adoption of this suggestion, however, was delayed for some years, and the first report of the teacher of the evening school does not appear until 1910.[2]

At the turn of the century the report of the school superintendent gives the attendance figure as 1,100 substantially the same figure as that of 1893.[3] However, the committee, in almost every report, continued to call attention to the lack of proper facilities. In 1905 it says:

> The School Committee are unanimously and strongly of the opinion that the wisest and most economical course for the town is to . . . erect a modern High School building, to cost with all equipment and furnishings (and land) $65,000. . . . Realizing the urgency of immediate action, for the benefit of the children of our citizens, the Committee caused a town meeting to be called 19 February 1906, to consider and act on the matter.[4]

This action of the school committee was received without enthusiasm by the townspeople. The appropriation committee advised the voters that the matter had been "too suddenly presented", and the total result achieved was the selection of a committee of seven, who were asked to "investigate."[5] However, as a result of this agitation, the town in 1906 hired the old Catholic church building and converted it into two schoolrooms.[6] Meanwhile the school committee had been having difficulties with the principal of the high school, and a new man had been hired and put in charge. In its report for 1906, the year the church was converted into a school building, the school committee's report observes:

> During the year the High School has been brought from a condition of riot and misrule to the orderly and self-respecting institution it is intended to be.[7]

In the spring of 1907 manual training was introduced into the graded schools,[8] and another new building, the Riverbank Street Grammar School

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1. Ibid., 1897, p. 80.
2. Ibid., 1910, p. 243.
3. Ibid., 1900, p. 21.
4. Ibid., 1905, pp. 131-132.
5. Ibid., p. 132.
6. Ibid., 1906, p. 139.
7. Ibid., p. 140.
8. Ibid., 1907, p. 138.

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although not completed, was opened to accommodate classes.[1]

At the annual town meeting held in March, 1911, the town appropriated $35,000 to erect a new eight-room graded school on the Catholic church lot, which was already being used for educational purposes. Construction was started immediately.[2] During the same month a fire in the high school building made extensive repairs there a necessity, and metal ceilings were installed, to prevent the spread of flames in the event a second fire should occur.[3] The school on the church lot was completed and dedicated in 1912. This was called the Ellen M. Bigelow School, -- so named for a previous teacher -- and was the first fireproof school building to be constructed along modern lines in Athol.[4] Special attention was paid to heating and lighting, and the building represented one of the finest of its class at the time.

In 1909 the first school physician was appointed; a position which has since been maintained regularly.[5] In 1912 a new department, under the direction of a supervisor of sewing, was added.[6]

Once more in 1913 the school committee called attention to the overcrowded condition of the high school building,[7] and in 1915 two wings were added to the building.[8] At this same time the high school principal began to render annual reports which were printed with those of the other school departments. In 1919 there appears the first report of the supervisor of penmanship, a position which has also been continued.

The report of the school committee for 1920 says, in part:

> Through the generosity and courtesy of the Athol Chapter of the American Red Cross a school nurse was provided who began her work April 1, 1920.[9]

The reports of the school nurse have since been included in the printed report, and have been, since 1924, combined with those of the school physician.[10] The same year that this office was established there appears the first report of the agricultural supervisor. This official works under the joint direction of the school committee and the state board of education.[11]

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1. Ibid., p. 137.
2. Ibid., 1911, p. 237.
3. Ibid., p. 238.
4. Ibid., 1912, p. 231.
5. Ibid., 1909-39, passim.
6. Ibid., 1912, p. 254.
7. Ibid., 1913, p. 219.
8. Ibid., 1915, p. 143.
9. Ibid., 1920, p. 97.
10. Ibid., 1920-39, passim.
11. Ibid., 1920, p. 104.

Adult agricultural clubs, and others for boys and girls of school age were formed as a result of this new venture. The last report of the agricultural supervisor appears in the volume for 1921.

In 1922 two rooms were added to the Silver Lake School building and to the Saunders Street School building.[1] The superintendent, in his report for 1923, announced the beginning of junior high school courses,[2] but no further mention is made of them until 1927.[3]

In the reports for 1924 the organization of the entire educational system in Athol is for the first time presented. The enrollment for this year is listed as 343 for the high school; 1,763 for the elementary schools.[4] The total town appropriation amounted to $140,000.[5]

Parent-teacher associations, one for each of the districts, were formed in 1927.[6] In the same year a new department, under the supervision of a physical director and director of athletics (one person) was established. Later the reports of this supervisor bear the title of physical director. In 1929 a school secretary was added to the list of officers.[7] In 1930 the Riverbank School was officially designated as the Athol Junior High School, and has since so remained.[8] A university extension class was added to the schools during the same year.[9] In 1931 the school dentist appears for the first time, and the superintendent of school buildings and janitors is listed among the appointees of the committee. Two assistants to the superintendent of schools appear for the first time. All of these offices have been continued, and the dental clinic, under the direction of school dentist, has become one of the important departments.[10]

Once more, in 1935, the school committee report takes up the matter of inadequate housing facilities:

> Due to lack of space in three of our largest schools, -- Ellen Bigelow, Riverbank, and the High School, basement space has to be used for some of the regular classes. . . . All of these basement classrooms are more or less poorly adapted for teaching, and learning purposes, on account of poor

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1. Ibid., 1922, p. 98.
2. Ibid., 1923, p. 85.
3. Ibid., 1927, p. 90.
4. Ibid., 1924, p. 103.
5. Ibid., p. 104.
6. Ibid., 1927, p. 90.
7. Ibid., 1929, p. 117.
8. Ibid., 1930, p. 150.
9. Ibid., p. 152.
10. Ibid., 1930-39, passim.

natural light, and poor ventilation.[1]

In 1936 the report of the school committee says:

> The building inspection certificates received last June from the Department of Public Safety, approve the use of the High School building by five hundred and sixty persons, and the assembly hall at the High School by four hundred and twenty persons. When all of the teachers and students are present, there are approximately four hundred and ninety six, or seventy-six more than the number permitted by the inspector to use the hall.[2]

In 1936 the list of appointees include a bookkeeper, a clerk, and a stenographer and typist; the following year a WPA nursery class, with two teachers and one assistant is included.[3] In 1938 the appointments include three new teachers, an industrial arts instructor, whose first report is printed, and one supervisor of health and physical education for boys, and one for girls, both in addition to the director of athletics.[4]

The organization of the department, as set forth in the annual reports for 1939, shows the following, in addition the regular grade, junior, and high school teachers:

School Committee
Secretary of the School Committee
Superintendent of School
Secretary to the Superintendent
Stenographer
School Physician
School Nurse
School Dentist
Supervisor of Attendance
Principal of the High School
Principal of the Junior High School
Supervisor of Music
Supervisor of Penmanship
Supervisor of Art
Industrial Arts Instructor
Director of Athletics
Supervisor of Health and Physical Education for Boys
Supervisor of Health and Physical Education for Girls.

The enrollment is 2,125.[5]

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1. Ibid., 1935, p. 117.
2. Ibid., 1936, p. 118.
3. Ibid., 1937, p. 79.
4. Ibid., 1938, pp. 96, 100, 102.
5. Ibid., 1939, pp. 50, 51.

Except where otherwise noted, all records are in the superintendent's office, room 26, second floor, Memorial Building, Main Street.

Minutes and Reports

163. (MINUTES OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETINGS), 1873--. 7 vols.
Title varies: No title, 1873-82, 1936--, 3 vols.; School Committee - Town of Athol, 1883-86, 1 vol.; Records, 1887-1930, 2 vols.; Loose Leaf Book, 1931-35, 1 vol.
Discussion and decisions relative to articles in town-meeting warrants, appointment of school employees, bids on supplies; names of members present; place, date of meeting; signature of committee secretary. Arr. by date of meeting. No index. Hdw. to 1930, typed thereafter. 100 pp. 8 x 5 x $\frac{1}{2}$ to 350 pp. 14 x 9 x 1. Va.

164. (MINUTES OF SCHOOL-DISTRICT MEETINGS), 1805-64. 1 vol.
Missing: 1809.
Discussion and decisions relative to articles in town-meeting warrants, administration of district, appointments, appropriations; place, date of meeting. Arr. by date of meeting. No index. Hdw. 60 pp. 14 x 6$\frac{1}{2}$ x 3/4. Va., Athol Cooperative Bank, 90 Exchange St.

165. (ANNUAL REPORT OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE), 1882--. In Annual Reports of the Town Officers, entry 2.
Contains:

i. Alien adult education, 1934-37: Total number of classes held, nationalities represented.
ii. Appropriations, list of, 1882-1902, 1912, 1914--: Purpose, total amount of appropriation.
iii. Attendance record, 1885, 1887-95, 1914--: Number of pupils enrolled in each school; average membership, attendance; percentage of attendance, totals.
iv. Bus drivers, list of, 1933--: Name, address, route of driver.
v. Calendar of school year, 1894--: Period of term, vacations.
vi. Contagious diseases, 1913: Types, number of diseases; length of quarantine before readmission to school.
vii. Curriculum, 1893-1902, 1931-32: List of subjects taught.
viii. ERA, 1934-35, WPA, 1935--: Total amount of expenditures for repairs and improvement to school buildings, cost of labor borne by Federal Government.
ix. Financial statement, 1882--:
    a. Expenditures for department administration, transportation of pupils, salaries, supplies, repairs, athletics, miscellaneous items: Amount, purpose of expenditure, total expenditures.
    b. Credits of school department, 1924-26, 1930--: Total amount of credit for general school funds, tuition, vocational and alien adult education, sale of books and supplies, miscellaneous items; net yearly cost of administration of schools.

(ANNUAL REPORT OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE), (Cont'd)

x. High school graduates, list of, 1885--: Name of graduates, course of study pursued.

xi. High school graduation program, 1885--: Names, courses of study of members of graduating class; names of pupils graduating with honors, order of events comprising program; names of pupils, town officials participating in exercises.

xii. Janitors, list of, 1882-1885, 1896--: Name, address of janitor; amount of salary received. 1935-- includes place of employment.

xiii. Physical education, program of, 1926, 1932-33: Kinds, number of athletics taught, drills held.

xiv. Receipts from athletics: Amount, source of receipt; total receipts.

xv. Table of aggregates, 1885-1902: Amount, source or purpose of receipt or expenditure; totals.

xvi. Teachers, 1882, 1885-1919, 1931-34:

a. List of teachers, 1882, 1885-95, 1897-1919, 1931-33: Name, salary of teacher; total number of teachers.

b. Meetings, 1888, 1896, 1902, 1932-34: Purpose of meeting, subject discussed; names of municipalities represented, participating speakers.

c. Resignations, number submitted, 1887-99.

xvii. Teachers' Institute meeting, 1888: Names of participating school officials, subject discussed.

xviii. Textbooks, list of, 1882, 1885-95, 1898-1902, 1907, 1909-19, 1931: Name, cost of book.

xix. Tuition, amount paid by nonresident pupils for, 1885-95.

xx. Work certificates, 1896-1902: Total number of certificates issued, classified by age of pupil.

166. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE OF THE TOWN OF ATHOL, MASS., 1849-1937. 12 vols. (dated). Title varies: Athol School Reports, 1849-1929, 4 vols.

Duties of school committee, prudential committees; examination of teachers, summary review of school districts, list of and decisions on articles in town-meeting warrants relating to school matters, financial statement, attendance statistics, reports of school officers. Arr. by subject. No index. Ptd. 40 pp. $8\frac{1}{2}$ x 6 x 1/8 to 500 pp. $8\frac{1}{2}$ x 6 x $1\frac{1}{4}$. Va.

167. (GENERAL SCHOOL FUND STATEMENT), 1920--. 19 vols.

Copies of annual statements sent to state department of education, claiming reimbursement for salaries paid to teachers, supervisors, principals, assistant superintendents, and superintendent of public day schools: Name, salary, educational background, experience of teacher; amount of state reimbursement claimed for each teacher, total school enrollment, number of nonresident pupils; city's proportionate share of state tax per million dollars, per pupil; total number of teachers for whom reimbursement is claimed, certification of superintendent, date of report. Arr. by date of statement. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 8 pp. 11 x $8\frac{1}{2}$ x 1/8. Va.

168. (Copies of). SCHOOL RETURNS (Submitted) TO THE (State) DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, 1920--. 19 vols.
Names, addresses of school committee members; names, addresses, salaries of superintendent of schools, school physicians, nurses, supervisors of attendance, supervisors of special cultural subjects; number, educational background of principals, supervisors, teachers in elementary, junior and senior high schools; total number of male, female teachers; summary of enrollment, attendance; description, valuation of school property; summary of receipts, expenditures; statistics on registration of minors, enrollment in public and private day schools, public evening and vacation schools; names, addresses, enrollment of private schools, with names of principals; statements certifying compliance with requirements of state laws; signature of superintendent, chairman of school committee; date of report. Arr. by date of report. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 10 pp. 11 x 8½ x 1/8. Va.

Pupils' Records

Case Histories

169. (CASE HISTORIES OF RETARDED PUPILS), 1924--. 1 file box.
Case history folders containing the following papers submitted by school clinic to state department of mental diseases:

i. Family history: Name, mental and physical disorders of pupil; names, ages, sex, school grades attended, intelligence quotients of family members; ages of parents at birth of pupil, maiden name of mother, occupation of father; other facts concerning parents, relatives; date of examination, signature of examiner.

ii. Personal and developmental history: Name of pupil; place, date, condition of birth; history of convulsions, description of illnesses before the age of five or six years; age pupil began to walk, talk; date of appearance of first teeth; record of personal habits, hospital confinement; form number, date of examination, signature of examiner.

iii. Progress in school: Name of pupil, school; period of attendance in each school grade; teacher's statement on progress, record of truancy (if any), form number, date of examination, signature of examiner, remarks.

iv. Psychiatrist's diagnosis and recommendations: Name, intelligence quotient of pupil; place, date of birth; results of diagnosis; mental, physical age; name of school, grade; names, addresses of parents; advice given on educational, social, physical problems; reason for examination and date thereof, form number, signature of examiner.

v. School tests: Name, date of birth, intelligence quotient of pupil; mental, physical age; results of tests in various subjects for each grade; date of examination, signature of examiner, remarks.

(CASE HISTORIES OF RETARDED PUPILS) (Cont'd)

vi. Social conduct: Name of pupil; statement as to whether pupil lies protectively, maliciously, imaginatively, or purposely; whether pupil steals, shows any evidence of abnormal interest or practise in sexual matters, has borne illegitmate children, has a court record; place, nature of court record, if any; statement relative to moral reactions, form number, date of examination, signature of examiner, remarks.

vii. Social relations and reactions thereto: Name, environmental conditions of pupil; types, ages of associates; reaction when teased by other children, statement of acceptance as an equal or not by children of own age leadership among other children; whether or not cruel and manner in which exhibited; nature of definite character traits, amusements, interests, reactions; form number, date of examination, signature of examiner, remarks

Arr. alph. by name of pupil. No index. Hdw., typed on ptd. form. 12 x 12 x 24. Nurse's rm., first fl., Junior High School, Riverbend St.

For superintendent's record of retarded pupils, see entry 217.

170. BIRTH CERTIFICATES, 1922--. 1 file drawer. Prior records destroyed.

Extracts from birth certificates obtained by pupils entering school at 5 years of age: Name, sex of pupil; place, date of birth; name of mother, date of extract. Arr. alph. by name of pupil. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 12 x 12 x 24.

Health (See also entry 165-vi)

171. (PHYSICAL RECORD OF PUPIL), 1924--. 1 file box. (A-Z).

Name, address, sex, color of pupil; place, date of birth; names, condition of parts of body, record of height and weight, defects requiring treatment, prior diseases; names, birthplaces, occupations of parents; names of school, preschool children in family. Arr. alph. by name of pupil. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 12 x 12 x 24.

Scholarship and Attendance (See also entries 165-iii, 168, 206)

172. MASS. SCHOOL REGISTER, 1890--. 1380 vols. (labeled by name of municipality, school, teacher; grade attendance period).

Record of enrollment and attendance in each classroom: Name of town, school; name, address, age, attendance record of pupil; names of parents of guardian; period of school year, number of days in session; number of male, female pupils classified by age; total enrollment; aggregate daily, monthly attendance; total attendance for year; name, educational background of teacher. Arr. by year, thereunder by name of school, and thereunder by grade no. No index. Hdw. under ptd. head. 16 pp. 12 x 9⅕ x 1/8. Bsmt. storeroom, Junior High School, Riverbend St.

173. CONTINUANCE RECORD CARDS, 1933--. 5 file drawers (A-Z).
Complete permanent card record of elementary, junior high, and senior high pupils, showing name, address, race, sex, physical or mental handicaps (if any) of pupil; place, date of birth; names, birthplaces, citizenship status of parents; nature, place of employment; amount of rent paid; date of entering, leaving school, reason therefor; date of vaccinations, record of intelligence and achievement tests, annual record of scholarship and attendance. Arr. alph. by name of pupil. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 6 x 8 x 16.

174. FINAL REPORT CARDS, 1910-32. 3 file drawers (A-Z).
Card record of scholarship and attendance of elementary school pupils: Name, address, date of birth, grade of pupil; monthly, annual attendance; health, scholastic record; period of school term, name of teacher; name, occupation of parents or guardian. Arr. alph. by name of pupil. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 12 x 14 x 25.
For subsequent records, see entry 173.

175. TRANSFER CARDS, 1936--. 1 file drawer. Prior records destroyed.
Record of pupils transferred to other schools: Name, present and prior address, age of pupil; place, date of birth; statement of vaccination; name of school, grade; record of attendance, conduct, health, scholarship; name of school to which transferred; name, occupation of parent; date of transfer, signature of principal of school from which transferred. Arr. alph. by name of pupil. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 5 x 7 x 16.

176. RECORD BOOK OF ATHOL HIGH SCHOOL, 1894-1906. 1 vol.
Annual record of pupils: Name of pupil, period of school term, courses studied, marks received. Arr. alph. by name of pupil. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 200 pp. 15½ x 12 x 1. Va.

Census Records

177. CENSUS CARDS, 1927--. 3 file boxes (A-Z). System estab. 1917.
Registration of minors 5-16 years of age: Name, address, date of birth of pupil; nature of physical and mental defects (if any); name, birthplace of parent or guardian; name of school last attended, period of school term, total days of attendance; date of employment certificate (if any), date of census, remarks. Arr. alph. by name of pupil. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 6 x 8 x 16.

178. SCHOOL CENSUS - DEAD FILE, 1927--. 1 file box. Records 1916-26 destroyed.
Cards taken from Census Cards, entry 177, when pupil reaches 16 years of age, and destroyed after pupil reached 21 years of age. Arr. alph. by name of pupil. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 6 x 8 x 16.

179. SCHOOL CENSUS - TOWN OF ATHOL, 1893-1916. 17 vols. (1 vol., 1893-1902, dated; 15 vols., 1903-10, dated, labeled by vol. nos. in annual series, and by name of enumerator; 1 vol., 1912-16, unlabeled). Missing: 1904-5, 1911. Title varies slightly.
Census of pupils between 5 and 16 years of age: Name, address, age, sex, date of birth of child; year of school attendance, name of parent or guardian; summary of statistics, date of census. 1903-10 includes number of pupils by age and sex. Arr. alph. by name of pupil. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 12 x 9½ x 1/8 to 16 x 10½ x 1. Va.
For subsequent records, see entry 177.

Employment Certificates (See also entry 165-xx)

180. WHITE LIVE FILE, 1933--. 1 file box. Prior records destroyed.
Employment certificates issued to pupils 14-16 years of age, and returned by employer and filed until pupil reaches 16 years of age: Name, address, sex, age, physical description of pupil; place, date of birth; name of school, grade last attended, number of years in school; name, address of employer; nature of employment; number, date of certificate; signature of superintendent of schools, pupil. Arr. alph. by name of pupil. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 5 x 7 x 16.

181. WHITE DEAD FILE, 1933--. 1 file box. Prior records destroyed.
Employment certificates taken from White Live File, entry 180, when pupil reaches 16 years of age, and destroyed after pupil reaches 21 years of age. Arr. alph. by name of pupil. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 5 x 7 x 16.

182. SPECIAL EMPLOYMENT CERTIFICATES, 1933--. 1 file drawer. Prior records destroyed.
Certificates issued to pupils 14-16 years of age permitting employment in private, domestic service and on farms: For description, see entry 180. Arr. alph. by name of pupil. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 5 x 7 x 16.

183. EMPLOYMENT CARDS ORANGE, 1933--. 3 file drawers (A-Z). Prior records destroyed.
Educational certificates issued to pupils 16 to 21 years of age who are not required to attend evening schools: For description, see entry 180. Arr. alph. by name of pupil. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 5 x 7 x 16.

184. YELLOW TEMPORARY, 1933--. 1 file drawer.
Employment certificates issued to pupils 14-16 years of age who possess the educational qualifications for a regular employment certificate, but are employed only during the summer vacation and at other times when the schools are not in session: For description, see entry 180. Arr. alph. by name of pupil. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 5 x 7 x 16.

185. HOME DOMESTIC SPECIAL, 1933--. 1 file drawer. Prior records destroyed.

Home employment permits issued to pupils 14-16 years of age permitting them to engage in profitable employment at home: Name, address, date of birth, age, sex of child; name of school, grade last attended; nature of employment; reason for issue, number, date of permit; signature of investigating officer, superintendent of schools, pupil. Arr. alph. by name of pupil. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 5 x 7 x 16.

186. NON-RESIDENT CARDS, 1933--. 1 file drawer. Prior records destroyed.

Employment certificates issued to pupils employed in a town other than that of residence: For description, see entry 180. Arr. alph. by name of pupil. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 5 x 7 x 16.

Employees' Records
(See also entries 165-iv, -xii, -xvi, 167, 168)

187. (TEACHERS' APPLICATIONS FOR EMPLOYMENT), 1937--. 1 file drawer. Prior records destroyed.

Name, address, birthplace, age, nationality, physical description, marital status, educational background, teaching experience, telephone number of applicant; names, addresses, occupations of persons given as references; type of teaching certificate held. Arr. alph. by name of applicant. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 12 x 12 x 24.

188. (TEACHERS' REGISTRATION CARDS), 1938--. 1 bdl. Prior records destroyed.

Name, address, educational background, experience, salary, telephone number, date of birth of teacher; record of summer, extension, or correspondence courses taken; grade, subjects taught; names, addresses of persons to be notified in event of emergency. Arr. alph. by name of teacher. No index. Hdw. on typed form. 4 x 6 x 1.

189. (TEACHERS' OATHS OF ALLEGIANCE), 1935--. 1 bdl.

Copies of teachers' oaths submitted to state department of education: Name, address, position of teacher; name of school; name, position of person officiating; text, date of oath; signature of teacher. Arr. by date of oath. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. $3\frac{1}{2}$ x $5\frac{1}{2}$ x 1.

190. (JANITORS' REGISTRATION CARDS), 1938--. 1 bdl. Prior records destroyed.

Name, address, telephone number, weekly salary of janitor; place, date of employment. Arr. alph. by name of janitor. No index. Hdw. on typed form. 3 x 5 x $\frac{1}{2}$.

Financial Records
(See also entries 165-ii, -ix, -xiv, -xv, -xix)

191. SCHOOL EXPENDITURES, TOWN OF ATHOL, 1889--. 8 vols. (dated).
Title varies: Expenditures of the School Committee, Athol, 1889-1911, 2 vols.; no title, 1931--, 2 vols.
Record of expenditures classified by accounts: Voucher number, name of payee; amount, purpose, date of expenditure. Arr. by name of account and chron. thereunder. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 300 pp. 16 x 11 x 2 to 500 pp. 12½ x 19½ x 4.

192. SALARY LEDGER, TOWN OF ATHOL, 1888-1911, 1929--. 3 vols.
Title varies: Teachers' Pay Roll Athol, 1888-1911, 1 vol.; no title, 1929-36, 1 vol.
Teachers' pay roll, 1888-1911; employees' pay roll, 1929--. 1888-1911 gives name, settlement of teacher; name of school, number of weeks worked, rate of pay, amount due; amount, date of payment. 1929-- gives name of payee, type of service, date payment due, amount paid. Arr. by date of payment. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 200 pp. 15½ x 16 x 1.
For record of salaries 1912-28, see entry 191.

193. REC. (Appropriations), 1921--. 1 vol.
Contains record of:
i. School physician appropriations: Name of physician; amount, date of appropriation; period of service.
ii. Special appropriations: Name of payee; amount, date of appropriation; purpose of expenditure.
Arr. by date of appropriation. No index. Hdw. 100 pp. 8½ x 7 x ½. Va.

194. CASH (Receipts), 1929--. 1 vol.
Receipts from sale of school car tickets, supplies sold, payments for books lost by pupils, telephone calls made by teachers: Name of payer; amount, source, date of receipt; total receipts, date receipts transferred to treasurer. Arr. by date of receipt. No index. Hdw. 250 pp. 10 x 9 x 1. Va.

195. (TREASURERS' RECEIPTS), 1929--. 1 bdl. (dated).
Acknowledgment by treasurer of receipt of monies mentioned in Cash (Receipts), entry 194: Name of department officer; amount, source, date of receipt; period of school term, signatures of treasurer. Arr. by date of receipt and receipts numbered consecutively. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 3 x 8 x ⅛. Va.

196. (MONTHLY RECORD OF SCHOOL EXPENSES), 1932--. 12 vols.
Expenditures classified by accounts, each volume dealing with one type of expenditure: Name of creditor; amount, nature, date of expense; total expenditures. Arr. by month. No index. Hdw. 50 pp. 10 x 8 x 3/8. Va.

Plans

197. (Plans of) ATHOL HIGH SCHOOL, undated. 7 plans.
Construction plans showing location, dimensions of building, rooms. Mason, Leominster; J. William Beals and Sons, Boston. Blueprint. 1/16":1', 1/8":1'. 36 x 18 to 48 x 24. Va.

198. (Plans of Proposed) ADDITIONS TO ATHOL HIGH SCHOOL, 1937. 16 plans.
Construction plans showing location, dimensions of school, additions of recitation and lunch rooms. Funk and Wilcox Co., Tucker & Marsh. Boston. Blueprint. 1/8":1'. 24 x 24 to 48 x 48. Va.

199. (Plans of) PROPOSED ADDITION TO AND ALTERATIONS IN HIGHLAND SCHOOL, undated. 5 plans.
Location, description of proposed work. Funk and Wilcox Co. Boston. Blueprint. ¼":1'. 24 x 12 to 48 x 24. Va.

200. (Plans for) ADDITION TO SANDERS STREET SCHOOLS, undated. 3 plans.
Location, description of proposed addition. Blueprint. ¼":1'. 36 x 36. Va.

201. SKETCH OF SILVER LAKE SCHOOL, undated. 1 plan.
Plan of proposed construction of school, showing location, description, dimensions of building, rooms. Black-and-white. 1":20'. 24 x 18. Va.

202. (Plan of) SCHOOL GROUNDS, 1920. 1 plan.
General improvement plan by Massachusetts Agricultural College Extension Service, Department of Landscape Gardening. Blueprint. 1":20'. 48 x 48. Va.

203. FOUNDATION PLAN(s) FOR ASBESTOS SCHOOL BUILDING, 1927. 4 plans.
Construction plans showing description, dimensions, type of material to be used. H. F. Hastings. Athol. Blueprint. No scale. 48 x 24. Va.

204. (Plans of) TOILET ROOMS, LAKE PARK SCHOOL, 1937. 5 plans.
Construction plans showing location, description, dimensions of rooms, fixtures. Blueprint. ¼":1'. 18 x 18 to 24 x 24. Va.

XIII. SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS[1]

The Athol school system had grown to such proportions by 1870 that

1. For the background, statutory origin, development and functions of this office, see Town and City Government in Massachusetts.

the school committee was authorized, by a vote of the town, to appoint a superintendent of schools. Until 1877 this office continued to be filled by annual appointments.[1] From 1877 to 1892 the position was abolished, but in the latter year the town again voted to have the office filled, as a consequence of a recommendation which had appeared in the annual report of the school committee in 1891, which said, in part: "We recommend the employment of a superintendent as soon as the town can afford the additional expense."[2] As soon as the voters, by their action of 1892, authorized the committee to hire a superintendent, this board undertook the examination of numerous applicants, but no satisfactory person was found until 1893. Since that year a superintendent of schools has been annually appointed by the school committee.[3]

In 1931 two assistants to the superintendent appear for the first time in the annual reports, both of whom served in a clerical capacity.[4] These appointments have continued and the number, in 1936, was increased to four who are listed as clerk, bookkeeper, stenographer, and typist, respectively.[5]

Except where otherwise noted, all records are in the superintendent's office, room 26, second floor, Memorial Building, Main Street.

Reports

(See also entries 219, 222, 223)

205. (ANNUAL REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS), 1894--. In Annual Reports of the Town Officers, entry 2.

Narrative report of duties, supervising of teachers, and curricula.

206. (ANNUAL REPORT OF HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL TO SUPERINTENDENT), 1894-1921, 1927--. In Annual Reports of the Town Officers, entry 2.

Number of sophomores, juniors, seniors, special pupils attending classes.

207. (ANNUAL REPORT OF JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL TO SUPERINTENDENT), 1933-36, 1938--. In Annual Reports of the Town Officers, entry 2.

Narrative report relative to class enrollment, courses of study, textbooks used, health and scholarship of pupils, teaching personnel recommendations.

208. (ANNUAL REPORT OF MUSIC SUPERVISOR TO SUPERINTENDENT), 1894-1920, 1926-33, 1938--. In Annual Reports of the Town Officers, entry 2.

Types of music taught, progress of music classes.

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1. Town Records, IV, 483; V, 36, 210, see entry 30.
2. Ibid., VI, 452; Annual Reports, 1891, p. 21, see entry 2.
3. Ibid., 1887-1939, passim.
4. Ibid., 1931, p. 135.
5. Ibid., 1932-39, passim.

Superintendent of Schools - Reports [209-216]

209. (ANNUAL REPORT OF SUPERVISOR OF PENMANSHIP TO SUPERINTENDENT), 1919, 1927-36, 1938--. In Annual Reports of the Town Officers, entry 2.

Contains:

i. Grade tests, results of, 1933-34: Grade number, average number of words per minute, percentage of legibility.

ii. Narrative report relative to system taught and results thereof, work done in each grade, importance of good penmanship.

210. (ANNUAL REPORTS OF DRAWING AND ART SUPERVISORS TO SUPERINTENDENT), 1896-98, 1902, 1904-20, 1926-32, 1936, 1938--. In Annual Reports of the Town Officers, entry 2.

Reports of drawing supervisor to 1926, reports of art supervisor thereafter: Narrative report on types, purposes of courses taught; method of teaching, benefits to be gained by studying art.

211. (ANNUAL REPORT OF INDUSTRIAL ARTS INSTRUCTOR TO SUPERINTENDENT), 1938--. In Annual Reports of the Town Officers, entry 2.

Narrative report relative to advantages of studying industrial arts.

212. (ANNUAL REPORT OF EVENING SCHOOL TEACHER TO SUPERINTENDENT), 1911-16. In Annual Reports of the Town Officers, entry 2.

Names of subjects taught, nationalities represented in classes.

213. (ANNUAL REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS TO SUPERINTENDENT), 1938--. In Annual Reports of the Town Officers, entry 2.

Program of athletics for boys and girls in junior and senior high schools: List of sports, and names of coaches thereof; total number of boys and girls engaged in athletics.

For receipts from athletics 1882--, see entry 165-xiv.

214. (ANNUAL REPORT OF HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC COUNCIL TO SUPERINTENDENT), 1936, 1938--. In Annual Reports of the Town Officers, entry 2.

Financial statement showing amount, source or purpose of monies received and expenditures incurred during football and baseball seasons; cash balance.

For receipts from athletics 1882--, see entry 165-xiv.

215. (ANNUAL REPORT OF SUPERVISOR OF HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION FOR BOYS TO SUPERINTENDENT), 1938--. In Annual Reports of the Town Officers, entry 2.

Narrative report on physical education program and results thereof.

216. (ANNUAL REPORT OF SUPERVISOR OF HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION FOR GIRLS TO SUPERINTENDENT), 1938--. In Annual Reports of the Town Officers, entry 2.

Narrative report on physical education program and results thereof.

Miscellaneous

217. RETARDED PUPILS, 1924--. 1 file drawer. System estab. 1924. Superintendent's record of retarded pupils examined at school clinic: Name, address, birthplace, intelligence quotient, physical disabilities of pupil; mental, physical age; marks earned during years retarded; name of parent or guardian; name or clinic, examining physician; date of examination, superintendent's recommendation, disposition of case. Arr. alph. by name of pupil. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 6 x 8 x 16.
For complete case histories, see entry 169.

218. (CORRESPONDENCE), 1937--. 2 file boxes.
Correspondence relative to teachers' applications for appointment, school supplies, pupils' problems. Arr. alph. by name of correspondent. No index. Typed. 12 x 12 x 24.

XIV. SCHOOL NURSE[1]

The report of the school committee for 1920 says, in part:

> Through the generosity and courtesy of the Athol Chapter of the American Red Cross a school nurse was provided who began her work April 1, 1920.[2]

This marked the beginning of an office which has been perpetuated by annual appointments.[3] The school nurse renders a report each year, and this appears in the annual reports regularly. Since 1924 this has been combined with the annual report of the school physician.[4]

Except where otherwise noted, all records are in the nurse's room, first floor, Junior High School, Riverbend Street.

219. (ANNUAL REPORT OF SCHOOL NURSE TO SUPERINTENDENT), 1920--.
In Annual Reports of the Town Officers, entry 2.
Separate report, 1920-23; report combined with school physician's report, 1925--: Narrative report on duties, total number of cases visited; total amount of appropriations, expenditures.

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1. For the background, statutory origin, development and functions of this office, see Town and City Government in Massachusetts.
2. Annual Reports, 1920, p. 97, see entry 2.
3. Ibid., 1921-39, passim.
4. Ibid., 1924-39, passim.

220. (DAILY AND MONTHLY REPORTS), 1924--. 1 file box. Copies of reports submitted to school committee: Names of schools visited, number of inspections made; number of exclusions caused by pediculosis, skin infections, symptoms of communicable disease, total exclusions; number of pupils referred to school physician, other references; number of pupils not gaining weight, losing weight, and time spent with each; time spent in office work, visiting homes; number of classrooms, homes, children visited; number of consultations with teachers, parents, pupils, other persons, and time spent with each; time spent in health education, classroom talks, classes, other groups; number of tonsil and adenoid, dental, other cases; monthly totals, date of report, signature of nurse. Includes on reverse side record of physician's examination of pupils: Number of pupils examined, unvaccinated, having defects; number of cases treated for various physical ailments, total time spent in examination; total number of defects present, corrected; time spent at clinics, traveling; amount of expenditure for gas and oil, repairs to automobile, garage rent, office supplies, car tickets, miscellaneous items; total expenditures. Arr. by date of report. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 12 x 12 x 24.

221. (MONTHLY RECORD OF NURSE'S ACTIVITIES), 1924--. 1 file box. Record of visits made: Name, address, age group of pupil; results of diagnosis, classification of case (new, current, or readmitted); name of physician, informant; statistical summary of daily reports, record of other activities; total fees, mileage for day; date of report, signature of nurse. Arr. by date of report. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 12 x 12 x 24.

XV. SCHOOL PHYSICIAN[1]

In 1909 the school committee appointed the first school physician, and appointments have continued regularly since that time, with annual reports each year.[2] In 1924 the report of the school physician was combined with the report of the school nurse, a custom which has since been continued.[3]

In addition to the following record, see entry 193-i for appropriations, 1921--; entry 217 for record of examination of retarded pupils 1924--.

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1. For the background, statutory origin, development and functions of this office, see Town and City Government in Massachusetts.
2. Annual Reports, 1909-23, passim, see entry 2.
3. Ibid., 1924-39, passim.

222. (ANNUAL REPORT OF SCHOOL PHYSICIAN TO SUPERINTENDENT), 1911--. In Annual Reports of the Town Officers, entry 2. Separate report, 1911-23; physician's report combined with school nurse's report, 1924--: Narrative report on types, number of examinations conducted.

XVI. SUPERVISOR OF ATTENDANCE[1]

Two years after the General Court passed the truancy law of 1862, which imposed upon the municipalities the duty of enforcing it,[2] Athol, in 1864,[3] elected its first two truant officers. They were elected again in 1865,[4] and in 1866 were appointed by the selectmen.[5] In 1867 the town voted to have the constables enforce the truancy law, and they continued to do this until 1870,[6] when the town reverted to the practice of direct elections to this office.[7] The method was changed again in 1871, when the position became appointive, and until 1876 the selectmen appointed from one to four truant officers each year.[8] In that year the town voted to transfer the appointment to the school committee.[9]

With the exception of 1877, when two officers were elected,[10] the school committee appointed one or more truant officers each year,[11] up to the time when the title of the office was changed to that of attendance officer, in 1915.

In 1877,[12] 1878,[13] and 1879[14] the town reports list "care of lockup and truant officers." These two positions were separate in 1880, and may have been in 1881 and 1882, but in 1883, 1884, and 1885 there were three truant officers, all appointed by the school committee, of whom one each year was also designated as the keeper of the lockup by the

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1. For the background, statutory origin, development and functions of this office, see Town and City Government in Massachusetts.
2. Acts, 1862, ch. 207.
3. Town Records, IV, 267, see entry 30.
4. Ibid., p. 283.
5. Ibid., p. 327.
6. Ibid., p. 353.
7. Ibid., p. 445.
8. Ibid., p. 483; V, 214.
9. Ibid.
10. Ibid., p. 269.
11. Ibid., p. 451; VI, 571; School Committee Minutes, 1887-1917, pp. 25, 303, see entry 163.
12. Annual Reports, 1877, p. 8, see entry 2.
13. Ibid., 1878, p. 8.
14. Ibid., 1879, p. 18.

board of selectmen.[1] In 1901 the number of truant officers increased to five, and in 1910 to six; since 1914 there has been four or less; since 1923 the number has been one.[2]

In 1928,[3] and for some years thereafter, the report of this official, as printed in the annual town reports, was signed by the "supervisor of attendance," and this is the title given in the list of school officials in the annual reports for the year 1939.[4]

223. (ANNUAL REPORT OF SUPERVISOR OF ATTENDANCE TO SUPERINTENDENT), 1898-99, 1901, 1903-11, 1915-22, 1924-36, 1938--. In Annual Reports of the Town Officers, entry 2.
Narrative report of year's work, number of absences and reasons therefor; number of cases investigated, visits made; kind, number of cases handled by attendance officer.

224. (RECORD OF ATTENDANCE OFFICER'S CALLS), 1924--. 1 vol.
Name of pupil, reason for absence, disposition of case, date of call. Arr. by date of call. No index. Hdw. 8 x 6 x 1. Residence of William Colton (attendance officer), 32 Oliver St.

XVII. LIBRARY TRUSTEES[5]

The first library trustees in Athol were elected in 1883,[6] and their report, which contains only four lines, appears on the last page of the annual reports for that year, and states that $500 was appropriated and paid to Charles Field, Esq., of which sum $420.94 was expended. In 1884 the report appears as that of the "library committee."[7] This board or committee was in that year increased to six members, and in 1885 there were seven members who organized and elected a chairman, a secretary, a treasurer, and voted "to retain the same librarian."[8] Expenses for 1885 amounted to $215, and this amount included payment for "room, lights,

1. Ibid., 1883, p. 21; 1884, p. 21; 1885, p. 13.
2. School Committee Minutes, 1887-1917, p. 311; 1918-30, pp. 2, 307; 1937-39, p. 2, see entry 163.
3. Annual Reports, 1928, p. 136, see entry 2.
4. Ibid., 1938, p. 51.
5. For the background, statutory origin, development and functions of this office, see Town and City Government in Massachusetts.
6. Town Records, V, 514, see entry 30.
7. Annual Reports, 1884, p. 27, see entry 2.
8. Ibid., 1885, p. 62.

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fuel, librarian and assistant."[1] Six trustees were elected in 1886, two for a term of three years, two for a term of two years, and two for one year.[2] This board, which in its regular annual reports still continued to style itself the library committee, had five or six members annually through 1893.[3] In 1894 and thereafter the title used is library trustees.[4] In that year and in 1895 there were five trustees, one elected to serve for one year, and two each for two and three-year terms. Six members are recorded in 1896 and up to 1900, when there were but five. Five only are mentioned in 1920, with which exception six members have served each year from 1900 through 1939. The rotation plan of tenure has been continued.[5] The trustees have general supervision of the library, including the purchase of books and the appointment of the librarian and her assistants.[6]

The town in 1882 voted to accept the offer of the Athol Library Association to turn over their library to become a free institution.[7] Reports from the librarian date from this year. The circulation in 1882 amounted to 8,873, and rose, by slow degrees, to 13,869 in 1895. Thereafter the figure dropped until in 1902 it stood at 10,343.[8] In that year the committee voted to move the library to a room in the Academy of Music building, where the quarters would be "four times as large" as before.[9] In 1904 the entire collection of books was recatalogued;[10] and by the end of 1905 circulation figures had reached a total of 25,441.[11] No report appears from the librarian in 1904, 1905 or in 1906, but each year thereafter, through 1939, these reports have appeared annually.[12] In 1915 this report shows that the circulation had then reached 40,054, and that the library was sending "no more books to South Athol."[13] A small library deposit for South Athol was, however, arranged for in 1917, through the cooperation of the Massachusetts Free Public Library Commission, who presented the town with books for this purpose. The circulation in this branch was 560 during its first year of operation.[14]

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1. Ibid.
2. Town Records, VI, 109, see entry 30.
3. Annual Reports, 1886-93, passim, see entry 2.
4. Ibid., 1894-1939, passim.
5. Ibid.; Town Records, XI, 312, see entry 30.
6. Annual Reports, 1939, p. 155, see entry 2.
7. Town Records, V, 483, see entry 30.
8. Annual Reports, 1882-1902, passim, see entry 2.
9. Ibid., 1903, p. 98.
10. Ibid., 1904, p. 100.
11. Ibid., 1905, pp. 101-102.
12. Ibid., 1907-39, passim.
13. Ibid., 1915, p. 208.
14. Ibid., 1917, p. 179.

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In 1918 the Athol Public Library building, which had been made possible by the gift of money from Andrew Carnegie and land donated by L. S. Starrett in 1914, was first opened for the delivery of books on the first of September. It was forced to close on the sixth because of the influenza epidemic.[1] In this year there appeared in the annual reports the final report of the library building committee, which consisted of six persons. This report showed that the Carnegie Corporation had on March 20, 1916, accepted a contract whereby it agreed to furnish $22,000; and the town, on its part, agreed to appropriate not less than $2,200 annually for library purposes, and furnish a site for the proposed building.[2] Unfortunately the construction of the building got under way just as the war conditions began to be felt and work on the library building was long delayed. The resulting additional unanticipated expense caused the contracting firm of builders to fail, leaving an unpaid balance of $2,800 due for materials used, which sum the town appropriated.[3]

Although the new building brought about a sharp rise in circulation figures, the library was handicapped through lack of adequate funds. The grounds were left ungraded and no new equipment could be provided for some time. In 1919, with the circulation in excess of 44,000 volumes, the new plant was lacking in stack room, and it was not until 1923 that the town saw fit to appropriate $1,000 to remedy the fault.[4] In 1922 the branch in South Athol was once more temporarily discontinued, but a deposit of books was placed in a store in the upper village. Circulation figures for this year were 60,663.[5] In 1924 the grounds about the library were finally graded and the lawn was seeded;[6] in 1925 a full-time assistant librarian was hired; and in 1928 the branch at South Athol was again being operated.[7] Circulation in 1930 was 74,555 volumes; in 1932 it had reached 96,719;[8] from 1934 to 1937 the circulation dropped; and in 1939 after three years of slow recovery the total showed only 74,591 volumes.[9]

The report of the trustees for 1933 reads, in part:

> The trustees have great satisfaction in recording the town of Athol as one of the first in the state to effect an exchange of librarians with another country. Miss Greene exchanged positions with Miss Mary Stanley-Smith of Maidenstone, Kent County, England, for five months, from May to October.[10]

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1. Ibid., 1918, p. 127.
2. Ibid., pp. 130-134.
3. Ibid.
4. Ibid., 1923, p. 81.
5. Ibid., 1922, p. 93.
6. Ibid., 1924, p. 78.
7. Ibid., 1928, p. 98.
8. Ibid., 1930-32, passim.
9. Ibid., 1939, pp. 158-159.
10. Ibid., 1933, p. 125.

The exchange librarian was kept busy making a catalog of "government documents," which had long been in the library but which had hitherto been considered of little value.[1]

Except where otherwise noted, all records are in the main room, first floor, Athol Public Library, 568 Main Street.

Minutes and Reports

225. ATHOL (Minutes of Meetings of) LIBRARY TRUSTEES, Apr. 14, 1916-Dec. 18, 1939. 1 vol. Prior records missing. Last meeting, Dec. 18, 1939.

Discussion and decisions on articles in town-meeting warrants relative to departmental administration; names of members present, date of meeting, signature of clerk of trustee. Arr. by date of meeting. No index. Hdw. 250 pp. 11 x 9 x 3/4. Residence of Mrs. Arline H. Bond (cl. of trustees), 1406 Main St.

226. RECORD (Minutes of Meetings of Athol Library Association), 1878-82. 1 vol.

Discussion and decisions relative to departmental administration, selection and purchase of books, approval of bills, recommendations of librarian, election of officers; place, date of meeting. At beginning of book is a copy of constitution of the library association. Arr. by date of meeting. No index. Hdw. 188 pp. (18 pp. used) 10 x 8 x $\frac{1}{2}$.

227. (ANNUAL REPORT OF TRUSTEES OF PUBLIC LIBRARY), 1885-1916, 1918--. In Annual Reports of the Town Officers, entry 2.

Contains:

i. Accessions, 1905-6: List of books added to library showing title, subject, name of author, call number. 1905 includes list of weekly, monthly magazines. 1906 includes total number of books in library, added to library. For librarian's record of accessions 1907--, see entry 228-i.

ii. Borrowers' cards issued, total number of, 1885, 1887-89, 1908-16.

iii. Circulation record, 1885, 1887-89, 1899, 1904--: Total number of books in library, in circulation. 1904-16 includes titles of books. 1904-6 includes list of books classified by subject, total circulation: 1905-6 includes monthly circulation table. For librarian's record of circulation 1901-3, 1907--, see entry 228-ii.

iv. Donations of books, 1885, 1887-89, 1899, 1904-16: Types, total number of donations. 1905-6 includes list of books donated. For librarian's record of donations 1901-3, 1908, 1914-15, 1920--, see entry 228-iii.

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1. Ibid., p. 128.

Library Trustees -
Minutes and Reports

ANNUAL REPORT OF TRUSTEES OF PUBLIC LIBRARY (Cont'd)

v. Financial statement, 1896-1900, 1902-17:
   a. Expenditures for salaries, rent, books: Name of payee; amount, purpose of expenditure. For librarian's record of expenditures 1896-1903, 1916-18, see entry 228-iv.
   b. Receipts: Amount of appropriation, petty cash; cash receipts turned over to town treasurer. 1904-6 includes list, source, total amount of receipts. For librarian's record of receipts 1896-1903, 1907-8, 1916-18, see entry 228-vi.

vi. Magazines and pamphlets, titles, total number of, 1901-16.

vii. Registrations, total number of, 1905-6. For librarian's record of registration 1907--, see entry 228-vii.

viii. Trustees' statement of departmental activities, 1885-1911; cost of departmental administration, 1912.

228. (ANNUAL REPORT OF LIBRARIAN), 1896-1903, 1907--. In Annual Reports of the Town Officers, entry 2.

Contains:

i. Accessions, 1907--: Total number of books added to library, in library. 1910, 1912-14 includes partial list of books added to library, showing title, name of author. For trustees' record of accessions 1905-6, see entry 227-i.

ii. Circulation, 1901-3, 1907--: List of books classified by subject, total circulation. Includes: 1907--, monthly circulation table; 1922, table of circulation increase per capita from 1918-22; 1923-36, per capita circulation table. For trustees' record of circulation 1885, 1887-89, 1899, 1904--, see entry 227-iii.

iii. Donations, 1901-3, 1908, 1914-15, 1920--: List of books donated, 1901-3, 1908, 1914-15; number donated, 1920--. For trustees' record of donations 1885, 1887-89, 1899, 1904-16, see entry 227-iv.

iv. Expenditures, list of, 1896-1903, 1916-18: Amount, purpose of expenditure. For trustees' record of expenditures 1896-1900, 1902-17, see entry 22-v a.

v. Narrative report relative to accessions, circulation, departmental activities.

vi. Receipts, 1896-1903, 1907-8, 1916-18: List of receipts showing amount, source of receipt, 1896-98, 1903, 1916-18; total receipts, 1896-1903, 1907-8, 1916-18. For trustees' record of receipts 1896-1900, 1902-17, see entry 227-v b.

vii. Registrations, total number of, 1907--. For trustees' record of registration 1905-6, see entry 227-vii.

Accessions and Circulation
(See also entries 227-i,-iii, 228-i,-ii,-v)

229. (Record of) ACCESSIONS, 1896--. 8 vols.
Title, name of author of book; name of donor or vendor; manner, number, date of accession; remarks. Arr. by accession no. No index. Hdw. under ptd. head. 400 pp. 9 x 9 x 1½.

230. (Daily) CIRCULATION RECORD, 1904--. 20 vols. (2 vols., 1904-11, unlabeled; 18 vols., 1919--, dated). Missing: 1912-18. Title varies slightly.
Number of juvenile, adult books issued under each Dewey Decimal System classification; total juvenile, adult books issued; grand total, date of circulation. Arr. chron. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 30 pp. 10 x 9 x 1/8 to 30 pp. 18 x 15 x 1/8.

Financial Records
(See also entry 227-v, 228-iv,-vi)

231. JOURNAL (Record of Expenditures), 1924--. 3 vols.
Expenditures for salaries, books, periodicals, book binding, fuel, electric light, furniture, maintenance of building, water and sewer costs, janitor's and office supplies, telephone, miscellaneous items: Name of payee; amount, purpose, date of expenditure; total annual expenditures. Arr. by date of expenditure. No index. Hdw. 200 pp. 10 x 8 x ½.

232. JOURNAL (Daily Record of Fines and Fees Collected), 1929--. 2 vols.
Collection of payments for overdue or lost books, and of fees received for new borrowers' cards issued: Amount, date of collection; total amount collected; amount of monthly payment to town treasurer, balance carried forward. Arr. by date of collection. No index. Hdw. 200 pp. 6 x 5 x ½.

Correspondence

233. CORRESPONDENCE, 1934--. 1 file drawer. Prior records destroyed.
Correspondence with book dealers relative to purchase of books; with librarians and library associations of other municipalities relative to library administration, meetings. Arr. alph. by name of correspondent. No index. Hdw., typed. 11 x 14 x 25.

XVIII. BOARD OF PUBLIC WELFARE[1]

From the first years of its existence as a town, Athol made provision for the care of the poor and indigent. The first recorded instance of special officers to attend to this work occurs in 1806, when the town voted that the selectmen "take care of the poor."[2] From 1811 through 1827 the town followed the usual custom of "letting out" the support of the poor to the lowest bidder,[3] although earlier in the year a committee of three had been appointed to ascertain the most practicable way to support the paupers. This committee brought forward no new suggestion, recommending instead that the established practice continue. That it gave its consideration to the establishment of a poor-farm to be run under town supervision, is evident by its report that "a number of good farms are for sale at a good price," which could be used for this purpose.[4] No action was taken at this time. In 1828, the year after this committee rendered this report, a board of overseers of the poor was set up, but the town voted that the care of the paupers should be sold at auction as had been the custom since 1811.[5] The following year the town decided to purchase a farm to be used as a "poor house," and authorized the selectmen to act as a committee in the matter.[6] From 1832 through 1879 the selectmen continued to act as overseers of the poor,[7] but in 1880 and for two years following, three overseers, of whom two were selectmen with terms of one year, were elected.[8] From 1883 through 1885 the selectmen once more were also the overseers of the poor.[9] From 1886 through 1894 three overseers were elected annually, although during this period the three overseers were also selectmen in 1890, and two of the three were selectmen in 1893 and 1894.[10]

In 1895 the office was set up on the rotation plan of tenure, with one overseer elected for one, one for two, and one for three-year terms, respectively.[11] This plan was in operation through 1925, with the annual

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1. For the background, statutory origin, development and functions of this office, see Town and City Government in Massachusetts.
2. Town Records, II, 134, see entry 30.
3. Ibid., p. 198; III, 2.
4. Ibid.
5. Ibid., p. 20.
6. Ibid., pp. 30, 34.
7. Ibid., p. 73; V, 355.
8. Ibid., V, 371; 474; Annual Reports, 1880, p. 10, see entry 2.
9. Town Records, V, 506; VI, 4, 42, see entry 30; Annual Reports, 1885, p. 17, see entry 2.
10. Town Records, VI, 99; VII, 34, see entry 30.
11. Ibid., VII, 141.

election of one member to the board for a three-year term of office.[1] For the most part, the overseers and selectmen were separate during this period, but in 1904, 1905, 1907, 1910 and 1911, one selectman was among those elected to the board of overseers.[2]

On February 12, 1925[3] the town voted to accept the law enacted by the General Court in 1923 which authorized changing the name of overseers of the poor to board of public welfare.[4] No change in tenure of office or manner of election was made, and one member of the board has since been elected annually to serve for three years. Since 1931 the board has had charge of old age assistance, and since 1937, of aid to dependent children. In 1937 a secretary and an agent were added to the personnel of the board, who have since been regularly elected each year.[5]

Prior to 1924 the town physician rendered no report to be included in the annual printed reports of the town and as the office rarely appears among the appointed town officials, as set forth in the annual reports, it is difficult to say when the title was first applied. However, in the report from the overseers of the poor for 1924 there appears the following comment:

> In the early part of the year, death claimed our physician, Dr. George L. Perry, who had been closely identified with this department for many years. . . . Although the small salary he collected as town physician was far inadequate for the service rendered, he was ever willing to answer a call to the bedside of any needy person, day or night. . . . The board appointed Dr. Marion D. Sibley to fill the vacancy. . . . We hope she will continue as town physician.[6]

From this account it seems probable that the overseers of the poor, at least, had recognized the town physician as a regularly appointed town officer over a long period of years prior to 1924, and as such had paid him a salary. However, such payments as appear in the reports of the auditors are invariably listed under the head of medical attendance, and not as the salary of any particular person. Beginning with the incumbency of Dr. Sibley, in 1924, the town physician rendered annual account of her services through the year 1931, and again in 1933, all of which appear in the printed reports of the town. Thereafter, to date, no such reports have been included, but the items for medical attendance for the poor of the town have continued.[7] It seems obvious, from the nature of the

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1. Ibid., IX, 20; X, 624.
2. Annual Reports, 1904-11, passim, see entry 2.
3. Town Records, X, 642, see entry 30.
4. Acts, 1923, ch. 26, sec. 34a.
5. Town Records, X, 676; XI, 330, see entry 30.
6. Annual Reports, 1924, p. 85, see entry 2.
7. Ibid., 1924-39, passim.

earlier reports, that this is an appointive office which has been filled regularly by the overseers of the poor or the department of public welfare over a long period of time, although the town physician, except in the years already noted, returned no report to be printed, and was not listed among the regularly appointive officers who derived their positions and authority from the selectmen or other sources.

Except where otherwise noted, all records are in the board of public welfare office, room 22, second floor, Memorial Building, Main Street.

Minutes and Reports

234. RECORDS (Minutes of Meetings), 1887--. 5 vols. (3-7). Discussion and decisions relative to applications for aid, appointment of officers, fee schedule and rules governing medical care to recipients; names of board members present, date of meeting. Also contains:

i. (Record of Applications for Aid), entry 242.

ii. Reports of investigating officers' revisits to aid recipients: Name, address, settlement status, case number of recipient; relationship of other members of family to recipient; statement of employment, health, housing conditions; statement of ownership of motor vehicle (if any), source of income other than welfare, amount of aid granted by board of public welfare; reasons for continuance, discontinuance, change in amount of aid granted; statement of special problems; action recommended, taken; date of visit, signature of investigating officer.

Arr. chron. Minutes of meetings not indexed; applications and reports indexed alph. by name of applicant or recipient; for separate index to applications and reports, 1909-30, see entry 235. Minutes, applications, hdw.; reports, hdw. on ptd. form. 400 pp. 10 x 8 x 1.

235. (INDEX TO RECORD OF APPLICATIONS FOR AID AND REPORTS OF REVISITS), 1909-30. 3 file drawers (A-Z). System estab. 1909, discont. 1930.

Index to Records (Minutes of Meetings), entry 234-i,-ii: Name of applicant, volume and page reference. 1909-15 includes year and page number reference to list of aid recipients published in (Annual Report of the Board of Public Welfare), entry 236. Arr. alph. by name of recipient. Hdw. 5 x 7 x 16.

236. (ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BOARD OF PUBLIC WELFARE), 1878--. In Annual Reports of the Town Officers, entry 2.

Contains:

i. Aid granted, record of:

a. Federal aid, 1933-36: Amount of food allotted, total appropriation.

b. Mothers' aid, 1917-21: Amount expended for food, clothing, shelter by town and state.

(ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BOARD OF PUBLIC WELFARE

i. Aid granted, record of (Cont'd)

c. Old age assistance, 1931-32, 1934-37: Total expenditures incurred, estimated expenses for ensuing year.

d. Outside poor, 1887-1918, 1925-37: Number of recipients, amount of expenditures for each recipient, general expenditures for aid rendered.

e. Recipients having no settlement in Athol, 1892-1918, 1933-37: Amount of expenditures for food, fuel, rent, burials.

ii. Insane hospital inmates, record of, 1892-1918: Number of inmates, cost of support of each.

iii. Narrative report on departmental activities, 1878-81, 1887-1937.

iv. Town infirmary, records of, 1878--:

a. Expenditures, 1878-1918, 1926--: Expenditures for maintenance, salaries, food. Includes name of inmate supplied with food.

b. Inmates, 1888-1929: Total number of inmates. 1888-1910 includes name of inmate.

c. Receipts, 1880-1910: Total receipts from sale of farm livestock and produce.

v. Town physician's report, 1924-31, 1933: Total number of house calls, office visits, visits to town infirmary.

237. (RECORD OF PAUPER RETURNS), 1864-89. 1 vol. (dated).
Contains record of returns submitted to state board of charities:

i. Record of full support (schedule 1): Name, birthplace, age, sex, mental condition, temperance habits of pauper; citizenship, settlement status; statement of ability to work; place, weekly cost of support; date of registration, discharge; register number, remarks. In back of volume is an inventory of personal property at town infirmary, 1871.

ii. Record of partial support (schedule 2): For description, see i. Also includes number in family, amount of aid granted, total amount received, date of settlement in State.

iii. Record of travelers lodged in and persons sent to town infirmary: Name, age, sex, color, physical description of indigent; date lodged, sent to infirmary; date of registration.

Arr. by date of registration. No index. Hdw. 200 pp. $10\frac{1}{2}$ x 8 x $\frac{1}{2}$.

General Cases

(See also entries 28-i,-iii,-iv, 234-i,-ii, 236)

238. (CASE HISTORIES), 1909--. 3 file boxes, 1 vol., 18 file drawers (3 file boxes, 1909-32, 18 file drawers, 1935--, A-Z; 1 vol., 1933-34, unlabeled).

1909-34 gives date of application for aid, date notice sent to state department of public welfare; name, address, social status, mental condition, case number of recipient; date of aid; amount, purpose, date of

payment; name of merchant from whom commodities were purchased. 1935-- (Kardex system) gives name, address, occupation, mental condition, case number, date and place of birth of applicant; settlement, marital, social status; name of spouse; name, birthplaces of parents; names, sex, dates and places of birth of children; name of department visitor, record of visits, statement whether applicant owns house, amount of income exclusive of public aid; amount of aid, date first given; authorization to grant aid by state department of public welfare; causes of dependency, place supported or aided, date when discharged or aid ceased, how discharged; age at cause of death, if deceased. Includes memorandum of aid rendered: Name, address, settlement status, case number of recipient; type, amount, date of aid granted; total aid granted; date of notice to state department of public welfare or outside municipality, place notified; amount, date of bill, reimbursement. Also contains: (Aid to Dependent Children - Case Histories), 1933-34, entry 253; Old Age Assistance (Case Histories), 1933-34, entry 256. Arr. by type of aid and thereunder alph. by name of recipient. No index. Hdw. and typed on ptd. form. 3 file boxes, 1900, 1932, 5 x 7 x 16; 1 vol., 1933-34, 200 pp. 19 x 13 x 4; 18 file drawers, 1935--, $1\frac{1}{2}$ x $12\frac{1}{2}$ x 24.

239. REGISTER OF PERSONS SUPPORTED OR RELIEVED, 1911--. 4 vols. Title varies: Pauper Register, 1911-26, 2 vols.; no title, 1937--, 1 vol.

Name, sex, color, mental condition of recipient; place, date of birth; social, settlement status; place, date of support; manner, date of discharge or termination of aid; cause of death and age at time of death, if recipient is deceased; register number, remarks. Arr. by register no. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 100 pp. 17 x 14 x $\frac{1}{2}$ to 250 pp. 17 x 22 x 3.

240. (APPLICATIONS FOR AID), 1807--. 5 file drawers (labeled by inclusive case nos.).

Name, marital status of applicant; names of children, if any; date of applications. Includes: 1807-86, signature of town official receiving application; 1887-1924, period of settlement in town, name of spouse; 1925--, name of town; address, occupation, salary of applicant; military service and jail record, if any; case number of recipient; date of arrival in State, town; residence during past five years; summary, disposition of case; record of poll or property tax payments, place, manner of settlement; place, date of birth of spouse; names, birthplaces, personal histories of parents; number in family, reason for application; place, date of receipt of previous aid; amount of weekly family income, life insurance, real estate owned, money in bank; amount of income from pensions, compensations, rentals, societies; total weekly income; statement of ownership and registration of automobile (if any), confinement of members of family in sanitarium (if any); ages, school grades, places and dates of birth of children; names of children working away from home, places of employment, salaries earned, statement of contribution to parents' support; amount of life insurance (if any) on children; signature of applicant, witness. Also contains:

i. Acknowledgments by recipients of receipt of aid, 1807-86: Names of recipient and selectmen; amount, date of receipt; signature of recipient.

APPLICATIONS FOR AID (Cont'd)

ii. Investigation of applicants for aid, 1924--: Name of investigating officer; name, marital status of applicant; number of children working if any; summary, disposition of case; amount of aid granted, date of investigation.

Arr. by subject. No index. Hdw. to 1886, hdw. and typed on ptd. form thereafter. 12 x 14 x 24.

241. (RECORD OF APPLICATIONS FOR AID), 1887--. In Records (Minutes of Meetings), entry 234-i.

Name of applicant; reason for, date of application; number, disposition of case.

242. STATE AUTHORIZATION - OPEN, 1928--. 1 file box, 1 bdl.

Record of State cases opened by municipality and authorized by state department of public welfare, division of aid and relief: Name, address of recipient; amount of aid granted, file number, date notice sent for authorization, date of authorization, signature of state supervisor of aid and relief. Arr. by date of authorization. No index. Typed under ptd. head. 1 file box, 1928-35, 12 x 14 x 24; 1 bdl., 1936--, 11 x $8\frac{1}{2}$ x $1\frac{1}{2}$.

243. STATE DISCONTINUANCE, 1928--. 1 file box. 1 bdl.

Record of State case discontinued by visitor of state department of public welfare, division of aid and relief: Name, address of recipient; date of discontiuance of aid; reasons therefore; date notice sent by town to state department, file number, signature of state supervisor of aid and relief. Arr. by date of discontinuance. No index. Typed under ptd. head. File box, 12 x 14 x 24; bdl., 11 x $8\frac{1}{2}$ x 1. 1 file box, 1928-35, va.; 1 bdl., 1936--, welfare off.

244. EMERGENCY STATE CLOTHING, 1928--. 2 file boxes.

Record of clothing issued to recipients by authority of state department of public welfare, division of aid and relief: Name, register number of recipient; value of clothing, date of authorization, signature of state director of aid and relief. Arr. alph. by name of recipient. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 5 x 7 x 16.

245. FOOD (and Clothing) QUESTIONNAIRE, 1936--. 1 file box.

Questionnaires filled out by applicant requesting food and clothing: Name, address, citizenship status of applicant; place of present, previous employment; number of persons at home, working; amount of money in bank, if any; amount of family income, income from other sources; statement of ownership of real estate, automobile (if any); signature of applicant, witness. Arr. alph. by name of applicant. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 5 x 7 x 6.

Financial Records
(See also entries 236-i,-iv a,c, 264)

246. JOURNAL (Receipts and Expenditures) 1893-1930. 4 vols. (3 vols., 1893-1928, 1-3; 1 vol., 1928-30, unlabeled). System discont. 1930.
Receipts from appropriations, reimbursement from state and other municipalities for aid rendered, sale of town farm produce and merchandise: Name of municipality, payer; amount, source, date of receipt. Expenditures for welfare aid, outside poor, maintenance of town farm: Name of payee; amount, purpose, date of expenditure; total of expenditures. Arr. chron. Hdw. 300 pp. 14 x 9 x 1.

247. LEDGER, 1893-1930. System discont. 1930.
Summary of accounts as posted from Journal (Receipts and Expenditures), entry 245: Name, number of account; amount, date of debit, credit posting; account balance. Arr. alph. by name of account. Indexed alph. by name of municipality. Hdw. 100 pp. 13 x 8 x 1.

248. (CLAIMS FOR REIMBURSEMENT), 1928--. 1 file box. 1 bdl.
Claims for reimbursement for aid rendered, submitted to state department of public welfare (division of aid and relief), and returned to local board: Name of recipient; amount, period, date of allowance; reason for, date of disallowance, if not approved; file number, signature of state supervisor of aid and relief. Arr. by date of allowance or disallowance. No index. Typed under ptd. head. File box, 5 x 7 x 16; bdl., 11 x 8½ x 2. 1 file box, 1928-35, va.; 1 bdl., 1936--, desk, welfare off.

249. (BILLS FOR AID RENDERED), 1917--. 8 vols. (dated). System estab. 1917.
Carbon copies of bills sent to town accountant for aid rendered to out-of-town and State cases: Name of town or state welfare department, recipient; date of bill; amount, type, period, date of aid rendered; amount, date of payment to town; statement as to whether case is in force or discontinued, remarks. Arr. by date of bill. No index. 150 pp. 11 x 13 x 1.

250. (RECORD OF ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RECEIPT OF CASH ALLOTMENTS TO AID RECIPIENTS), 1931-35. 2 vols. System discont. 1935.
Name of recipient; amount, date of receipt of aid; signature of recipient. Arr. alph. by name of recipient. No index. Hdw. 150 pp. 10 x 8 x ½.

251. TREASURER'S RECEIPTS (for Payments), 1920--. 1 file drawer.
Receipts from town treasurer acknowledging payment by relief agencies of other municipalities making reimbursements for aid rendered: Name of agent or department; amount, purpose, date of payment; signature of town treasurer. Arr. by date of receipt. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 5 x 7 x 16.

252. LETTERS (and Bills of) UNEMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE, 1931-32. 1 letter file, (marked 1932). Committee formed Nov. 22, 1931; dissolved June 8, 1932.

Contains:

i. Bills to be approved, list of: Name of payee, amount, itemization of expenditure; total amount of bill; date of list.

ii. Bills payable: Name of creditor; amount, itemization date of bill. Includes purchase orders for each article delivered to recipient: Name of recipient, list of articles to be purchased, place purchase made, date of order, signature of representative of local unemployment committee.

iii. Correspondence with state emergency committee on unemployment, local stores, and supply stations relative to purchase of provisions; with individuals relative to activities of committee.

Bills arr. chron., correspondence arr. alph. by name of correspondent. No index. Hdw., typed. 12 x 11 x 3. Bsmt. va., Memorial Bldg.

Aid to Dependent Children
(See also entry 236-i b)

253. (AID TO DEPENDENT CHILDREN - CASE HISTORIES), 1909-32, 1935--. 1 file box, 1 file drawer. 1933-34 in (Case Histories), entry 238.

1909-32, case number, name of parent or guardian; amount, date, type of aid. For description 1935--, see entry 238. Arr. alph. by name of recipient. No index. Hdw. and typed on ptd. form. File box, 5 x 7 x 16; file drawer, 1½ x 12 x 24. 1 file box, 1909-32, va.; 1 file drawer, 1935--, welfare off.

Old Age Assistance
(See also entry 236-i c; old age assistance authorized by law 1931)

254. OLD AGE ASSISTANCE (Applications and Notices), 1931--. 2 vols. (1, 2).

Contains record of:

i. Applications from residents and from persons living in other municipalities and claiming legal settlement in Athol.

a. Accepted applications: Name, settlement status of applicant; town, state case number; date case opened, closed; report to local welfare board by investigating officer, dates of visits to home of recipient.

b. Rejected applications: Name of applicant, date of application, rejection; reason for rejection.

ii. Notices from other municipalities claiming reimbursement from Athol for aid rendered residents of municipalities claiming legal settlement in Athol.

OLD AGE ASSISTANCE
ii. Notices from other municipalities (Cont'd)
a. Accepted claims: Name of municipality, recipient; duration of residence in other municipality; date of receipt of notice.
b. Rejected claims: Name of municipality, person claiming settlement in Athol; date of receipt of notice, denial of payment.
Applications arr. by date of application, notices arr. by date of notice. Indexed alph. by name of recipient. Hdw., typed. 150 pp. 11½ x 9 x 1.

255. OLD AGE ASSISTANCE REGISTER, 1931--. 1 vol.
Register of persons supported or relieved by old age assistance: Register number, name, address, sex, color, social status, mental condition of recipient; place, date of birth; birthplaces of parents; place, date of receipt of aid; manner, date of discharge; cause, date of death, if deceased; remarks. Arr. by register no. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 50 pp. 23 x 17 x 1.

256. OLD AGE ASSISTANCE (Case Histories), 1931-32, 1935--. 1 file box, 9 file drawers (1 file box, 1931-32, unlabeled; 9 file drawers, 1935--, A-Z). No title, 1935--, 9 file drawers. 1933-34 in (Case Histories), entry 238.
1931-32, name, case number of recipient; amount, date of payment of aid. For description 1935--, see entry 238. Arr. alph. by name of recipient. No index. Hdw. and typed on ptd. form. File box, 5 x 7 x 16; file drawers, 1½ x 12 x 24. 1 file box, 1931-32, va.; 9 file drawers, 1935--, welfare off.

XIX. WARDEN OF THE INFIRMARY[1]

From the time that the town purchased the "old Ball farm" on the outskirts of the village, and converted it into a poorhouse, this institution, under various designations, has been operated under the supervision of a warden, and probably, during the entire period, also by a matron. Rarely does the title appear in the annual reports, although in many years a schedule of expenditures, prepared by the warden, is included in the report of the overseers of the poor or the department of public welfare.[2]

In 1907, when the title appears as warden of the poorhouse, this appointee was listed as a town officer.[3] In 1924, under the designation of warden of the town house, he and the matron are briefly referred to in the report of the board of public welfare:

1. For the background, statutory origin, development and functions of this office, see Town and City Government in Massachusetts.
2. Annual Reports, 1887-1939, passim, see entry 2.
3. Ibid., 1907, p. 8.

> Our customary routine was . . . disturbed (when) we were obliged to secure a new warden and a new matron for the Town House, to fill positions held by Mr. and Mrs. James McFadden, who resigned to enter similar work in a larger field.[1]

Reference to the new appointees also appears in the report of the board for 1938, when mention is made of their long years of service.[2]

All records are in the drawer, warden's desk, dining room, first floor, Athol Infirmary, Templeton Road. In addition to the following records, see entry 236-iv for report of board of public welfare relative to infirmary 1878--; entry 245 for receipts and expenditures 1893-1930.

257. ALMSHOUSE REGISTER, 1905--. 1 vol.
Record of persons supported at the infirmary: Name, age, sex, settlement status, registered number of inmate; place, date of birth; physical, mental condition; reason for, date of admission; date, cause of discharge. Arr. by date of admission. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 200 pp. 15 x 10 x 1.

258. MEMO (of Cash Sales), 1929--. 1 vol.
Monthly record of cash sales of merchandise made by inmates, farm produce, poultry: Amount, type, date of sale; monthly total. Arr. by date of sale. No index. Hdw. 150 pp. 6 x 3½ x ½.

259. TREASURER'S RECEIPTS, 1929--. 2 bdls.
Receipts acknowledging payment of monies received from sale of farm produce, poultry, and from merchandise made by inmates: Name of agency or department; amount, source, date of receipt; signature of town treasurer. Arr. by date of receipt. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 4 x 8 x 3.

XX. BOARD OF HEALTH[3]

At the annual town meeting held in 1887 a board of health consisting of five members was elected.[4] In 1895 the number was reduced to three members, who were elected for one, two and three-year terms, respectively.[5] The report of the board for this year states that "at the March meeting, 1895, the town voted to elect a Board of Health separate from the selectmen."[6] This does not imply that the selectmen had earlier been designated

1. Ibid., 1924, p. 8.
2. Ibid., 1938, p. 1.
3. For the background, statutory origin, development and functions of this office, see Town and City Government in Massachusetts.
4. Town Records, VI, 148, see entry 30.
5. Annual Reports, 1895, p. 5, see entry 2.
6. Ibid., p. 157.

as members of a board of health, but that they had attended to or supervised such matters pertaining to the public health as required the attention of the town officials.

Although set up as a separate board, the new health officers did not at first exercise all of the duties which earlier had been performed by the selectmen, for in 1895, and probably for some years thereafter, the selectmen continued to appoint the "inspector of cattle, sheep and swine, and meats and provisions",[1] and the various officers among whom this work was eventually divided.

In 1898 the title "inspector for the board of health" appears in the annual printed reports.[2] This was not a new office, but a temporary title given to the inspector of meats and provisions. In 1898 there appears in the town reports the record of a board of examiners of plumbers, which consisted of three persons,[3] and was not connected with the position of inspector of plumbing. This last named official was an appointee of the board of health, and the board of examiners may have derived their authority from the same source.

From 1897 through 1939 one member of the board of health has been elected annually for a term of three years.[4] One member is elected to serve as chairman; one as secretary.[5]

In 1922 the twenty-fifth article of the town warrant read as follows:

> To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $500 to establish a Dental Clinic for school children.[6]

This proposal was accepted, and in 1923 the appropriation was increased to $850.[7] The clinic has regularly functioned since its establishment submitting regular annual reports which show that the scope of its activities has gradually been increased so that its benefits are not now restricted to the school children.[8] The dental clinic, from the time of its establishment, has been operated under the direction of an appointee of the board of health. Additional annual appointments made by the board include an inspector of milk, two inspectors of slaughtering, a district nurse, and, at least until 1935, an inspector of plumbing.[9]

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1. Ibid., p. 159.
2. Ibid., 1898, p. 151.
3. Ibid., p. 150.
4. Ibid., 1897-1939, passim; Town Records, XI, 332, see entry 30.
5. Annual Reports, 1937, p. 5, see entry 2.
6. Ibid., 1922, p. 49.
7. Ibid., 1923, p. 49.
8. Ibid., 1925, p. 58; 1926, p. 6; 1927, p. 62; 1928, p. 82; 1929, p. 67.
9. Ibid., 1937, pp. 142-144; Town Records, XI, 349, see entry 30.

Except where otherwise noted, all records are in the board of health and old age assistance office, room 23, second floor, Memorial Building, Main Street.

Minutes and Reports

260. RECORD (Minutes of Meetings of) ATHOL BOARD OF HEALTH, ATHOL, MASS., 1922--. 1 bdl., 1 vol.

Discussion and decisions relative to articles in town-meeting warrants, approval of bills, classification of expenditures, allocation of appropriation, granting or renewal of licenses, payments to treasurer, appointments, bills sent to State for subsidy claims; place, date, time of meeting; signature of board secretary. Arr. by date of meeting. No index. Typed. Bdl., 1922-29, 11 x 8½ x 1; vol., 1930--, 45 pp. 11 x 9 x 1. Desk.

261. (ANNUAL REPORT OF BOARD OF HEALTH), 1897--. In Annual Reports of the Town Officers, entry 2.

Narrative statement of departmental activities. Also contains:

i. Animals and provisions inspector, report of, 1897-1902: Types, number of livestock inspected. For published annual report of inspector of animals 1906, 1921--, see entry 272.

ii. Contagious diseases, 1897-1903, 1905, 1912-22, 1925-32: Typed, number of diseases reported.

iii. Dental clinic, report of, 1924--: Types, number of dental treatments given; number of days clinic in operation.

iv. District nurse, report of, 1921--: Types, number of cases, clinics visited. For monthly reports 1924--, see entries 276, 277.

v. Expenditures, amount and purpose of, 1897, 1933--.

vi. Garbage disposal, places used and dumps needed, for, 1899, 1902, 1934--.

vii. Hospital appropriations, total amount of, 1903, 1905, 1911-19, 1935--.

viii. Inspector of slaughtering, report of, 1920-24, 1930--: Type, number of livestock inspected, condemned. For record of inspections 1932--, see entry 273.

ix. Milk inspector, report of, 1926--: Number of farms visited, butter and fat tests made, licenses issued. For record of dairy licenses and inspections 1933--, see entry 271.

x. Plumbing inspector, report of, 1903-4, 1920--: Number, purpose of plumbing permits issued. For applications for permits 1919--, see entry 274; for stubs of permits 1917--, see entry 275.

xi. Rules and regulations of department, 1912.

xii. Sewer connections, 1897, 1899: Number of and rules governing connections made.

Contagious Diseases
(See also entries 165-vi, 261-ii)

262. RECORD OF DANGEROUS DISEASES, 1915--. 2 vols.
Case number, date notice received, date illness began, nature of disease; name, address, age, school or occupation of patient; name of informant, physician; date notice sent to state department of public health, school department (if pupil); disposition of case, remarks. Arr. by date of notice received. No index. Hdw. under ptd. head. 200 pp. 14½ x 13½ x 1. Desk.

263. TUBERCULOSIS CASES, 1925--. 2 file drawers (A-Z).
Card record of persons examined at consultation clinic: Date of examination, name, address, age, physical description, temperature, pulse of person examined; new or old case, name of physician to whom referred. Also contains copy of physician's report: Date of report, name of physician, results of diagnosis, recommendations, signature of physician. Arr. alph. by name of patient. No index. Cards, typed on ptd. form; reports, typed. 12 x 12 x 24.

Financial Records
(See also entry 261-v)

264. (BILLS), 1925--. 1 vol.
Carbon copies of bills for medical care of aid recipients without legal settlement in Athol, submitted to town accountant for collection from other municipalities or state department of public welfare: Name of state department, municipality billed; name of family or person aided; period of aid, type of care received; number, date of bill; amount, date of reimbursement. Arr. by date of bill. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 300 pp. 11 x 13 x 1. Desk

265. (TREASURER'S RECEIPTS), 1936--. 1 bdl.
Receipts acknowledging payment of money to town treasurer: Name of department; amount, source, date of receipt; signature of treasurer. Arr. by date of receipt. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 4 x 12 x 2. Desk.

Licenses and Permits
(See also entries 260, 271-i, 274, 275)

266. (Stubs of) BURIAL PERMITS, 1933--. 3 vols.
Name, age of deceased; place, cause, date of death; place of interment, name of certifying physician; number, date of issue of permit. Arr. by date of issue. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 200 pp. 5½ x 4½ x 1.
For original permits 1899-1910, see entry 304.

267. (STUBS OF CARBONATED NONALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE PERMITS), 1935--. 1 vol.
Name, location of business of licensee; number, dates of issue and

expiration of permit. Arr. by date of issue. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 25 pp. 8 x 14 x ½.

268. (STUBS OF LICENSES TO STORE METHYL ALCOHOL), 1935--. 1 vol. For description, see entry 267. Arr. by date of issue. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 50 pp. 8½ x 14 x 3/4. Cabinet.

Miscellaneous

269. (CORRESPONDENCE), 1925--. 2 file drawers.
Correspondence with state department of public health officials relative to contagious disease, placing patients in sanitoriums. Arr. alph. by name of correspondent. No index. Typed. 12 x 12 x 24.

270. (BIRTH RETURNS), 1929--. 1 bdl.
Record of returns, submitted by town clerk: Name, sex, color of child; place, date of birth; name of attending physician; date of return; signature of clerk. Arr. by date of return. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 5 x 5 x 5. Va.

XXI. MILK INSPECTOR[1]

The office of milk inspector was created in 1895, when the selectmen appointed one inspector to serve for one year. In 1896 the appointment was again made by the selectmen.[2] From 1897 to the present the inspector has been appointed annually by the board of health.[3] In 1917, 1918, 1919, and from 1928 through 1933 the appointee serving as milk inspector performed the duties of the inspection of animals.[4]

The milk inspector tests milk and cream sold in the town, and inspects farms, dairies, and pasteurization plants. He submits a report to the board of health annually. In 1938 the number of inspections made of milk sources was 120.[5]

In addition to the following record, see entry 261-ix for published annual report 1926--.

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1. For the background, statutory origin, development and functions of this office, see Town and City Government in Massachusetts.
2. Town Records, VII, 162, 196, see entry 30.
3. Ibid., p. 295; XI, 349.
4. Annual Reports, 1917-33, passim, see entry 2.
5. Ibid., 1938, p. 155.

271. (DAIRY LICENSES AND INSPECTIONS), 1933--. 1 vol.
Contains record of:

i. Dairy licenses issued: Name, address of licensee; amount of fee, conditions of license; date of issue, expiration.

ii. Inspections:

a. Dairies: Name, address of dairy owner; number of cattle in dairy, statement of sanitary conditions; results of test for bacteria count, butter fat; date of inspection.

b. Farms: Name, address of farmer; statement of sanitary conditions of farm, number of cattle inspected and passed; results date of inspection.

c. Stores: Name, address of merchant; results of tests and inspections, date of inspection.

Licenses arr. by date of issue, inspections arr. by date of inspection. No index. Hdw. 100 pp. 8 x 6 x 1. Safe, off. of Thomas Dillon, second fl., Dillon Block, Main St.

XXII. INSPECTOR OF ANIMALS[1]

An inspector of animals was appointed by the selectmen on April 30, 1892,[2] and on July 1 of the same year a second inspector was appointed to conform with state legislation enacted that year.[3] In 1893 the selectmen appointed two inspectors,[4] and in the following year, one inspector.[5] In 1895 the title appears in the annual reports of the town as the inspector of cattle, sheep and swine, and meats and provisions.[6] From 1897 through 1902 the title of the office is given as the inspector of cattle, although the inspector signs his report under the board of health as inspector of animals and provisions.[7] From 1907 through 1916 he is known as inspector of animals.

Since 1913 there had been an inspector of slaughtering in the town, but for some reason the duties of this office in 1917 were combined with those of the inspector of animals. There was but one individual appointed to cover both offices and he was called the inspector of animals and slaughtering. This situation terminated the next year and we again find two separate officers, one designated inspector of slaughtering and one inspector of animals, both of which are in existence today.[8] The

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1. For the background, statutory origin, development and functions of this office, see Town and City Government in Massachusetts.
2. Town Records, VI, 448, see entry 30.
3. Acts, 1892, ch. 191.
4. Town Records, VI, 492, 501, see entry 30.
5. Ibid., VII, 59; Annual Reports, 1894, p. 6, see entry 2; Acts, 1894, ch. 491.
6. Annual Reports, 1895, p. 159, see entry 2.
7. Ibid., 1897-1902, passim.
8. Ibid., 1913-39, passim.

inspector serving in 1917, 1918, 1919 and from 1928 through 1933 also carried the duties of the inspection of milk. These offices were finally separated in 1934.[1]

Appointments are made annually by the selectmen although beginning in 1894 and continuing through 1898 these appointments were subject to the approval of the state board of dairy and animal husbandry.[2] In 1899 and since, appointments are approved by the state director of animal industry.[3]

272. (ANNUAL REPORT OF INSPECTOR OF ANIMALS), 1906, 1921--. In Annual Reports of the Town Officers, entry 2.
Total number of livestock inspected, quarantined, condemned. 1906 includes number slaughtered to be used as food.
For published annual report of inspector of animals and provisions 1897-1902, see entry 261-i.

XXIII. INSPECTORS OF SLAUGHTERING[4]

The office of inspector of slaughtering was created in Athol in 1913, and annually thereafter through 1929, one inspector was appointed by the board of health.[5] The Annual Reports for 1917 show that this office was apparently combined with that of the inspector of animals since but one man was appointed to cover both functions and he was listed as the inspector of animals and slaughtering. Thereafter the two offices remain distinct units and the reports show that in 1924, 1925, and 1926 there were two inspectors, and in 1927 and 1928 one inspector and one assistant inspector. Since 1928 two inspectors of slaughtering have been appointed annually.[6]

In addition to the following record, see entry 261-viii for published annual report 1920-24, 1930--.

273. (RECORD OF INSPECTIONS), 1932--. 1 vol.
Name, address of animal owner; type, number of animals slaughtered; amount of fee, charges, traveling expenses; date of inspection. Arr. by date of inspection. No index. Hdw. 150 pp. 12 x 10 x 1. Residence of C. E. Vaughan (inspector), Templeton Road.

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1. Ibid., 1917-34, passim.
2. Acts, 1894, ch. 129, secs. 15-17.
3. Ibid., 1899, ch. 408, sec. 17.
4. For the background, statutory origin, development and functions of this office, see Town and City Government in Massachusetts.
5. Town Records, IX, 619; XI, 44, see entry 30.
6. Annual Reports, 1913-39, passim, see entry 2.

XXIV. INSPECTOR OF PLUMBING[1]

In 1894 the board of health appointed one inspector of plumbing in accordance with a legislative enactment of that year.[2] He was called an inspector of plumbers during 1895 and 1896, then the two inspectors of 1897 took the statutory title of the office.

In addition to these officers the annual town reports for 1898 records the appointment of a board of examiners of plumbers. Since 1894, one inspector of plumbing has been appointed annually by the board of health,[3] except in 1902 and 1903 when two such appointments were made, and in 1904 when the office does not appear in the printed reports. Reports of these officials have appeared in the town reports for nearly every year.[4]

All records are in the board of health and old age assistance office, room 23, second floor, Memorial Building, Main Street. In addition to the following records, see entry 261-x for published annual report 1903-4, 1920--.

274. APPLICATION FOR PERMIT TO DO PLUMBING, 1919--. 21 bdls. (dated).
Name, address, registration number of plumber; name, address of property owner; nature of proposed work; date of application, granting of permit; signature of master plumber, date application referred to plumbing inspector. Arr. by date permit granted. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 8 x 4 x 3. Va.

275. (Stubs of) PLUMBING PERMITS, 1917--. 4 vols.
Name, address of plumber; name of property owner; permit number, date of inspection, signature of plumbing inspector. Arr. by date of inspection. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 500 pp. 12 x 13 x 1.

XXV. DISTRICT NURSE[1]

On March 18, 1912, at the regular annual meeting of the town, Athol appropriated money for the employment of a visiting or district nurse who was to work under the general supervision of the board of selectmen.[5] From

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1. For the background, statutory origin, development and functions of this office, see Town and City Government in Massachusetts.
2. Acts, 1894, ch. 455; Town Records, VII, 80, see entry 30.
3. Ibid., VI, 352; VII-X.
4. Annual Reports, 1894-1939, passim, see entry 2.
5. Town Records, IX, 499, see entry 30.

1913 to 1915, inclusive, the supervision of this work was delegated to a committee of three members chosen by the Athol Women's Club. All bills continued to be paid by the town treasurer.[1] In 1920 and 1921 the activities of the nurse were under the general supervision of the selectmen.[2] During these years the title, as recorded in the Town Records and the Annual Reports, varied; visiting nurse is often used; district nurse less frequently. In 1922, and since that year, the district nurse has been appointed by and operates under the direction of the board of health.[3] Annual appointments have been made regularly. With the exception of 1924, when three district nurses were appointed, there has been one each year.[4]

All records are in the board of public welfare office, room 22, second floor, Memorial Building, Main Street. In addition to the following records, see entry 261-iv for annual published reports 1921--.

276. TOWN DISTRICT NURSING REPORT, 1924--. 1 carton (dated). Monthly record of activities: Name, address, age of patient visited; type, number, date, diagnosis of case; name of informant, doctor; rate of nurse's pay; number of insurance companies' patients, other patients; summary of visits by nurses and doctors, classified by type of case, total number of visits, amount of mileage covered in performing work, date of report. Arr. by month. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 10 x 10 x 12. Va.

277. (MONTHLY STATISTICAL REPORTS OF ACTIVITIES), 1937--. 1 desk drawer. Prior records destroyed.
Number of previous month's cases carried over, new cases, cases discharged; total number of cases; number of visits to homes, physicians' offices, hospitals, baby clinics; number of consultations; number of times assisted at operations, conferences; amount of secretarial work, number of telephone calls handled; amount of collections (if any), date of report. Arr. by date of report. No index. Typed. 5 x 10 x 24.

XXVI. CEMETERY COMMISSIONERS[5]

The selectmen were given general supervision over cemetery matters until 1812, when a committee was elected to take over this authority.[6] In 1860 a committee was set up "for fencing the old burying ground and

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1. Ibid., pp. 583, 634.
2. Ibid., pp. 368, 419.
3. Ibid., X, 497.
4. Annual Reports, 1912-1939, passim, see entry 2.
5. For the background, statutory origin, development and functions of this office, see Town and City Government in Massachusetts.
6. Town Records, II, 194.

buying a monument,"[1] and in the town reports of 1880 and 1884 the Silver Lake Cemetery Committee is mentioned.[2] That the latter was a town committee and not a private one, is evidenced by the fact that from time to time its accounts were inspected by the town auditor. Five cemetery commissioners were elected in 1886, following the rotation plan of tenure,[3] and their first annual report is included in the town reports of that year. In 1888, 1889, 1891, and 1892, the town reports indicate that only four cemetery commissioners were in office, although in one of these years, 1888, four names appear in the list of regular cemetery commissioners elected and serving, while five names are appended to the printed report which appears later in the volume.[4] Again in 1907, 1910, 1913, and 1918, there were four cemetery commissioners instead of five, and in 1916 there were but three.[5] With these exceptions the board has regularly consisted of five members. The commissioners elect a chairman, clerk and treasurer,[6] and annually appoint a cemetery superintendent,"[7] whose reports are regularly printed each year in the annual reports of the officers of the town.[8]

Except where otherwise noted, all records are in the office of the cemetery commissioner, room 25, second floor, Memorial Building, Main Street.

Minutes and Reports
(See also entries 120-i, 149-iv)

278. (MINUTES OF COMMISSIONERS' MEETING), 1919--. 1 vol. Discussion and decisions relative to articles in town-meeting warrants, appropriations, delinquent accounts, instructions to cemetery superintendent; names of members present; place, date, time of meeting. Arr. by date of meeting. No index. Typed. 200 pp. 14 x 12 x 1. Va.

279. (ANNUAL REPORT OF CEMETERY COMMISSIONERS), 1896-99, 1900--. In Annual Reports of the Town Officers, entry 2.

Contains:

i. Receipts and expenditures, 1896-99, 1917--: Receipts from sale of lots, appropriations; expenditures for maintenance of cemeteries.

ii. Trust funds, 1900, 1918--: Name, amount of fund; total expenditures, balance.

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1. Ibid., VI, 109.
2. Annual Reports, 1860, p. 5; 1880, p. 32; 1884, p. 17, see entry 2.
3. Town Records, VI, 109, see entry 30.
4. Annual Reports, 1888, p. 18 et seq., see entry 2.
5. Ibid., 1907-18, passim.
6. Ibid., 1937, p. 5; Town Records, XI, 332, see entry 30.
7. Annual Reports, 1886-1929, passim, see entry 2.
8. Ibid.

Interments
(See also entry 303-i)

280. (Record of) INDIVIDUAL (Burials in) MT. PLEASANT AND OTHER CEMETERIES, 1746--. 1 file box (A-Z).
Name, age of deceased person; place, date of burial; lot number. Arr. alph. by name of deceased person. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 4 x 5 x 12. Va.

281. (Record of) SOLDIER BURIAL, 1861--. 1 file box.
For description, see entry 280. Also includes name of war in which the deceased served. Arr. alph. by name of deceased person. No index. Typed. 4 x 5 x 12. Va.

Silver Lake Cemetery
(See also entry 302)

282. LOT OWNERS - SILVER LAKE CEMETERY, 1876--. 1 file box and 1 duplicate vol., 1876-1923.
Card record of sale of lots and graves: Name of cemetery; name, address of lot owner; date of sale of lot, care performed; items (care of lot, etc.); amount of debit, credit; balance at end of year. Arr. alph. by name of lot owner. No index. Typed on ptd. form. 7 x 5 x 16. Va.

283. (Copies of Deeds to) SILVER LAKE CEMETERY (Lots) TOWN OF ATHOL, 1877--. 4 vols. (1-4). Title varies: Record of Deeds, Silver Lake Cemetery, Athol, 1877-1909, 2 vols.
Name of grantor, grantee; amount of consideration, conditions, date of deed; lot number; signature of chairman, clerk of cemetery commission. Arr. by date of deed. For index 1877-1929, see entry 284; 1930--, no index. Hdw. 300 pp. 16 x 11 x 3. Va.

284. (INDEX TO COPIES OF DEEDS), 1877-1929. 2 vols. System discont. 1929.
Name of lot owner, lot number, volume and page reference. Arr. alph. by name of lot owner. Hdw. 29 pp. 12 x 4 x ½.

285. (Record of) BURIALS (in) SILVER LAKE CEMETERY (Classified by Name of Lot Owner), 1877--. 1 file box.
For description, see entry 280. Also includes name, address of lot owner; diagram of lot. Arr. alph. by name of lot owner. No index. Typed on ptd. form. 7 x 5 x 16. Va.

286. (Record of) INDIVIDUAL (Burials in) SILVER (Lake Cemetery, Classified by Name of Deceased Person), 1877--. 3 file boxes (A-Z).
For description, see entry 280. Arr. alph. by name of deceased person. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 4 x 5 x 12. Va.

287. SILVER LAKE RECORD (of Burials, Classified by Date of Death), 1877-1916. 1 vol. (dated).
Name of cemetery; name, age of deceased person; date of death, lot number. Arr. by date of death. Indexed alph. by name of lot owner. Hdw. 450 pp. 13 x 9 x 2. Va.

288. RECORDS (of Payment for Care of Cemetery Lots), 1902-19. 3 vols. (dated). System discont. 1919. Title varies: Silver Lake Cash Book, 1902-13, 1 vol.; Silver Lake, 1914-15, 1 vol.
Name, address of lot owner; amount, date of service, payment. Arr. by date of payment. 1902-13, no index; 1914-19, indexed alph. by name of lot owner. Hdw. 215 pp. 13 x 8 x 1. Va.

289. (Map of) SILVER LAKE CEMETERY, ATHOL, June 1920. 1 map.
Map showing names of paths, roads, avenues; location of public burial lots, number of lots laid out for flowers; lot, section number. Blueprint. Antone E. Aanson, Greenfield. 1":25'. 62 x 35. Wall.

290. (Map of Proposed Landscape Development of) SILVER LAKE CEMETERY, undated. 1 map.
Map showing location of stone wall and steps, trees, shrubbery; terrace, section number. Blueprint. Charles B. Fish and Company, Worcester. 1/8":1'. 48 x 36. Wall.

Highland Cemetery
(See also entry 302)

291. (Record of Lot Owners in) HIGHLAND CEMETERY, 1796--. 1 file box.
For description, see entry 280. Arr. alph. by name of lot owner. No index. Typed on ptd. form. 7 x 5 x 16. Va.

292. (Copies of Deeds to) HIGHLAND CEMETERY (Lots) TOWN OF ATHOL, 1892--. 2 vols. (1, 2). Title varies: Highland Cemetery, Athol Center, Mass., 1892-1926.
For description, see entry 283. Arr. by date of deed. For index 1892-1926, see entry 293; 1926--, no index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 300 pp. 14 x 12 x 2. Va.

293. (INDEX TO COPIES OF DEEDS), 1892-1926. 1 vol.
Name of lot owner, lot number, page reference. Arr. alph. by name of lot owner. Hdw. 28 pp. 12 x 4 x $\frac{1}{2}$.

294. (Record of) BURIALS IN HIGHLAND CEMETERY (Classified by Name of Lot Owner), 1796--. 1 file box.
For description, see entry 280. Also includes name, address of lot owner; diagram of lot. Arr. alph. by name of lot owner. No index. Typed on ptd. form. 7 x 5 x 16. Va.

295. (Record of) INDIVIDUAL (Burials in) HIGHLAND (Cemetery Classified by Name of Deceased Person), 1796--. 3 file boxes (A-Z).
For description, see entry 280. Arr. alph. by name of deceased person. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 4 x 5 x 12. Va.

296. (Map of) HIGHLAND CEMETERY, 1919. 1 map.
Map showing names of occupants; names of paths, drives, sections; division, sizes, number of lots; name of pool. Blueprint. George M. Allen. 1":15'. 48 x 36. Wall.

Financial Records
(See also entries 279, 303-ii)

297. CASH (Receipts) BOOK, 1916--. 5 vols. Title varies: Records, 1920-23, 1 vol.
Receipts for sale and care of lots, digging of graves, setting of foundations: Name of lot owner; amount, source, date of receipt; amount, date of monthly payment to town treasurer. Arr. chron. No index. Hdw. 150 pp. 14 x 11 x 1. Va.

298. (RECORD OF CEMETERY CHARGES), 1920--. 2 vols. (dated).
Name of purchaser of lot, deceased person, undertaker; lot number; amount, purpose, date of charge; date of payment. Arr. by date of charge. No index. Hdw. 215 pp. 13 x 8 x 1. Va.

299. TOWN OF ATHOL - BILLS RECEIVABLE - CEMETERY DEPARTMENT, 1933--. 1 vol. System estab. 1933.
Monthly schedule of bills due town: Name of debtor; description of work done; amount, date of bill, abatement, collection. Arr. by date of bill. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 75 pp. 14 x 13 x ½. Va.

Trust Funds
(See also entry 138)

300. TRUST FUNDS IN ATHOL CEMETERIES, 1884--. 1 vol.
Record of funds to be used in care of cemetery lots: Name of trust fund, cemetery, bank; names of depositors, amount of deposit, number of bank book, date of fund. Includes a few copies of lot deeds and memoranda of lots having perpetual care and those without perpetual care. Arr. by date of fund. Indexed alph. by name of fund. Typed. 200 pp. 12 x 14 x 1. Va.

301. CEMETERY TRUST FUNDS, 1892--. 3 vols., 1 file box. Title varies: Perpetual Care, Athol Cemeteries, 1892-1916, 1 vol. Town of Athol Cemetery Trust Funds, 1916-31, 2 bdls.
Perpetual-care annual statements: Name of lot owner, cemetery, bank; lot number, amount expended for care; amount of annual surplus,

unexpended interest; total interest; amount, number, date of deposit. 3 vols., 1892-1931, arr. by date of deposit; 1 file box, 1932--, arr. alph. by name of lot owner. 1892-1931, indexed alph. by name of lot owner; 1932--, no index. Hdw. till 1932, typed thereafter. Vols., 300 pp. 16 x 10 x 2; file box, 5 x 7 x 16. Va.

Miscellaneous

302. (Record of Lot Owners in) HIGHLAND CEMETERY, OLD AND NEW, SILVER LAKE, GAGE, DOE VALLEY, CHESTNUT HILL CEMETERIES, 1892--. 8 vols. System estab. 1892. Title varies: Accounts, 1892-1902, 1 vol.; Silver Lake, 1903-14, 4 vols.; Highland Old Part, 1915-30, 1 vol.

Name of lot owner; price, number of lot; amount paid for lot. Arr. alph. by name of lot owner. No index. Hdw. till 1931, typed thereafter. 50 pp. 6 x 4 x ½ to 200 pp. 12 x 10 x 1. Va.

303. MT. PLEASANT, DOE VALLEY, CHESTNUT HILL (Cemeteries), 1746--. 1 file box.

Contains card record of:

i. Burials: Name, age of deceased person; date of burial; name, address of lot owner; number, diagram of lot.

ii. Sale of lots and graves: For description, see entry 282.

Arr. alph. by name of lot owner. No index. Typed on ptd. form. 7 x 5 x 16. Va.

XXVII. BURIAL AGENT[1]

In accordance with a law enacted in 1889, Athol in that year authorized the selectmen to appoint two burial agents.[2] The number of these officers was reduced to one in 1899,[3] and since then an appointment to office has been made annually.[4]

304. (Original) BURIAL PERMITS, 1899-1910. 1 bdl. and 1 duplicate bdl.

Permits for burial or removal of body: Name of municipality; name, age of deceased person; cause, place, date of death; place of removal, interment; military record, if any; name of person to whom permit was issued; number, date of permit, signature of physician. Arr. by date of permit. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 12 x 10 x 3.

For stubs of permits 1933--, see entry 266.

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1. For the background, statutory origin, development and functions of this office, see Town and City Government in Massachusetts.
2. Town Records, VI, 270; see entry 30.
3. Annual Reports, 1899, p. 5, see entry 2.
4. Ibid., 1900-38, passim.

305. (Record of) NON-RESIDENTS BURIED IN ATHOL, 1898-1920. 1 vol. Name, age of deceased person; cause, place, date of death; case number. Arr. by date of death. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 200 pp. 14 x 9 x 1½.

XXVIII. INSPECTOR OF SOLDIERS' GRAVES[1]

The selectmen made the first appointment of an inspector of soldiers' graves in 1924. The tenure of office was for one year.[2] Appointments have been made annually, without any change in tenure or duties, through 1938.[3] Some time prior to 1930 the town set up a committee to mark the graves of soldiers buried in Athol in those instances where this had not already been done by private organizations, and this resulted in the making of a comprehensive survey of such graves in the many burying grounds and cemeteries scattered through the town. The report of this investigation, which is signed by the town inspector of soldiers' graves, appears in the town reports for 1930. This report records the marking of forty graves, divided as follows: Revolutionary War, 36; War of 1812, 3; Civil War (Confederate), 1. The graves of the Union soldiers who fought in the Civil War had already been marked and the number does not appear in the report returned to the town.[4]

306. (ANNUAL REPORT OF INSPECTOR OF SOLDIERS' GRAVES), 1926-33, 1937--. In Annual Reports of the Town Officers, entry 2. Contains:

i. Financial statement, showing amount of appropriation, 1930; total expenditures, balance, 1937--.

ii. Narrative report on listing, marking, and maintenance of graves of soldiers in all wars from 1775-1918, shown only in reports for 1926-33.

For published report of committee for marking soldiers' graves 1930, see entry 2-iv c.

XXIX. HIGHWAY SURVEYOR[1]

The office of town highway surveyor dates back to the first town meeting held in 1762, when three surveyors were elected for a one-year

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1. For the background, statutory origin, development and functions of this office, see Town and City Government in Massachusetts.
2. Town Records, X, 596, see entry 30.
3. Ibid., XI, 344.
4. Annual Reports, 1930, pp. 88-89, see entry 2.

term.[1] Between 1762 and 1855 the number of surveyors elected annually ranged from three to nineteen. In addition to their regular duties during this period they were also delegated to collect the highway tax.[2] Henceforth, the variations in the office title, the methods of appointment, and the duties involved, entail a year by year analysis. From 1856 to 1871 the town regulary voted that the selectmen should act as highway surveyors and supervise the repair of roads and bridges.[3] During this period the usual designation appearing in the annual town reports was "committee on roads."[4] For the next four years, 1872 thru 1875, the selectmen delegated their power to one man whom they designated as the superintendent of roads. Then the town decided to revert to the former method, voting that the selectmen assume the duties of highway surveyors, which modus operandi continued to 1878.[5] At the next town meeting this duty and title was placed upon one man,[6] but he only lasted for one year, the town voting in 1880 that the selectmen again have charge of roads and employ a superintendent.[7] However, the annual report for 1880[8] contains a section which is signed by two road commissioners, and although the title of superintendent of roads does not appear, that of road surveyor is mentioned.[9] In this year, 1880, one of the two road commissioners was also a town assessor. Neither was a member of the board of selectmen.

We find the designation, road surveyors, was taken by the selectmen in 1882[10] and that of road commissioners in 1885.[11] Two of the selectmen served under the title of road surveyors in 1886[12] and one as road commissioner in 1887; and this latter term was used by the selectmen in carrying out the duties of the office through 1890. In 1890, in addition to the work performed by the selectmen, there was a committee of three designated in the town reports as the committee on road repairs.[13]

In 1891 the selectmen served under the designations, surveyors of highways and road surveyors, one title appearing in the list of town officers and one in the annual report of the department as printed by

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1. Town Records, I, 2, see entry 30.
2. Ibid., I, 2; IV, 49.
3. Ibid., IV, 81, 490.
4. Annual Reports, 1861, p. 6, see entry 2.
5. Town Records, V, 212, 268, see entry 30.
6. Ibid., p. 319.
7. Ibid., p. 390; VI, 43.
8. Annual Reports, 1880, p. 22, see entry 2.
9. Ibid., p. 25.
10. Ibid., 1882, p. 20.
11. Ibid., 1885, p. 17.
12. Ibid., 1886, p. 16.
13. Ibid., 1890, p. 98.

the town. In 1892 and to 1908 they served as surveyors of highways, with the exception of 1898, 1902, 1903, 1904 and 1905 when only two of the three surveyors were also selectmen.[1] In 1909 the office is not mentioned under any of the various previous designations in the town reports, but instead there is listed a superintendent of streets.[2] Next year, and to date, one highway surveyor has been elected annually for a one-year term. This officer was, until 1920, also one of the selectmen of the town but beginning with that year the positions have been separate, it being stipulated that the surveyor was not to be a member of the board of selectmen.[3]

Except where otherwise noted, all records are in the basement vault, Memorial Building, Main Street. In addition to the following records, see entry2-iv b for published report on street improvements 1906; entries 9, 10 for lay-out of streets and roads 1762--; entry 13 for construction plans of streets, roads, and bridges 1891-1934; entry 22-x for specifications of sidewalks and curbings 1920; entry 28-v for record of road-building expenditures 1876-84; entry 30-ii for record of lay-out of town roads 1777-1833; entry 105 for highway tax 1816, 1820-26, 1832; entry 122 for highway-tax commitments 1855-73.

307. (ANNUAL REPORT OF ROAD SURVEYOR), 1890-1916. In Annual Reports of the Town Officers, entry 2.

Contains:

i. Appropriations and expenditures for departmental administration, salaries, labor, supplies, and equipment.

ii. Moth department, financial report of, 1912-16: Total appropriation; total amount, purpose of expenditures. For published annual report of activities 1909-16, 1920--, see entry 365.

iii. Recapitulation table, 1900-1902: Itemization of appropriations and expenditures.

iv. Tree warden, financial report of, 1907-16: For description, see ii. For published annual report of activities 1906--, see entry 363; for record of expenditures 1933--, see entry 364.

308. LEDGER - HIGHWAY DEPT. - TOWN OF ATHOL, 1900-1916. 2 vols. (1, 2). System discont. 1916.

Summary of highway accounts: Name, number of account; amount of expenditure, appropriation, monthly balance; page reference to Journal - Dept. - Town of Athol, entry 309; date of expenditure. Arr. alph. by name of account and chron. thereunder. No index. Hdw. 200 pp. 10 x 12 x 1.

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1. Ibid., 1891-1908, passim.
2. Ibid., 1909, p. 6.
3. Town Records, IX, 267; XI, 230, see entry 30.

309. JOURNAL - STREET DEPT. - TOWN OF ATHOL, 1900-1916. 4 vols. (2 vols., 1900-1908, unlabeled; 2 vols., 1909-16, 1, 2). System discont. 1916. Title varies: Road Surveyor's Account - Town of Athol, 1900-1908, 2 vols.

Record of orders drawn on treasurer to pay for labor performed on the highways: Name of employee, nature of work, hourly wage rate, amount of weekly wage, number of persons on pay roll, date of order. Includes orders drawn for town teams, tree warden, surveying, street sprinkling. Also contains: Monthly Time and Pay Roll, entry 310. Arr. chron. No index. Hdw. 125 pp. 16 x 12 x 1½.

310. MONTHLY TIME AND PAY ROLL, 1894-96. 1 vol. 1900-1916 in Journal - Street Dept. - Town of Athol, entry 309.

Record of pay roll kept daily and totaled monthly: Name of employee, type of work performed, number of hours worked daily, hourly rate of pay, total amount of monthly wage, previous amount due, date of payment, signature of recipient. Arr. by date of payment. No index. Hdw. under ptd. head. 200 pp. 12 x 9 x 1.

XXX. WATER COMMISSIONERS[1]

Three water commissioners, one of whom was a selectmen, were elected by the town in 1906, with one, two, and three-year terms respectively.[2] This followed the purchase by Athol of the Athol Water Company in 1905.[3] The board has continued to serve without interruption, with the election each year of one member, who then serves for a three-year term. In 1907 and 1909 one of the members was a selectman, and in 1908 two commissioners were on the board of selectmen, but since then the two boards have been separate. The board elects its chairman, and a clerk who is also the superintendent of the water department.[4]

Except where otherwise noted, all records are in the water department office, room 17, first floor, Memorial Building, Main Street.

Minutes and Reports

311. RECORDS OF ATHOL WATER COMMISSION (Minutes of Meetings), 1906--. 2 vols., 1 bdl. Missing: 1914-21.

Discussion and decisions relative to repair of plant and pipe lines,

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1. For the background, statutory origin, development and functions of this office, see Town and City Government in Massachusetts.
2. Town Records, IX, 33, see entry 30.
3. Ibid., VIII, 533.
4. Annual Reports, 1906-39, passim, see entry 2.

purchase of equipment, water rates, appointment of personnel; place, date of meeting; signature of clerk of commission. Arr. by date of meeting. No index. Typed. Vols., 250 pp. 12 x 10 x 1; bdl., 12 x 10 x $\frac{1}{2}$. Memorial Bldg.: 2 vols., 1906-13, water dept. va., bsmt.; 1 bdl., 1922--, desk drawer, supt. off.

312. (ANNUAL REPORT OF WATER COMMISSIONERS), 1888, 1907--. In Annual Reports of the Town Officers, entry 2.

Contains:

i. Drains, 1888, 1907, 1930-33: Cost, total number of drains installed for year.

ii. Financial records:

a. Appropriations, amount and purpose of.

b. Expenditures, amount and purpose of. 1907-19, 1930-33 includes fixed expenditures, showing amount, principal, interest table of bonds; total amount of expenditures. 1907, 1909-13 includes reservoir expenditures, showing totals for chemicals and materials used, labor.

c. Receipts, 1927-29, 1934--: Amount, source of receipt.

iii. Mains, 1907--: Total expenditures for gates, extensions, supplies, materials. 1922-23 includes sizes of mains on each street.

iv. Meters, 1907-19, 1926-33: Cost, number of installations, replacements, repairs. Includes rate charged for water.

v. Narrative statement of departmental activities with list of expenditures for maintenance, 1888, 1907-34, 1937--.

vi. Rain chart, 1922-27: Monthly chart of precipitation in Athol.

vii. Trees, total number of acres planted, 1930-33.

313. (ANNUAL REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT), 1907, 1909. In Annual Reports of the Town Officers, entry 2.

Narrative report on duties and activities.

For memoranda of departmental activities 1906-7, see entry 329.

Meter Records
(See also entry 312-iv)

314. MFG. METERS; WATER DEPT. TOWN OF ATHOL, 1892--. 4 vols. (1-4). Title varies: Meter Register, Water Dept., Town of Athol, 1892-1929, 3 vols.

Record of readings of manufacturers' meters: Name, address of consumer; register number, date of meter reading; amount of consumption, charge; amount, date of payment; date account registered. 1 vol., 1892-1909, arr. by name of consumer and chron. thereunder; 3 vols., 1910--, arr. by register no. and chron. thereunder. Indexed alph. by name of consumer. Hdw. on ptd. form. 400 pp. 16 x 10 x 2. Memorial Bldg.: 2 vols., 1892-1917, water dept. va., bsmt.; 1 vol., 1918-29, water dept. va., assrs. off., rm. 16, first fl.; 1 vol., 1930--, safe, water dept off.

315. (RECORD OF METER READINGS - DWELLINGS), 1925--. 8 bdls., 1 file box (labeled by division no., dated). System estab. 1925.

Name, address of consumer; make, size, number of meter; quantity of water consumption, register number, date of meter reading, remarks. Arr. by register no. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. Bdls., 9 x 4 x 4; file box, 12 x 4½ x 18. Memorial Bldg.: 8 bdls., 1925-34, water dept. va., assrs. off., rm. 16, first fl.; 1 file box, 1935--, water dept. off.

316. MEASUREMENTS OF INDIVIDUAL HOUSE SERVICE (Record of Meter Locations), 1892--. 30 vols.

Name, address of consumer; register, service number; sketch of property on which meter is installed, date of installation. Arr. alph. by name of consumer. No index. Hdw. 250 pp. 8 x 5 x 1. Memorial Bldg.: 14 vols., 1892-1913, water dept. va., bsmt.; 16 vols., 1914--, safe, water dept. off.

317. MEASUREMENTS OF INDIVIDUAL HOUSE SERVICE (Card Record of Meter Locations), 1906--. 3 file boxes. System estab. 1906.

Name, address of consumer; service number. Also includes sketch of property on which meter is installed. Arr. by service no. For indexes, see entries 320, 321. Typed. 6 x 7 x 16. Safe.

318. (STREET INDEX TO HOUSE-SERVICE MEASUREMENTS), 1906--. 3 file boxes.

Index to Measurements of Individual House Service (Card Record of Meter Locations), entry 319: Name, address, service number of consumer. Arr. alph. by name of st. Typed. 6 x 7 x 16. Safe.

319. CONSUMER INDEX TO HOUSE-SERVICE MEASUREMENTS, 1906--. 3 file boxes.

For description, see entry 318. Arr. alph. by name of consumer. Typed. 6 x 7 x 16. Safe.

320. RECORD (of Meter Installations), 1926--. 3 vols. System estab. 1926.

Name of consumer; meter, register number; date of installation. Arr. by date of installation. No index. Hdw. 250 pp. 8 x 5 x 1.

321. ORDERS (Record of Applications for Water Service) TOWN OF ATHOL, 1892--. 4 vols. No title, 1907--, 3 vols.

Name, address of applicant; register number; reason for application, date thereof; signature of applicant. Arr. by date of application. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 400 pp. 15 x 12 x 1. Memorial Bldg.: 3 vols., 1892-1930, water dept. va., assrs. off., rm. 16, first fl.; 1 vol., 1931--, safe, water dept. off.

322. (Daily) SERVICE (Record) BOOK - ATHOL WATER DEPT. - TOWN OF ATHOL, 1892--. 5 vols. (1 vol., 1892-1912, A; 4 vols. 1912--, 2-5). Title varies slightly.
Name, address of consumer; nature, cost, date of service rendered; itemization of charges, total charged. Arr. by date of service. 1892-1912, indexed alph. by name of consumer; 1912--, no index. Hdw. 400 pp. 16 x 12 x 2. Memorial Bldg.: 2 vols., 1892-1927, water dept. va., assrs. off., rm. 16, first fl.; 3 vols., 1928--, safe, water dept. off.

323. (Record of Installation of) HYDRANTS, 1892--. 2 vols.
Measurements, street location of hydrant; date of installation. Arr. alph. by name of st. No index. Hdw. 150 pp. 8 x 5 x ½. Safe.

324. WATER WASTE (Gauges), 1892--. 1 vol.
Record of opening of guages to prevent freezing of pipes: Name, sketch of street location of gauge; date gauge opened. Arr. by date gauge opened. No index. Hdw. 150 pp. 8 x 5 x ½. Safe.

325. BLOW OFF MEASUREMENT BOOK, 1892--. 1 vol.
Record of blow-offs to purify water: Sketch of street location, dimensions, date of blow-off. Arr. by date of blow-off. No index. Hdw. 150 pp. 8 x 5 x ½. Safe.

326 GATE MEASUREMENT BOOK, 1892--. 5 vols. 1892-1906 also in (Monthly Summary of Ledger Accounts), entry 333-i.
Record of measurements to facilitate location of water gates: Name, location, sketch of gate; distance of gate to established points. Arr. alph. by name of st. No index. Hdw. 150 pp. 8 x 5 x ½. Safe.

327. RECORD (Superintendent's Memoranda of Departmental Activities), 1906-7. 1 vol.
Memoranda on inspections, hydrant and pipe line installations, repairs, weather conditions; monthly financial statement. Arr. by date of memorandum. No index. Hdw. 150 pp. 12 x 10 x 1. Water dept. va., bsmt.
For published annual report 1907, 1909, see entry 313.

Financial Records
(See also entry 311-ii)

328. ATHOL WATER CO. (Consumers' Accounts) ATHOL, MASS., 1892--. 8 vols. (1 vol., 1892-99, A; 7 vols., 1900--, unlabeled). System estab. 1892. Title varies: Rate Ledger, 1892-1929, 7 vols.
Name, address, register number of consumer; type of service; number of water closets, bathtubs; number of families in building and number of persons in each family; semiannual, annual water rate; amount, date of charge, payment. Arr. by register no. Indexed alph. by name of consumer. Hdw. on ptd. form. 400 pp. 18 x 12 x 2. Memorial Bldg.: 4 vols., 1892-1919, water dept. va., bsmt.; 3 vols., 1920-29, water dept. va., assrs. off., rm. 16, first fl.; 1 vol., 1930--, safe, water dept. off.

329. CASH (Receipt) BOOK - ATHOL WATER DEPARTMENT - ATHOL, MASS., 1892--. 14 vols. (1 vol., 1892-99, A; 4 vols., 1900-1911, 1937--, unlabeled; 9 vols., 1911-36, 4-12). Title varies: Petty Cash - Athol Water Company, 1892-1905, 2 vols.; no title, 1906-11, 2 vols.

Record of receipts from payments of water bills: Name, register number of consumer; itemization of charges; amount, date of receipt. 1892-1929 includes amount of front and back rate (amount billed for January to June, July to December, respectively); 1906-- includes amount of abatement, division number, monthly totals; 1930-- includes flat and monthly rate. Arr. by date of receipt. No index. Hdw. to 1911, hdw. on ptd. form thereafter. 400 pp. 14 x 12 x 2. Memorial Bldg.: 2 vols., 1892-1905, 8 vols., 1919-36, water dept. va., assrs. off., rm. 16, first fl.; 3 vols., 1906-18, water dept. va., bsmt.; 1 vol., 1937--, safe, water dept. off.

330. CASH (Receipts and Expenditures) WATER DEPARTMENT, TOWN OF ATHOL, 1905-1929. 5 vols. (2 vols., 1905-10, unlabeled; 3 vols., 1910-29, 2-4). System estab. 1905, discont. 1929. Title varies: Cash, 1905-10, 2 vols.

Receipts: Amount, source, date of receipt. Expenditures: Name of payee; amount, purpose, date of payment; voucher number. Arr. by date of receipt or expenditure. No index. Hdw. 500 pp. 16 x 9 x 2. Water dept. va., assrs. off., rm. 16, first fl., Memorial Bldg., Main St.

331. JOURNAL (of Receipts and Expenditures), 1929--. 1 vol. System estab. 1929.

Receipts from revenue collected, accounts receivable, meter rates, manufacturers' services, miscellaneous charges: Amount, source, date of posting of receipt. Expenditures for maintenance, extension of mains, services, meter repairs: Amount, purpose, date of posting of expenditure. Arr. by date of posting. No index. Hdw. 150 pp. 16 x $10\frac{1}{2}$ x $\frac{1}{2}$. Safe.

332. LEDGER - TOWN OF ATHOL, MASS., 1910--. 3 vols. (2 vols., 1910-29, 2-3; 1 vol., 1930--, unlabeled). No title, 1930--, 1 vol.

Summary of accounts as posted from Cash (Receipt) Book - Athol Water Department - Athol, Mass., entry 330; Journal (of Receipts and Expenditures), entry 332: Name of account; amount, source or purpose, date of receipt or expenditure; voucher number; monthly, annual totals. Arr. alph. by name of account and chron. thereunder. No index. Hdw. on ptd. head. 300 pp. 14 x 6 x 2. Safe.

333. (MONTHLY SUMMARY OF LEDGER ACCOUNTS), 1892-1906, 1927-28. 1 vol. System discont. 1928.

Name of account; summary of debit, credit items; amount of debit or credit balance; monthly totals. Also contains:

i. Gate Measurement Book, 1892-1906, entry 326.

ii. Readings at Phillipston Reservoir, 1892-94, Newton Reservoir, 1901-5: Height of water, date of reading, remarks.

(MONTHLY SUMMARY OF LEDGER ACCOUNTS) (Cont'd)

iii. Record of permission granted for use of water for special purposes or occasions, 1892-96: Name of consumer, reason for permit and date thereof, amount of charge, date of payment. Summary arr. by month; gate measurements, by name of st.; readings, by date of reading; permissions, by date permission granted. No index. Hdw. 160 pp. 10 x 8 x ½. Water dept. va., bsmt., Memorial Bldg.

334. EXPENDITURES, 1929--. 1 file box (dated). System estab. 1929.

Card record of expenditures for supplies and equipment: Name, address of vendor; amount, date of purchase; voucher number. Arr. alph. by name of vendor. No index. Hdw. 6 x 7 x 16. Safe.

335. RAYMONDS - TRIAL BALANCE WITH RECAPITULATIONS, 1931--. 1 vol. System estab. 1931.

Monthly recapitulations of account balances: Name of account; debit or credit account balance; monthly, annual total. Arr. by name of account and thereunder by month. No index. Hdw. under ptd. head. 50 pp. 14 x 8½ x ½. Safe.

336. (SCHEDULES OF BILLS PAYABLE, VOUCHERS), 1906--. 1 wooden box, 1 file drawer, 9 file boxes. System estab. 1906.

Copies of schedules, originals sent to town accountant: Name, address of creditor; amount, purpose of bill; number, date of voucher. Attached are duplicate vouchers authorizing payment of bills and showing same information as in schedules. Arr. by date of voucher. No index. Typed on ptd. form. Wooden box, 12 x 12 x 12; file drawer, 5 x 12 x 16; file boxes, 4 x 16 x 16. Memorial Bldg.: 1 wooden box, 1 file drawer, 1906-23, water dept. va., bsmt.; 9 file boxes, 1924--, safe, water dept. off.

337. (STUBS OF WATER BILLS SENT TO CONSUMERS), 1933--. 1 carton, 1 bdl.

Name, address of consumer; division, register number; meter reading; amount, date of bill, payment. Arr. by date of payment. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. Carton, 20 x 16 x 11; bdl., 3 x 7 x 5. Memorial Bldg.: 1 carton, 1933-37, water dept. va.; bsmt.; 1 bdl., 1938--, desk, water dept. off.

338. (STUBS OF VOUCHERS FOR PURCHASES OF SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT), 1906-16. 24 vols. System estab. 1906.

Name, address of vendor; amount, itemization of purchase; number, date of voucher. Arr. by date of voucher. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 100 pp. 6½ x 14½ x ½. Water dept. va., bsmt., Memorial Bldg.

339. INVOICE (for Supplies and Equipment) WATER DEPARTMENT - TOWN OF ATHOL, 1905-10. 1 vol. (1). System discont. 1910.

Name, address of vendor; amount, itemization, date of invoice. Arr. by date of invoice. Indexed alph. by name of vendor. Hdw. on ptd. form. 450 pp. 18 x 10 x 2. Water dept. va., assrs. off., rm. 16, first fl., Memorial Bldg.

Liens and Deeds

340. (RECORD OF WATER LIENS COMMITTED TO TAX COLLECTOR), 1932--. 1 vol. System estab. 1932.
Name, address of debtor; register, sheet number; date of assessment, amount of water lien; date of payment. Arr. by date of assessment. No index. Typed under ptd. head. 50 pp. 12 x 14 x $\frac{1}{2}$. Safe.

341. (ORIGINAL DEEDS), 1876--. 101 numbered envelopes in 1 file box. Last entry 1936.
Deeds to property owned by the department: Name, address of grantor, grantee; location, description of property; amount of consideration, terms, number, date of deed; place, date of acknowledgment by grantor; signature, seal of grantor, county justice of the peace; signatures of witnesses and county register of deeds; date, time instrument received, examined, recorded. Arr. by date of deed. For index, see entry 343. Hdw. on ptd. form to 1904, typed on ptd. form thereafter. 10 x 5 x 10. Water dept. va., assrs. off., first fl., rm. 16, first fl., Memorial Bldg.
For copies of deeds 1876-1905, see entry 344.

342. (INDEX TO ORIGINAL DEEDS), 1876-1936. 1 env. in 1 file box.
Name of grantor, location of property, volume and page reference to property records in county registry of deeds; number, date of deed; envelope number. Arr. by date of deed and thereunder by no. of env. containing instrument. Typed. 9 x 4 x 1/8. Water dept. va., assrs. off., rm. 16, first fl., Memorial Bldg.

343. (ABSTRACTS OF DEEDS TO PROPERTY TO BE PURCHASED FOR A RESERVOIR), 1845-1909. 1 carton.
Abstracts of deeds filed from 1845 to 1909 at county registry of deeds, examination of titles thereof made in 1910-11: Name, address of grantor, grantee; location, description of property; name of county justice of the peace, title examiner; date of recording, volume and page reference to property records in registry of deeds. Includes reports of title examiner: Report number, location of property; date of examination, report; notation of encumbrances and attachments (if any), signature of title examiner. Arr. by date of report. No index. Hdw. and typed on ptd. form. 16 x 12 x 12. Water dept. va., assrs. off., rm. 16, first fl., Memorial Bldg.

344. DEEDS - LAND PAPERS, 1876-1905. 1 carton.
Contains certified copies of deeds containing same information as found in entry 341. Also contains: Schedule of deeds to water rights, 1876-1904: Name of grantor, grantee; amount of consideration; type, date of installment; volume and page reference to property records at registry of deeds, date of recording. Arr. by date of recording. No index. Hdw. and typed on ptd. form. Water dept. va., assrs. off., rm. 16, first fl., Memorial Bldg.

Miscellaneous

345. CORRESPONDENCE, 1905--. 3 vols., 9 cartons, 2 file drawers.
Title varies: Letters, 1905-19, 3 vols., 9 cartons.
Correspondence with consumers, town officials, and supply vendors regarding service, complaints, administration, supplies and equipment: Name of correspondent, date of correspondence. 3 vols., 3 cartons, 1905-19, arr. by date of correspondence; 2 file drawers, 1920--, arr. alph. by name of correspondent. No index. Hdw. to 1911, typed thereafter. 600 pp. 14 x 2 x 1 to 12 x 4 x 12; 2 file drawers, 12 x 12 x 24. Memorial Bldg.: 3 vols., 9 cartons, 1905-19, water dept. va., bsmt; 2 file drawers, 1920--, water dept. off.
For other correspondence 1891, 1906, see entry 346-i.

346. (MISCELLANEOUS PAPERS), 1891, 1906. 1 carton.
Contains the following papers relative to purchase of water supply system by town:

i. Correspondence with consulting engineers and attorneys relative to purchase of water supply system.
ii. Inventory of equipment: Type, cost, listing of equipment; schedule of personal property, date of inventory.
iii. Transcripts of court case relative to purchase of water supply: Names of litigants, attorneys; nature of case, petition, controversy; manner of settlement, compensation; date of appointment of commission, transcript; signature of clerk of court.

Arr. chron. No index. Typed. 14 x 12 x 16. Water dept. va., bsmt., Memorial Bldg., Main St.

347. (MISCELLANEOUS RECORDS), 1876-1904. 1 carton.
Newspaper clippings relative to water company activities, 1876-1904; correspondence, copies of bylaws, record of pipe lines owned by water company, 1877-1904; contract for water service between town and water company, 1876; copy of mortgage on water company, 1892; report on valuation of water company, 1895; Athol water company treasurer's comparative financial statement, 1899-1901. Arr. by subject. No index. Typed. 250 pp. 12 x 9 x 1¼. Water dept. va., bsmt., Memorial Bldg., Main St.

348. (PLANS), 1895-1936. 1 vol. System estab. 1895. Last entry 1936.
Contains the following plans:

i. Dams: Location, dimensions, slope, horizontal and verticle scales of dam; locations of proposed improvements and gate-house, depth of water, high water mark, sea level references, total area covered by water; plan number.
ii. Distributing system: Location, size of pipe line, outlet; locations of overflow outlets and gate house, area covered by water; elevation at bottom of slope, top of hill; height of water line, storage capacity in gallons; plan number.

Water Commissioners - Miscellaneous [348]

(PLANS), (Cont'd)

iii. Existing and proposed pipe lines in connection with purification of water supply: Location of new and old pipe lines, gate-house, canal; plan number. Includes land elevation showing size of pipe lines; reservoir elevation showing location, size of blow-offs, air cocks.

iv. Filtration plant and equipment: Location, dimensions of plant; location, size of gate to filters, outlet of filters, raceway; plan number.

v. Newton, Phillipston and Silver Lake reservoir, dam and pumping station: Names of streets, swamps, woods, bounding reservoirs; capacity of water storage, locations of wasteway, and proposed improvements; plan number.

Arr. by subject. Indexed by subject and thereunder by plan no. Blue-print. 107 plans. 24 x 16 x 4. Water dept. va., assrs. off., rm. 16, first fl., Memorial Bldg.

XXXI. SEWER COMMISSIONERS[1]

Prior to the establishment of the sewer commissioners in 1894, plans and specifications for a proposed system of sewers had been prepared under the direction of a special committee authorized by the town for this purpose.[2] This board came into existence when the town accepted the provisions of a state law[3] and elected three sewer commissioners to serve for one, two and three-year terms, respectively.[4] Since that year a commissioner has been elected annually for a three-year term.[5] During the early years of the board one selectmen usually served on it, as was the case in 1896, 1898, 1899, from 1901 through 1903, from 1907, through 1909, and again in 1913.[6] In 1918 one of the members is listed also as superintendent of the sewer department.[7]

The report of this board for 1896, as printed in the town reports for that year, reads, in part:

> In the warrant for a town meeting to be held April 7, 1884, there was an article which read as follows: To see if the Town will vote to build a sewer through Main Street in the

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1. For the background, statutory origin, development and functions of this office, see Town and City Government in Massachusetts.
2. Annual Reports, 1894, p. 119, see entry 2.
3. Acts, 1893, ch. 304.
4. Town Records, VII, 65, see entry 30.
5. Ibid., XI, 332.
6. Annual Reports, 1896-1913, passim, see entry 2.
7. Town Records, XI, 284, see entry 30.

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Lower Village and appropriate money for the same, or act anything in relation thereto. This article marks the beginning of a very considerable amount of discussion on the subject of sewers and sewerage disposal, and was the foundation of one of the town's greatest improvements.

At this meeting of August 7th, 1884, a committee (of three) was appointed to investigate the matter. This committee was given $300 with which to defray expenses. It reported, April 6, 1885, and the meeting accepted its report. But further information was desired, and in November of the same year a committee (of five) was appointed to continue the investigation and report at the coming March meeting. At the appointed time the committee reported that the plans, presented by the former committee, were not feasible. This report was accepted, and no more progress on the sewerage question was made until August, 1887. At a meeting held that month it was voted to raise the sum of $10,000 with which to build a sewer, and the selectmen in office at that time (three) together with (three others) were elected a committee to complete the arrangements and build. It was voted that this committee should assess the abutters or parties benefited; such proportion of cost not to exceed one-half, and in such manner as in their judgment was right and just.

At the March meeting of the next year, C. F. Richardson (chairman) reported for his committee that the sewer could not enter Millers River, and that it would cost $50,000 to dispose of the sewerage on land. In August, the vote of the year previous to raise $10,000 to build a sewer, was rescinded.

Nothing more was done about sewers and sewerage until October 31, 1890, when the town voted that the sum of $6,000 be raised and appropriated to build and maintain a sewer from some point on Main Street, in the vicinity of C. F. Richardson's shop, down Main Street to some point at or near Millers River, below the iron bridge. The Selectmen were instructed to supervise the building, and to consider the matter of an annual charge to abutters for entering the sewer. . . .

On July 6, 1891 a committee of five was appointed by the moderator to consider the matter of assessment. . . May 6, 1891 the contract (for construction work) was signed, and on March 5, 1894 the committee secured an appropriation of $50,000 to be spent. . . .[1]

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1. Annual Reports, 1896, pp. 19 et seq., see entry 2.

This $50,000 appropriation was planned to take care of approximately eight miles of sewer construction.[1] However, it was anticipated that the amount appropriated would not be sufficient for the construction involved, and as a consequence, on March 5, 1891, three months prior to the action of the town, a committee of five had been appointed to petition for legislation which would enable the town to issue bonds. The proposed measure was passed by the General Court in 1892.[2] As a result a commission, termed the sinking fund commission, was established. New surveys were made, and it was decided to extend the sewer across the river. On August 6, 1894 the town signed a new contract for the work and construction was immediately started on the project.[3]

In April 1896, the town voted that one member of the commission should be the superintendent of sewers.[4] The commissioners have continued to function without further change in duties or office tenure. One member of the board is annual appointed to serve as chairman, and one as clerk.[5]

Except where otherwise noted, all records are in the consultation room off board of health and old age assistance office, second floor, Memorial Building, Main Street.

Minutes and Reports
(See also entry 261-xii)

349. CASH (Minutes of Meetings), 1908--. 1 vol.
Discussion and decisions relative to election of officers, purchase of supplies, awarding of contracts for building sewers; place, date of meeting; signature of clerk of commission. Arr. by date of meeting. No index. Hdw. 150 pp. 12 x 10 x 1. Va., coll. off., first fl., Memorial Bldg.

350. (ANNUAL REPORT OF SEWER COMMISSIONERS), 1895--. In Annual Reports of the Town Officers, entry 2.
Contains:

i. Bids awarded, 1899-1900, 1902-6: Name of contractor, description of bid.

ii. Financial records, 1895-99, 1907--: Amount of sewer rentals, cost of maintenance. 1907-35 includes amount of bonds paid, interest on bonds.

iii. House connections, 1895-98, 1907-24: Cost, total number of sewer extensions made to houses.

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1. Ibid., 1896, p. 37.
2. Acts, 1892, ch. 245.
3. Annual Reports, 1896, p. 37, see entry 2.
4. Ibid.
5. Town Records, XI, p. 284, see entry 30; Annual Reports, 1896-1938, passim, see entry 2.

(ANNUAL REPORT OF SEWER COMMISSIONERS), (Cont'd)

iv. Mains, 1907, 1912--: Total number of mains, branch mains laid.

v. Pipes, 1895-97: Total cost, total number of feet of pipe laid.

vi. Sewer sinking fund financial statement, 1900-1901, 1903-33: Name of bank in which money was deposited, total amount on hand.

351. SEWER LAYOUTS, 1885-1913. 1 bdl.

Copies of reports on lay-out of new sewers, submitted to selectmen: Name of property owner, location of sewer, amount awarded for land damages, signatures of commissioners. No arr. No index. Hdw., typed. 9 x 3 x 1. Bsmt. va., Memorial Bldg.

Applications and Permits

352. (RECORD OF APPLICATIONS TO LAY DRAIN PIPES), 1896--. 3 vols. System estab. 1896.

Name, address of applicant; name of drain layer, amount of fee, date of application, signature of applicant. Arr. by date of application. No index. Hdw: on ptd. form. 300 pp. 11 x 8½ x 2. 2 vols., 1896-1926, desk drawer, consultation rm.; 1 vol., 1927--, desk, supt. off. off water dept. off., rm. 17, first fl.

353. PERMIT RECORD - SEWER DEPARTMENT - TOWN OF ATHOL, 1895--. 1 vol. (1).

Record of permits issued for sewer installations: Name, number of street; permit number; date of installation of cellar connection, plumbing; remarks. Arr. by permit no. No index. Hdw. under ptd. head. 200 pp. 14 x 8 x 1. Desk drawer.

Financial Records
(See also entry 350-ii,-vi)

354. JOURNAL, SEWER DEPARTMENT, TOWN OF ATHOL, 1896--. 2 vols. (1, 2). System estab. 1896.

Original recording of departmental appropriation grants, adjusting and closing bookkeeping entries, transfer of appropriation credit between departments: Name of department or account; amount of debit, credit; explanation, date of entry. Arr. chron. 1896-1913, indexed alph. by name of service holder; 1914--, no index. Hdw. 400 pp. 14½ x 10 x 1½. Desk drawer.

355. JOURNAL, SEWER DEPARTMENT, TOWN OF ATHOL, 1894--. 1 vol. and 1 duplicate vol., 1894-1906.

Contains the following account with collector of taxes:

i. Abatements, 1896--: Name, service number of consumer; amount, date of abatement.

ii. Cash collected and paid to town treasurer, 1896--: Total amount collected, paid; service number of consumer, date of payment.

JOURNAL, SEWER DEPARTMENT (Cont'd)

iii. Service rentals committed for collection, 1896--: Service, voucher number; amount, date of commitment, collection.

Also contains:

iv. Appropriations, accounts of: Amount and date of, 1894-1937.

v. Bond issues, amount of each paid issue.

vi. Costs for flushing sewers, amount and date of, 1896--.

vii. Interest on bank deposits, 1894-1937: Amount, date of deposit, interest.

viii. Land damages, 1894-1932: Name of person or firm claiming damage, amount of damage claimed, total amount.

ix. Sinking fund, amount and year of appropriation of, 1894-1920.

Arr. by service no. 1896-1913, indexed alph. by name of consumer; 1914--, no index. Hdw. 400 pp. 16 x 10 x 2. Desk drawer.

356. SEWER DEPARTMENT - TOWN OF ATHOL, 1896--. 30 vols. (2 vols., 1896-1910, 1, 2; 28 vols., 1911--, 1-28, dated, and marked Jou.).

List of sewer rentals and charges: Name, number of street; name, address of consumer; amount, rate, type of rental; date of service. 1911-- includes number of rental, total charges. Arr. alph. by name of consumer. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 100 pp. 8½ x 7 x ½ to 300 pp. 24 x 19 x 4. Memorial Bldg.: 2 vols., 1896-1910, va., board of health and old age assistance off., rm. 23, second fl.; 28 vols., 1911--, consultation rm.

Plans

357. (MISCELLANEOUS CONSTRUCTION PLANS), 1884, 1894, 1902, 1907-8, 1918, 1922, 1924. 16 plans.

Contains profiles and plans of construction of:

i. Drainage system, 1894, 1907-8: Name of street; location of sewers, catch basins, inverted syphon, manholes, outlets, proposed pipelines; dimensions of all units of drainage system, surface elevations.

ii. Sewers, 1884, 1924: Name of street; locations of existing, proposed sewers; surface elevations.

iii. Sewer extension lines, 1902, 1907, 1918, 1922: Name of street; location of existing and proposed sewers, manholes, earth-bottom trenches, stone culvert, flush tanks; type, location, dimensions of pipes; surface elevations.

Various authors, publishers. Blueprint, black-and-white. Scales vary. 24 x 18 to 72 x 40. Va., board of health and old age assistance off., rm. 23, second fl., Memorial Bldg.

358. (PLAN OF SEWERAGE SYSTEM), 1894. 1 plan.

Name of street; location, dimensions of sewer lines, manholes, flush tanks, outlets. Includes surface elevation plan showing location of pipe lines. Waring, Chapman and Farquhar, Newport, Rhode Island. Black-and-white. 3":10'. 10 x 36. Water dept. va., assrs., off., rm. 16, first fl., Memorial Bldg.

359. SEWER SYSTEM AT ATHOL, MASS., 1899. 25 plans in 1 vol. Plans of sewer system showing name of street; location, number of manholes; location of lampholes, flush tanks. No arr. No index. Colored. Scale, 1":200'. 25 pp. 19 x 13 x $\frac{1}{8}$. Va., board of health and old age assistance off., rm. 23, second fl., Memorial Bldg.

XXXII. PARK COMMISSIONERS[1]

This office had its origin in 1909, when a board of three park commissioners was elected.[2] The tenure of office followed the rotation plan, with one elected to the board annually.[3] One member of the first board was also a selectman.[4] The commissioners organize and appoint one of their number to be chairman and one to serve as clerk.[5]

In addition to the following records, see entry 20 for plan of proposed park and playground 1921.

360. JOURNAL (Minutes of Meeting), 1927--. 1 vol. Discussion and decisions relative to appropriations, receipts and expenditures, maintenance of parks, issuing of permits; place, date of meeting; signature of secretary of commissioners. Arr. by date of meeting. No index. Hdw. 150 pp. 10 x 8 x $\frac{1}{2}$. News store of William H. Killay (secy.), Main St.

361. (ANNUAL REPORT OF PARK COMMISSIONERS), 1910, 1912--. In Annual Reports of the Town Officers, entry 2. Narrative report relative to upkeep and development of parks; appropriations. Includes: 1920, description of park system; 1935--, receipts from golf-course fees; 1936-37, names, purposes of WPA projects; 1937--, receipts from rental of fair grounds.

XXXIII. PLANNING BOARD AND WPA PROJECTS COMMITTEE[1]

The first Athol planning board was elected in 1931.[6] This board

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1. For the background, statutory origin, development and functions of this office, see Town and City Government in Massachusetts.
2. Town Records, IX, 305, 349, see entry 30.
3. Ibid., p. 330.
4. Annual Reports, 1909, p. 12, see entry 2.
5. Ibid., 1909-38 passim.
6. Town Records, XI, 70, see entry 30.

consists of five members, two of whom are chosen for terms of three years, two for two years, and one for a single year. The office has since been on the rotary system.[1] The board elects its chairman and a clerk.[2] In 1936 the reports of the town officers give the title as that of Athol Planning Board and WPA Projects Committee.[3]

Printed reports of the board have covered the activities and projects of both the ERA and the WPA, with the comment, in 1934, that because of them the cost of town government for that year was reduced by a direct saving of $22,000.[4]

In addition to the following record, see entry 165-viii, for relief project expenditures for school buildings 1934--, entry 361 for list of WPA projects 1936-37.

362. (ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PLANNING BOARD AND WPA PROJECTS COMMITTEE), 1936--. In Annual Reports of the Town Officers, entry 2.
Type of rezoning work to be done, total WPA allotment for town projects.

XXXIV. TREE WARDEN[5]

The first tree warden in Athol was elected at the annual town meeting in 1896.[6] Annual elections have continued to date.[7]

363. (ANNUAL REPORT OF TREE WARDEN), 1906--. In Annual Reports of the Town Officers, entry 2.
Summary of departmental activities, list of laws and restrictions relative to placement of trees.
For published report on trees planted 1930-33, see entry 312-vii.

364. (EXPENDITURES), 1933--. 1 vol.
Record of expenditures for salaries, brushing roadsides, cutting trees, posting warning notices, purchase of supplies and materials: Amount, purpose, date of expenditure. Arr. by date of expenditure. No index. Hdw. 100 pp. 8 x 6 x 1. Residence of Harold E. Bacon (warden), Pinedale St.
For published financial report 1907-16, see entry 307-iv.

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1. Annual Reports, 1936, p. 194, see entry 2.
2. Ibid., 1937, p. 139.
3. Ibid., 1936, p. 194.
4. Ibid., 1934, p. 81.
5. For the background, statutory origin, development and functions of this office, see Town and City Government in Massachusetts.
6. Town Records, VII, 235, see entry 30.
7. Ibid., XI, 331.

XXXV. MOTH SUPERINTENDENT[1]

In 1908 there appears in the annual reports of the town an item of expense amounting to $75.50 for moth suppression, this work having been done under the direction of surveyors of highways.[2] The following year the tree warden did the work. In 1909 the selectmen appointed a superintendent for the suppression of browntail moths, thereafter called the moth superintendent,[3] and this official has been appointed annually since that year.[4]

In 1921 the superintendent reported that the town was free from the browntail moths, "chiefly due to parasites and climatic conditions."[5] This official then turned his attention to gypsy moths, supplementing the work of the United States department of agriculture. In 1938 he had the assistance of five men in destroying the gypsy moth egg clusters, and reported that the residential part of the town was freer of these pests than it had been for five years.[6]

365. (ANNUAL REPORT OF LOCAL MOTH SUPERINTENDENT), 1909-16, 1920--.
In Annual Reports of the Town Officers, entry 2.
Narrative report of activities; number of egg clusters destroyed, number of pounds of lead used in spraying.
For published financial report 1912-16, see entry 308-ii.

366. (RECORD OF MOTH EXTERMINATIONS), 1927--. 1 vol.
Name of street, number of moths and egg clusters destroyed, date of extermination. Arr. by date of extermination. No index. Hdw. 100 pp. 10 x 8 x ½. Residence of Martin L. Gerhard (supt.), 556 Pequaig Avenue.

XXXVI. POLICE DEPARTMENT[1]

In the early years of the town, constables performed the duties later turned over to the police. It was not until 1872 that the town authorized the selectmen to appoint a police force, not to exceed ten men in number.[7]

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1. For the background, statutory origin, development and functions of this office, see Town and City Government in Massachusetts.
2. Annual Reports, 1908, p. 73, see entry 2.
3. Ibid., 1909, p. 157.
4. Town Records, XI, p. 327, see entry 30; Annual Reports, 1911-1938, passim, see entry 2.
5. Ibid., 1921, p. 152.
6. Ibid., 1938, p. 126.
7. Ibid., V, 64, see entry 30.

Next entry p. 174

This procedure was carried out in the following year;[1] but in 1874 and 1875 it was arranged by town vote that police duties were to be vested in the men who were elected as constables.[2] The system was changed in 1876 by authorizing the selectmen to appoint any number of policemen deemed necessary; four were appointed;[3] and this method of appointment prevailed until 1916. The number of these appointees varied from year to year, and it is not always possible to determine from the information given in the printed reports which were regular and which were special policemen. Later these positions were clearly indicated. Until the end of the nineteenth century the number of recorded appointments per year ranged from four to twenty-six.[4]

In 1901 the selectmen appointed fifteen special officers; in the year following there were but four; while again, circumstances necessitated as many as thirty-four appointments to cover special duties. The regular police, although not for many years full-time police, also varied from year to year in number; in 1902 nineteen are recorded; in 1906 twenty-eight, some of whom were doubtless special officers.

As early as 1904 the title, chief of police, appears in the records,[5] and this continues thereafter each year until 1916 when the position is listed as acting chief of police. This was the result of the acceptance, in 1916, of the provisions of a law which had been passed by the General Court fifteen years earlier, which placed all regular patrolmen on the civil service list. The "acting chief," by the change in designation, became eligible, as such, to receive the benefit of civil service.[6] The town, however, made a change in respect to this latter officer in 1918 by voting that a chief of police be appointed by the selectmen each year in March and that he should hold office during the pleasure of the board.[7] This continued to be the status of the office until 1927 when he became acting chief of police and keeper of the lockup,[8] his present title, and subject to civil service.

A police surgeon was first appointed by the selectmen in 1912 for a one-year term.[9] Annual appointments have since been made regularly, with the possible exception of the year 1937, when the title does not appear among the printed list of appointive town officers.[10] During these years

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1. Ibid., p. 88.
2. Ibid., pp. 114, 172.
3. Ibid., pp. 215, 236, 242.
4. Annual Reports, 1875-1900, passim, see entry 2.
5. Town Records, VII, 50, see entry 30.
6. Ibid., X, 64, 67.
7. Ibid., p. 183.
8. Annual Reports, 1918-1927, passim, see entry 2.
9. Town Records, IX, 519, see entry 30.
10. Annual Reports, 1913-39, passim, see entry 2.

he has been one of the special police officers. In 1930 the town voted to accept a state law providing for a reserve force.[1] No officers were listed under this designation in the annual reports before 1934, but appointments have been listed annually since.[2] In 1935, in addition to the acting chief of police and keeper of the lockup, there were listed in the annual reports a captain of police and five patrolmen. The following year the captain is again listed, but does not appear thereafter.[3]

In 1916, when the civil service listings of regular officers first appears in the printed reports, four such policemen were appointed. There were seven in 1921, and six thereafter through 1934. In 1935 the title was changed from policemen to patrolmen and five were appointed in that year and in 1936. In 1937 and 1938, eight patrolmen were appointed. In 1939 the department consisted of an acting chief of police who was also keeper of the lockup, eight patrolmen and five reserve men, all under civil service, and sixteen special officers, one of whom is police surgeon. The department maintains a station house and a cruising car.[4]

Except where otherwise noted, all records are in the chief's office, first floor, Police and Fire Department Building, Exchange Street.

Reports
(See also entry 370)

367. (OFFICER'S DAILY REPORT), 1933--. 34 bdls. (dated).
Record of daily activities: Name, route number of officer; date of report; time reported for duty, off duty; description of activity (sick or injured persons cared for, defects in sidewalk, weather conditions, etc.). Arr. by date of report. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 10 x 6 x 3. Police and Fire Dept. Bldg.: 33 bdls., 1933-37, bsmt. storeroom; 1 bdl., 1938--, desk drawer, chief's off.

Arrests

368. ATHOL POLICE DEPARTMENT (Record of Arrests) ATHOL, MASS., 1908--. 2 vols. (1, 2). System estab. 1908.
Name, address, birthplace, age, physical description, occupation, marital status of prisoner; nature of offense; date, time of arrest; disposition of case, list of articles in prisoner's possession at time of arrest, name of arresting officer, number of arrest report, date of court appearance, date set for trial. Arr. by date of arrest. For index, see entry 369. Hdw. on ptd. form. 300 pp. 16 x 12 x 2. Safe.

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1. Acts, 1930, ch. 15; Town Records, XI, 160, 348, 353, see entry 30.
2. Annual Reports, 1934-39, passim, see entry 2.
3. Ibid., 1935-39, passim.
4. Ibid., 1916-38, passim, see entry 2.

369. (INDEX TO RECORD OF ARRESTS), 1908--. 8 file boxes (A-Z). Name of offender, volume and page reference. Arr. alph. by name of offender. Hdw. 4 x 5½ x 12. File cabinet.

Motor Vehicle Records

370. (Reports of) MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENTS, 1930--. 22 folders.
No title, 1938, 1 folder.
Reports submitted to chief of police by police officers and motor vehicle operators: Names, addresses of vehicle owners; name, address, age, sex license number, years of driving experience, extent of injury of each operator; names, addresses, ages, sex of passengers, pedestrians killed or injured; statement regarding actions of operators and pedestrians at time of accident; type, location, date, time of accident; make, type, registration number of each vehicle; atmospheric, light, roadway conditions; names, addresses of witnesses; remarks, signature, title of officer (or operator); case number, date of report. Arr. alph. by name of operator. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 12 x 9½ x 12½. Police and Fire Dept. Bldg.: 21 folders, 1930-37, bsmt. storeroom; 1 folder, 1938--, desk drawer, chief's off.

371. (Notices of Intended) USED CAR SALES (or Transfers), 1930--.
2 bdls. (1 bdl., 1930-36, dated; 1 bdl., 1937--, unlabeled).
No title, 1937--, 1 bdl.
Name, address of purchaser; name of person or firm from whom vehicle was originally received; detail description of vehicle; signature, address of person making sale; date of notice. Reverse side shows name, address of person authorized to sell, exchange, or transfer ownership of vehicle; signature, title of authorizing agent; date of permit. Arr. by date of notice. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 5 x 7½ x ¼ to 5 x 7½ x 2. Police and Fire Dept. Bldg.: 1 bdl., 1930-36, bsmt. storeroom; 1 bdl., 1937--, desk drawer, chief's off.

XXXVII. ACTING CHIEF OF POLICE AND KEEPER OF LOCK-UP[1]

Although the title, keeper of the lock-up, does not appear in the printed town reports of Athol until 1883, there are references to the care of the lock-up under the charge of the truant officer in 1877, 1878, and 1879.[2] The reports for 1870 show an expense of $271.84 for building a lockup,[3] and from time to time thereafter money was paid to individuals

1. For the background, statutory origin, development and functions of this office, see Town and City Government in Massachusetts.
2. Annual Reports, 1877, p. 8; 1878, p. 8; 1879, p. 18, see entry 2.
3. Ibid., 1870, p. 9.

"for care of lockup".[1] During this same period, and for many years afterwards, the annual reports record for each year, varying sums of money expended "for crackers for the lockup", indicating its continued use.[2] In 1879 a new lockup costing $983.85 was built.[3]

In 1883 one of the three truant officers of the town was designated "truant officer and keeper of the lockup", this being the first appearance of the official title in the town reports. The double function was the usual practice until 1886 when the appointment was given to a man who was not at the same time a truant officer.[4] From time to time, but not every year, the annual reports up through 1926 record the appointment of a keeper of the lock-up and the position presumably held over during the years when no appointment was recorded.

The town records in 1892 show the appointment of two keepers of the lock-up, one for the lower village and one for the upper village.[5] In 1927, and thereafter through 1938 the title is combined with that of the acting chief of police.[6]

372. (ANNUAL REPORT OF CHIEF OF POLICE), 1906, 1912-17, 1938--.
In Annual Reports of the Town Officers, entry 2.
Contains report of:

i. Arrests: Causes, total number of arrests. 1906, 1938-- includes recapitulation table showing total number of arrests against person, property, public order. 1918 includes occupations, nature of offenses of males, females, residents, non-residents, children; sex of child arrested, disposition of case.
ii. Fines, 1918: Total amount imposed, collected.
iii. Departmental activities, 1938--.
iv. Number of cases investigated, defective street lights.

XXXVIII. CONSTABLE[7]

Among the original officers elected at the first town meeting in Athol, held on March 29, 1762, were two constables, chosen for a term of one year each.[8] Two individuals continued to be elected annually until

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1. Ibid., 1870-1886, passim.
2. Ibid.
3. Ibid., 1879, p. 22.
4. Ibid., 1886, p. 13.
5. Town Records, VI, 439-440, see entry 30.
6. Annual Reports, 1927-1938, passim, see entry 2.
7. For the background statutory origin, development and functions of this office, see Town and City Government in Massachusetts.
8. Town Records, I, 2, see entry 30.

1765,[1] and thereafter through 1894, the number varied from three to ten.[2] Since then, three constables have been elected annually up to the present time. In addition to the regular elected force the selectmen sometimes appointed one or more individuals of their own choosing. Thus in the years 1906, 1907, 1908, and 1917 they appointed a fourth constable,[3] and in 1933 they appointed two more than were elected at the annual meeting.[4]

From the beginning of the town's history in 1762 until 1788, the constables served as tax collectors.[5] Even after the office was separated in 1788, the tax collector was made a constable immediately after his election, and this method of appointment continued for sixty-eight years.[6] For two years, 1867 and 1868, the constables performed the duties of truant officers.[7]

The officer keeps no records.

XXXIX. FIRE DEPARTMENT[8]

On May 26, 1817, the town authorized the selectmen to appoint seventeen enginemen.[9] This action followed the acceptance of a report returned by a committee of three, which had been appointed on March 3rd of that year, recommending the purchase of a fire engine. The town, however, agreed to pay only one-third of the cost of the apparatus, the other two-thirds to be raised by public subscription.[10] The original fire fighting force was unpaid, but in 1835, following the usual practice, the members were granted exemption from payment of poll taxes.[11] This was their only compensation for fifteen years, and then in 1850 the town voted to pay each engineman three dollars per annum in addition to the poll tax exemption.[12] The status of the force remained the same until 1863, being voluntary in so far as membership was concerned, but subject at all times to the approval of the selectmen. In that year the selectmen appointed eight fire enginemen for a one-year term.[13] From that time, annually through 1904, the number appointed varied from two to eight men,[14] then three men were appointed regularly until 1934, except in 1914 when there were four. During

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1. Ibid., I, 6-10.
2. Ibid., p. 55; VII, 86.
3. Ibid., VII, 143; XI, 331; Annual Reports, 1906-17, passim, see entry 2.
4. Ibid., 1933, p. 7.
5. Town Reports, I, 2, 483, see entry 30.
6. Ibid., p. 52; IV, 83.
7. Ibid., IV, 353, 409.
8. For the background, statutory origin, development and functions of this office, see Town and City Government in Massachusetts.
9. Town Records, II, 257, see entry 30.
10. Ibid., pp. 233-234.
11. Ibid., III, 102.
12. Ibid., p. 347.
13. Ibid., IV, 249.
14. Ibid., VII, pp. 16, 17, 449.

these years these men are listed in the annual reports as engineers of the fire department.[1] In 1934 the town authorized the appointment of a chief of the fire department, together with two deputy chiefs; similar appointments were made in 1935 and 1936; thenceforth one chief and one deputy were annually appointed. The department in 1939 consisted of seven full-time men and thirty call firemen.[2]

The fire department throughout the years has been subject to many changes in plan of operation and personnel, and for many years the work was done under the handicap of inadequate appropriations. Several fires of considerable magnitude, among them the destruction of the Masonic and Central blocks in 1880, with a loss of more than $91,000, finally called to the attention of the town the need for better fire protection. So inadequate was the action taken at the time, however, that by 1886 conditions had become so bad that the entire force of regular men resigned in a body,[3] Apparently conditions did not improve greatly for the report rendered by the department in 1890 reads, in part:

> The appropriation is so small that it has to be overdrawn to keep the apparatus in ordinary repair. The department is so short that the members cannot be furnished with coats to protect themselves from cold and water. It is foolish to expend $5,000 per year for our department and have no way to get the apparatus to a fire. . . .[4]

In 1893 the number of men connected with the department was 59, and the number remained at about this figure until the full-time men were appointed when the department was reorganized in 1934.[5] By degrees the physical equipment of the department was increased until in 1937 there were ten pieces of apparatus, including an ambulance, and two well-planned fire stations, the whole representing an investment of approximately $125,000; a department which today compares favorably with that of any other Massachusetts town of similar size.[6]

Except where otherwise noted, all records are in the engineers' room, second floor, Athol Fire Station I, Exchange Street.

Minutes and Reports

373. RECORDS, 1874-1934. 4 vols. System discont. 1934.
Minutes of meetings of board of fire engineers: Discussion and decisions relative to approval of bills, appointment of firemen, election of officers;

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1. Annual Reports, 1905-1934, passim, see entry 2.
2. Athol, the Ideal Town; Town Records, IX, 170, 349, see entry 30.
3. Annual Reports, 1886, p. 21, see entry 2.
4. Ibid., 1890, p. 76.
5. Ibid., 1893-1933, passim.
6. Athol, the Ideal Town.

date of meeting. Also contains: Record of fires, 1874-1913: Name of property owner; place, cause, date of fire; amount of damage, number of men fighting fire. Minutes arr. by date of meeting; record of fires arr. by date of fire. Minutes, no index; record of fires indexed alph. by name of property owner. Hdw. 300 pp. 10 x 8 x 2. 3 vols., 1874-1913, bsmt. va. Memorial Bldg.; 1 vol., 1914-34, eng. rm.

374. RECORDS - TULLY HOOK AND LADDER CO. #2, 1894-1916. 1 vol.
Contains:

i. Minutes of meetings: Discussion and decision relative to activities of company, approval of bills; names of company members, date of meeting.

ii. Record of cash receipts and expenditures: Receipts from fines and proceeds from entertainment, showing name of payer; amount, source, date of receipt. Expenditures for salaries, maintenance, equipment, showing name of payee; amount, purpose, date of expenditure.

iii. Record of fires: For description, see entry 373.

Minutes arr. by date of meeting; receipts and expenditures arr. chron.; fire records arr. by date of fire. No index. Hdw. 300 pp. 10 x 8 x 1. Bsmt. va., Memorial Bldg., Main St.

375. (ANNUAL REPORT OF FIRE CHIEF), 1882--. In Annual Reports of the Town Officers, entry 2.
Contains:

i. Appropriation, total amount of, 1882-1916.

ii. Equipment, 1935: Type, condition of each piece of equipment.

iii. Expenditures for fighting fires, repairs, fuel, supplies and equipment, rental of horses, snow removal, salaries, use of hydrants, 1882-1917: Amount, purpose of expenditure; total expenditures.

iv. Fires, 1899-1924: Name of property owner, occupant; amount of insurance carried, property loss; box number, date of fire.

v. Hose, 1896-99: Total number of feet, cost.

vi. Narrative report of departmental activities showing types, number of fires; number of fire alarms, calls answered; total amount of insurance on all buildings endangered by fires, total insurance loss on all fires, recommendations for new equipment and reasons therefor, 1916-34, 1936--.

vii. Personnel, 1935: Name, title of member of department.

Record of Fires
(See also entries 373, 374-iii, 375-iv,-vi)

376. A.F.D. REPORT OF FIRES, 1884--. 7 vols. (4 vols., 1900-1927, 1-4; 3 vols., 1928--, unlabeled). Missing: 1895-99. Title varies: Record of Fires - Athol 1884-94, 1 vol.; no title, 1927-38, 3 vols., 1874-1913 also in Records, entry 373.
Name of property owner, occupant; location, description, valuation of property; cause, date, time of fire; amount of insurance coverage,

payment, damage; statement as to partial or total loss of building. Arr. by date of fire. No index. Hdw. under ptd. head. 50 pp. 12 x 10 x 1½ to 200 pp. 10½ x 11 x 2. 4 vols., 1884-1924, bsmt. va. Memorial Bldg.; 3 vols., 1924--, eng. rm.

For annual published report of fires 1899-1924, see entry 375-iv.

Ambulance Service

377. (RECORD OF AMBULANCE CALLS), 1935--. 2 bdls. System estab. 1935.

Name, address of patient; nature of injury; name of hospital, doctor, operator of ambulance; date, time of call; remarks. Arr. by date of call. No index. Typed. 5 x 4 x 1½. Desk drawer.

378. (SERVICE ORDERS), Nov. 1935--. 10 vols. System estab. 1935.

Copies of orders to operator authorizing use of ambulance: Name, address of person transported, informant; name of hospital taken to, number of order, amount of service charge, date of service. Arr. by date of service and orders numbered consecutively. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 55 pp. 8½ x 4 x ½. Desk.

379. TOWN OF ATHOL, BILLS RECEIVABLE, ACCOUNTING DEPARTMENT, 1935--. 1 vol. System estab. 1935.

Monthly list of bills receivable for ambulance service: Name, address of patient; date service rendered; amount, number of bill; amount, date of payment, abatement; total amount of bill. Arr. by date of service. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 30 pp. 14 x 2½ x 1.

Permits

380. (Applications for) OIL BURNER PERMITS, 1934--. 5 file boxes.

Name of municipality; name, address of applicant; location, make, capacity, date of installation of storage tank; name of person, firm making installation; cost, dates of approval and issue of permit; signature of applicant. Arr. alph. by name of applicant. No index. Hdw. and typed on ptd. form. 12 x 12 x 4. Desk.

Financial Records
(See also entries 374-ii, 375-i, -iii, 379)

381. JOURNAL, FIRE DEPARTMENT, TOWN OF ATHOL, 1909-20. 1 vol. System discont. 1920.

Original recording of departmental grants, adjusting and closing bookkeeping entries, transfer of appropriation or credit between departments: Name of department or account, amount credited; explanation, date of entry; amounts, numbers of vouchers paid; order number, total amount for month. Arr. chron. No index. Hdw. 250 pp. 16 x 10 x 1.

382. LEDGER, FIRE DEPARTMENT, TOWN OF ATHOL, 1909--. 2 vols. (1, 2).

Summary of accounts as posted from Journal - Fire Department - Town of Athol, entry 381: Name, number of account; amount, date of debt, credit posting; account balance, total amount for month, amount of unexpended appropriation balance. Arr. alph. by name of account. No index. Hdw. 300 pp. 16 x 10 x 1. Safe.

383. (MONTHLY RECORD OF ORDERS DRAWN ON TOWN TREASURER), 1878-98. 2 vols. Missing: 1889-96.

Name of fireman for whom order was drawn, place services rendered, amount paid each fireman, total amount paid for month, yearly total, date of order. Arr. by date of order. No index. Hdw., hdw. under ptd. head. 100 pp. 6 x 5 x 1. Bsmt. va., Memorial Bldg., Main St.

384. CASH BOOK, 1878-89. 1 vol.

Record of money due each fireman and record of fines for nonattendance at fires and meetings of department: Name of fireman; amount, date of fine; amount due fireman for service; amount, date of payment by town treasurer; balance, signature of fireman. Arr. by name of fireman. No index. Hdw. 300 pp. 7 x 4 x 1. Bsmt. va., Memorial Bldg., Main St.

XL. FOREST FIRE WARDEN[1]

At the annual town meeting in 1818 four forest fire wardens were elected.[2] The number of wardens fluctuated from four in 1818 to fifteen in 1862.[3] From 1863 to 1873 the office was filled by appointment by the selectmen, and the number of wardens varied from four to ten annually.[4] In 1873 the town voted to accept the statute regarding the appointment of fire wardens, and from 1873 to 1910 the number of wardens appointed annually by the selectmen ranged from two to six.[5] In the town reports for 1894 and for 1896 the title of the office appears simply as "fire warden",[6] otherwise the older designation has been retained. Since 1907 one forest fire warden has been appointed annually by the selectmen.[7]

This officer keeps no records.

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1. For the background, statutory origin, development and functions of this office, see Town and City Government in Massachusetts.
2. Town Records, II, 241, see entry 30.
3. Ibid., p. 241; IV, 275.
4. Ibid., IV, 249; V, 75.
5. Ibid., V, 75; IX, 420.
6. Annual Reports, 1894, p. 65; 1896, p. 154, see entry 2.
7. Ibid., 1907-1938, passim.

XLI. DOG OFFICER[1]

In 1799 the town voted to levy a tax on all dogs, and to apply the resulting revenue to the maintenance and repair of the highways.[2] In 1854 this income was allocated to the support of the schools;[3] in 1887 and thereafter to the public library.[4] A dog officer was elected in 1906 and in 1907,[5] after which the position is not mentioned in the town records or the annual reports until 1913 when the selectmen appointed a dog officer for the first time.[6] One such official has since been appointed by the selectmen each year.[7]

The dog officer keeps no records.

XLII. ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR[1]

The town, in 1931, authorized the selectmen to appoint a man to the position of electrical inspector. The vote required that the appointee should have held a state license for five years.[8] The office is listed among the regular annual appointees since 1933.[9]

The inspector keeps no records.

XLIII. SEALER OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES[1]

From 1801 through 1861 the selectmen appointed one sealer of weights and measures annually.[10] There is no mention of the office in the town records between 1862 and 1876. In 1877 one sealer was appointed with a salary of $10 per annum.[11] The office does not appear again until 1887;

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1. For the background, statutory origin, development and functions of this office, see Town and City Government in Massachusetts.
2. Town Records, II, 67, see entry 30.
3. Ibid., IV, 45.
4. Ibid., p. 152.
5. Annual Reports, 1906-07, passim, see entry 2.
6. Town Records, IX, 613, see entry 30; Annual Reports, 1913, p. 10, see entry 2.
7. Ibid., 1914-38, passim.
8. Town Records, XI, 82, see entry 30.
9. Ibid., XI, 330; Annual Reports, 1931-1938, passim, see entry 2.
10. Town Records, II, 94; IV, 199, see entry 30.
11. Annual Reports, 1877, p. 8, see entry 2.

it is not mentioned in the reports for 1888; thereafter to date one sealer has been regularly appointed. The position has been under the civil service since 1934.[1] In 1915 the town paid the town of Gardner $9.48 for "sealing druggists' weights", although Athol had a regular sealer at the time.[2]

Except where otherwise noted, all records are in the residence of William D. Mellen (sealer), 372 Crescent Street.

385. (ANNUAL REPORT OF SEALER OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES), 1902-3, 1909--. In Annual Reports of the Town Officers, entry 2. Total number of weights, milk bottles, platform scales sealed. 1902, 1915, 1917-37 includes total number of scales condemned. 1920-- includes total number of licenses, stores, barrels, wood measurements, labels inspected.

386. OFFICE RECORD BOOK (of Inspections), 1916--. 4 vols. Monthly record of tests: Name, address of owner of commodity or measuring device; results, date of test; amount of fee paid, monthly total. Arr. by date of test. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 250 pp. 12 x 18 x 1.

387. INSPECTOR RECORD, 1935--. 4 vols. Record of field inspections of measuring devices and reweighing of commodities: Name, address of owner; type of device, commodity; results, date of inspection. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 100 pp. 10 x 12 x 1.

388. (RECORD OF FEES RECEIVED FOR INSPECTIONS), 1935--. 7 vols. Prior records destroyed. Name, address, nature of business of owner of weights, scales, measures; results, date of test; amount of fee paid, signature of sealer. Arr. by date of test. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 250 pp. 12 x 6 x 1.

XLIV. SURVEYORS OF LUMBER[3]

The first surveyor of lumber was elected at a town meeting in 1781;[4] one surveyor elected each year through 1797;[5] two elected in 1798 and

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1. Town Records, VIII, 395; XI, 340, see entry 30; Annual Reports, 1889-1938, passim, see entry 2.
2. Ibid., 1915, p. 91.
3. For the background, statutory origin, development and functions of this office, see Town and City Government in Massachusetts.
4. Town Records, I, 189, see entry 30.
5. Ibid., p. 204; II, 43.

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1799;[1] one elected from 1800 through 1837;[2] two elected from 1838 through 1845;[3] the number increased to three from 1846 through 1852;[4] and thereafter they ranged from four to eleven until 1921.[5] The office became appointive in 1921 and from two to eight surveyors were appointed by the selectmen through 1935, since which year three have been appointed yearly.[6]

The surveyors keep no records.

XLV. MEASURER OF WOOD AND BARK[7]

The office of measurer of wood and bark dates back to 1836, when two were elected for a term of one year.[8] Between the years 1836 and 1886 the number ranged from two to five, and from 1887 to 1905 from three to six.[9] In 1904 and 1905 four surveyors were elected although each year one of them failed to qualify.[10] In 1906 the title of the office was changed to measurer of wood and bark and two were appointed in that year, of whom one declined to serve. From 1907 through 1920 the number of measurers ranged from two to four.[11] From 1921 to the present the selectmen each year have appointed one measurer of wood and bark.[12]

This officer keeps no records.

XLVI. PUBLIC WEIGHERS[7]

This office was created in 1880, when three public weighers were elected for a term of one year.[13] Four weighers were elected annually

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1. Ibid., II, 55, 57.
2. Ibid., III, 126.
3. Ibid.
4. Ibid., p. 327; IV, 5, 481; X, 327.
5. Ibid., IV, 481; X, 327.
6. Ibid., XI, 256, 348; Annual Reports, 1921-38, passim, see entry 2.
7. For the background, statutory origin, development and functions of this office, see Town and City Government in Massachusetts.
8. Town Records, III, 110, see entry 30.
9. Ibid., III-IV, passim.
10. Annual Reports, 1904, p. 4; 1905, p. 4, see entry 2.
11. Ibid., 1906-20, passim.
12. Ibid., 1921-39, passim.
13. Town Records, V, 401, see entry 30.

from 1883 to 1893,[1] and five thereafter until 1898.[2] In 1892 the selectmen appointed an incumbent of their own choosing.[3] The number of officers since 1898 has varied from four to fourteen, the appointments having been made by the selectmen.[4] No public weighers are listed in the annual reports for 1909, 1910, and 1932. In 1938 the nine weighers included one woman.[5]

These officers keep no records.

XLVII. FENCE VIEWERS[6]

Two fence viewers were elected at the first town meeting, held in 1762.[7] Regular annual elections to this position continued through 1920, with the exception of 1888 when the office was not filled. Several times during this period as many as five fence viewers were elected, but after 1887 the number generally elected was two. Again, at various time from 1902 through 1920, the number of persons elected to this office was often greater than the number who served, the others either declining or failure to qualify.[8] However, since 1921, when the office became appointive, two fence viewers have been named by the selectmen annually and have served with regularity.[9]

389. (ANNUAL REPORT OF FENCE VIEWERS), 1920, 1924. In Bonds, Jury Lists, Perambulation Certificates, Auditor's Reports., Etc., entry 21-iii.

Name of petitioners requesting survey of fence, location of fence; description of location and boundaries of fence to be maintained, and statement of findings on condition thereof: instructions designating responsibility of maintenance of fence, statement that examination was made after specified conditions were fulfilled, approval of existing conditions; signatures of fence viewers.

For record of division of fences 1795-1870, see entry 30-i.

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1. Ibid., IV, 436.
2. Ibid., IV, 489; V, 288.
3. Annual Reports, 1892, p. 4, see entry 2.
4. Town Records, X, 396; XI, 353, see entry 30; Annual Reports, 1898-1938 passim, see entry 2.
5. Ibid., 1909-38, passim.
6. For the background, statutory origin, development and functions of this office, see Town and City Government in Massachusetts.
7. Town Records, I, 2, see entry 30.
8. Ibid., I, 6; X, 327. Annual Reports, 1902, p. 4; 1904, p. 4; 1920, p. 4, see entry 2.
9. Town Records, X, 426, see entry 30; Annual Reports, 1921-39, passim, see entry 2.

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XLVIII. MODERATOR[1]

The office of moderator was one of the first to be filled when the Athol town government was organized on March 29, 1762.[2] The first recorded payment for this position is in 1891, when the moderator received $25 for his services.[3] Annual elections have continued since the office was established, but not until 1912 does the moderator appear in the list of offices elected annually, as printed in the annual reports of the town.[4] In 1916 the town voted to have the moderator appoint fifteen members to serve as an advisory committee, and he has since made appointments as the various terms expired.[5]

The moderator keeps no records.

XLIX. TOWN SOLICITOR[1]

The office of town solicitor was created in 1783, when the town voted to employ an agent to defend the town in all suits brought against it.[6] At various times throughout the town's history this duty was delegated to the board of selectmen.[7] but in 1918, it was voted that a solicitor be appointed annually by the selectmen.[8] This system still prevailed in 1939.[9]

390. (CORRESPONDENCE), 1936--. 1 file drawer.
Correspondence from other town departments relative to solicitor's opinions on administration of town government. Arr. by date of correspondence. No index. Typed. 12 x 12 x 24. Off. of A. W. Plotkin (solicitor), second fl., 462 Main St.

L. MEMORIAL HALL COMMITTEE

The Memorial Hall committee was created in 1924, when it was voted to have the advisory committee of the town appoint a committee of six to serve on this board for a one-year term.[10] In 1925 the number of

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1. For the background, statutory origin, development and functions of this office, see Town and City Government in Massachusetts.
2. Town Records, I, 2, see entry 30.
3. Annual Reports, 1891, p. 80. see entry 2.
4. Town Records, XI, 329, see entry 30.
5. By-Laws, Town of Athol, p. 2.
6. Town Records, II, 434, see entry 30.
7. Ibid., X, 115.
8. Ibid., p. 226.
9. Ibid., XI, 348.
10. Ibid., X, 586, see entry 30.

committeemen was increased to seven, and the committee became one of the regular standing committees of the town, with regular annual appointments of six members thereafter.[1] The committee has general supervision of the Town Hall, employs the janitors, and has charge of such matters as heat, light, repairs and general upkeep, and the use of the civic auditorium.[2]

No records of the committee have been found.

1. Annual Reports, 1925-1938, see entry 2.
2. Town Records, X, 586, see entry 30.

PART C. DEFUNCT OFFICES

LI. DEER REEVE[1]

Two deer reeves were elected for a term of one year at the first town meeting in Athol in 1762.[2] The duties of the deer reeves concerned the protection and increase of moose and deer as outlined by statute. From 1763-1786 from one to five deer reeves were elected annually.[3] After 1786 the office became obselete.

No records have been found for this office.

LII. FIELD DRIVER[1]

The office of field driver in the early days of the town was an important and busy one. Two field drivers were elected at the first town meeting, for one-year terms.[4] During the period from 1763 to 1829 the number elected varied from two to seven,[5] and from 1830 until 1890 the town elected from 6 to as many as 25 persons at a time to this office.[6] The duties naturally diminished greatly in later years, and from 1891 to 1920 only two, three or four were annually elected.[7] The office eventually became an honorary one. The selectmen appointed two field drivers each year from 1921 to 1934, when the office was discontinued.[8]

No records have been found for this office.

LIII. HOG REEVE[1]

Two hog reeves were elected at the first town meeting in 1762.[9] From 1763 through 1833, after which the office became obsolete, the number of hog reeves elected annually ranged from two to ten.[10]

No records have been found for this office.

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1. For the background, statutory origin, development and functions of this office, see Town and City Government in Massachusetts.
2. Town Records, I, 2, see entry 30.
3. Ibid., I, 5, 485.
4. Town Records, I, 2, see entry 30.
5. Ibid., pp. 6, 142; II, 8, 343; III, 19.
6. Ibid., p. 39; VI, 296.
7. Ibid., p. 360; X, 327.
8. Ibid., p. 429; IX, 163.
9. Ibid., I, 2, see entry 30.
10. Ibid., p. 6; III, 189.

LIV. SURVEYOR OF LEATHER[1]

The office of surveyor of leather existed in many early New England towns. Athol elected one at its first town meeting in 1762.[2] From 1762 through 1920 one sealer or surveyor of leather was elected annually.[3] From 1921 to 1924 the selectmen appointed one annually, after which the office became obsolete.[4]

No records have been found for this office.

LV. SURVEYOR OF SHINGLES[1]

This is one of the numerous offices which changed conditions have rendered obsolete. It was established at the first town meeting, when a sealer of boards and shingles was elected.[5] The following year the title of this officer was recorded as sealer of boards and shingles, hoops and staves,[6] and the office was filled annually until 1782.[7] At that time it was discontinued, but in 1930, 1934 and 1935 the selectmen for some reason revived the ancient office and appointed a surveyor of shingles.[8] Since 1935 the office has lapsed, its duties being presumably taken over by the surveyors of lumber.

No records have been found for this office.

LVI. TYTHINGMEN[1]

In keeping with prevailing custom Athol elected two tythingmen at the first town meeting in 1762.[9] Both were elected for one year terms. At that time the office of tythingman was one of the most important in the town. His duties included the enforcement of the strict laws which governed the Sabbath, apprehension of idle and disorderly persons, and the listing

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1. For the background, statutory origin, development and functions of this office, see Town and City Government in Massachusetts.
2. Town Records, I, 2, see entry 30.
3. Ibid., I, 2; X, 385.
4. Ibid., p. 428, 595.
5. Town Records, I, 3, see entry 30.
6. Ibid., p. 6.
7. Ibid., pp. 6, 189.
8. Ibid., XI, 76, 164, 215.
9. Town Records, I, 3, see entry 30.

of those who failed to take the oath of fidelity to the king and colony.[1] Between the years 1763-1836 the number of tythingmen elected fluctuated from two to seven.[2] After the latter year the office became defunct.

No records have been found for this office.

LVII. SURVEYOR OF WHEAT[3]

This was a colonial office which had a very brief existence in Athol. It was established in 1764, when two surveyors were elected for one year.[4] The following year only one was chosen.[5] In 1766 and 1767 the town elected two, but after the latter date the office was permanently discontinued.[6]

No records have been found for this office.

LVIII. POUND KEEPER[3]

From 1771 until 1920, one pound keeper was elected annually for a term of one year.[7] Between 1921 and 1934 a pound keeper was appointed annually by the selectmen.[8] After 1934 the office became obsolete.

No records have been found for this office.

LIX. SEXTON[3]

This is an obsolete office, but unlike most of the others which are now extinct, it was not created until early in the nineteenth century. The first mention of the office in the records is in 1808, when the town elected two.[9] They were elected annually from that time until 1921, the

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1. Col. Records, (1674-1676), 5, 133.
2. Town Records, I, 6, see entry 30.
3. For the background, statutory origin, development and functions of this office, see Town and City Government in Massachusetts.
4. Town Records, I, 10, see entry 30.
5. Ibid., p. 15.
6. Ibid., pp. 20, 25.
7. Ibid., I, 56, 75; II, 8; X, 327, see entry 30.
8. Ibid., X, 429; XI, 163.
9. Ibid., II, 155, see entry 30.

number varying from three to ten.[1] From that year until 1926, when the last one was named, either one or two were appointed annually by the selectmen.[2]

No records have been found for this office.

1. Ibid., p. 167; X, 327.
2. Ibid., pp. 425, 749.

APPENDIX

State Archives Pertaining to Athol

Unless otherwise specified these are located in the Massachusetts Archives, Room 438, State House, Boston.

1. (ORDER FOR SETTLEMENT OF NEW TOWNSHIPS), Apr. 20, 1733. 1 sheet. Order of general assembly laying out four new townships, each six miles square, one at Paquoiag on Millers River, two on Ashuwelet River above Northfield, and one in eastern country at head of Berwick, to be surveyed by committee of court at public expense and reported at fall session; also that committee be appointed to admit settlers, lay out house lots and direct drawing thereof; that 63 house lots be laid out in each township, one for first settled minister, one for ministry, and one for each of 60 settlers; that rest of land likewise be divided in 63 parts and that one year be allowed for admission of settlers; that five pounds be paid by each settler and used for expenses, building of meetinghouse or as court shall order; also that each settler live on his land within three years after admission, build a house, fence, till or fit for mowing eight acres of land; that each proprietor who does not meet these conditions forfeit his land to the province; that bond of twenty pounds be posted by each settler, also to be forfeited if conditions not fulfilled; finally that settlers in each town be obliged to build suitable meetinghouse and establish learned orthodox minister within five years. Passed Apr. 20, 1733. Consented to by (Governor) J. Belcher. Hdw. 1 p. 7½ x 12½. (Vol. 116, "Towns, 1751-1754", p. 236).

For printed version of this resolve see Province Resolves, etc., XI, ch. 125, pp. 701-702; also pp. 5, 6, this volume.

2. (ORDER FOR SURVEY OF NEW TOWNSHIPS), Oct. 19, 1733. 1 sheet. Order of General Court appointing Joseph Kellog, Timothy Dwight and Captain William Chandler a new committee to survey and plot one township at Paquoiag and two at Ashuelot, and to return plots thereof, since original committee neglected to fulfill commission. Hdw. 1 p. 7½ x 12½. Consented to by (Governor) J. Belcher. (Vol. 116, "Towns, 1751-1754", p. 237).

For printed version of this resolve see Province Resolves etc., XI, ch. 82, p. 744.

3. (PLAT OF TOWNSHIP IN HAMPSHIRE COUNTY), Feb. 14, 1733/4. 1 sheet. Copy of plat submitted to General Court by Timothy Dwight and William Chandler, surveying committee, showing acreage of township as laid out in County of "Hampshire" to be 23,060 acres, including Paquoiag land. Read and accepted in house of representatives, read and concurred in council February 14, 1733/4. Consented to by (Governor) J. Belcher. Hdw. 1 p. 7½ x 12½. (Vol. 116, "Towns, 1751-1755", p. 237).

For printed version of this resolve see Province Resolves, etc., XI, pp. 775-776.

4. (ORDER LIMITING AREA OF HOUSE LOTS), April 16, 1734. 1 sheet. Order of council of General Court limiting area of house lots at Paquoiag and on Ashuelot River to between 20 and 40 acres as the committee shall think fit; also that Edward Goddard replace William Clark who desired to be excused from said committee. Read and concurred in house of representatives, April 16, 1734. Consented to by (Governor) J. Belcher. Hdw. 1 p. 7½ x 12½. (Vol. 116, "Towns, 1751-1755", p. 237).

For printed version of this resolve see Province Resolves, etc. XI, p. 792.

5. (PLAT OF NEW TOWNSHIP AT PAQUOIAG), June 18, 1734. 1 sheet. Plat submitted to General Court by William Chandler, surveyor, showing layout of house lots in Paquoiag. Read and accepted in house of representatives, read and occurred in council, June 18, 1734. Consented to by (Governor) J. Belcher. Hdw. 1 p. 7½ x 12½. (Vol. 116, "Towns, 1715-1755", p. 238).

For printed version of this resolve see Province Resolves, etc., XII, p. 19.

6. (ORDER RELATIVE TO SETTLEMENT OF TOWNSHIP), June 19, 1734. 1 sheet.

Order of General Court providing that persons desirous of taking up lots at township west of Ashuelot River and at Paquoiag on terms laid down by court meet at Concord, Massachusetts, and choose a moderator and a proprietor's clerk, and agree upon rules and methods for making any further divisions, for calling future meetings and for any other matters conducive to the speedy settlement of the township. Voted in house of representatives, read and concurred in council, June 19, 1734. Consented to by (Governor) J. Belcher. Hdw. 1 p. 7½ x 12½. (Vol. 116, "Towns, 1751-1755", p. 238).

For printed version of this resolve see Province Resolves, etc., XII, p. 24.

7. (BONDS), June 26, 1734. 4 sheets.

Bonds submitted by James and Stephen Fay, John Child, and Joseph Brown for fulfillment of conditions of settlement on grants of land by committee appointed therefor by General Court. Hdw. on ptd. form. 4 pp. 7½ x 11. (Vol. 114, "Towns, 1730-1742", pp. 99-102).

8. (PETITION FOR ASSISTANCE FROM GENERAL COUNCIL), May 26, 1740. 1 sheet.

Petition to General Court by Richard Morton and other Paquoiag inhabitants for relief, since, of the 60 families required, only 14 have settled, and they are "under great discouragements for want of the Publick Worship of God" and by reason of their exposed condition in case of war. Read and ordered that a committee submit a report in house of representatives, June 3, 1740; read and concurred in general council, June 14, 1740. Consented to by (Governor) J. Belcher. Hdw. 1 p. 7½ x 11. (Vol. 114, "Towns, 1730-1742", pp. 526-527).

For printed version of this resolve see Province Resolves, etc., XII, p. 677.

9. (LIST OF PROPRIETORS OF PAQUOIAG), Mar. 23, 1750/1. 1 sheet. Report of Abner Lee, clerk of the proprietors of Paquoiag to General Court asserting that he was unable to obtain records from Joseph Lord, former clerk, and returning names of heads of fifteen families who, to his best knowledge, have fulfilled the conditions of their grants. Sworn before John Chandler, justice of the peace. Hdw. 1 p. 7 x 12. (Vol. 115, "Towns, 1742-1751", pp. 834, 835).

10. (PETITION FOR LEGAL POWER TO CARRY ON PAQUOIAG AFFAIRS), Dec. 1751. 1 sheet.
Petition to Governor and General Court by Joseph Lord in behalf of himself and the majority of Paquoiag inhabitants praying that, since they lack a formal grant of their lands, and an attested list of settlers and therefore have no legal standing in court or power to raise taxes for support of the minister or to manage public affairs, they be given the powers necessary to raising money, building up a town, and carrying on public affairs. The General Court appointed Captains Ruggles, White and Wilder to consider the petition and report whether the original grantees had complied with the conditions of their grant. Hdw. 1 p. 7½ x 12. (Vol. 116, "Towns, 1751-1755", p. 243).

11. (REQUEST FOR AID IN BUILDING TOWNSHIP OF PAQUOIAG), Dec. 1751. 1 sheet.
Request to committee of General Court on Paquoiag affairs by Joseph Lord in behalf of resident settlers in Paquoiag that no action be taken which may seem hard to the resident proprietors who have been obedient and complied with terms of grant; also that petition may be speedily considered. Hdw. 1 p. 7½ x 6. (Vol. 116, "Towns, 1751-1755", p. 244).

12. (ACT CONFIRMING GRANTS AND AUTHORIZING GOVERNMENT), Jan. 10, 1752. 1 sheet.
Whereas 21 of 60 authorized settlers have replied with the terms of grant and now request confirmation of their grants, the house of representatives confirms them, allows one year for delinquents to fulfill conditions and six months for their settlement; also authorizes for one year the raising of taxes, the election of officers, the sale of the lands of delinquent taxpayers (the proceeds over taxes to go to Province treasury), the warning of the first meeting by Joseph Lord at least 14 days in advance by posting a notice of the time, place and occasion in some public place, future meetings to be warned by the clerk in like manner. Read and concurred in council, January 10, 1752 and consented to by (Governor) Phips. Hdw. 1 p. 7½ x 12. (Vol. 116, "Towns, 1751-1755", pp. 246-247.
For printed version of this act see Province Resolves, etc., XIV, pp. 580-581.

13. (PETITION TO ENFORCE PAYMENT OF TAXES), Nov. 30, 1752. 1 sheet.
Petition to Governor and General Court by Joseph Lord in behalf of inhabitants of Paquoiag states that, although the court in the preceding January had authorized the levy of taxes for the support of the ministry and other purposes, the collector had no power to enforce their collection,

and some settlers and nonresidents have neglected to pay their taxes, wherefore petitioners pray that General Court issue an order to enforce their speedy payment. Petition granted in House of Representatives, November 30, 1752 but action deferred by council and house on December 7, 1752 to January 16, 1753. On April 3, 1753 petition was read again in both houses and Andrew Clover and John Chandler of the council, together with Edmund Trobridge and Gamaliel Bradford of the house, were appointed a committee to consider matter. Hdw. 1 p. 7½ x 12½. (Vol. 116, "Towns, 1751-1755", pp. 234-235).

14. (PETITION TO SELL REAL ESTATE OF EZEKIEL WOLLENSFORD), Dec. 6, 1752. 1 sheet.

Petition of Joseph Wilder addressed to Governor and General Court in behalf of Lydia Harris, widow of Ezekiel Wollensford, and her present husband, Ebenzer Harris, requesting that, since the personal estate of Wollensford, who had been killed by the Indians, amounted to only £79 and was insufficient to pay his debts, the petitioners be empowered to sell lands of the estate, to provide for the satisfaction of his debts, the surplus to be invested for the benefit of the two surviving minor children. Read and granted in House of Representatives, December 6, 1752; read and concurred in council, December 7, 1752. Consented to by (Governor) Phips. Hdw. 1 p. 7½ x 7½. (Vol. 18, "Estates, 1742-1753", pp. 906-907).

15. (LIST OF SETTLERS OF PAQUOIAG), 1752. 2 sheets.

List of eighteen settlers, of which fifteen were heads of families and three single men, who had fulfilled the terms of the original grant. Hdw. 2 pp. 8 x 13. (Vol. 116, "Towns, 1751-1755," pp. 239-242).

16. (ORDER ACCEPTING REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON PAQUOIAG AFFAIR), April 11, 1753. 2 sheets.

Report to General Court by committee on Paquoiag affair appointed April 3, recommending that a committee be appointed, empowered to sell land of delinquent proprietors; that bonds of £40 be taken from each settler for fulfillment of conditions of settlement made by court at opening of said township in 1732 said bonds to revert to government if terms are not fulfilled; further that surveys made in consequence of grants subsequent to original laying out of house lots by a committee of the court be in full force and that clerk of proprietors enter same so that each survey may be preserved for the house lots for which they were originally drawn or the grantees to which they were originally designed to belong; also that inhabitants of Paquoiag assemble from time to time to choose needful officers and grant necessary money for carrying on affairs of plantation according to order of January, 1752. Signed by John Chandler. Read in council, April 10, 1753 and sen[t] down. Read and accepted in house of representatives, April 11, 1753. Read and concurred in council and ordered that John Chandler, with such as the house shall join, be a committee fully empowered for the purposes of this report. Read and concurred in the house, April 11, 1753 and ordered that Colonel Worthington and Captain Chandler be joined in the affair. Hdw. 2 pp. 7½ x 12½. (Vol. 116, "Towns, 1751-1755", pp. 248-250).

For printed version of this order see Province Resolves, etc., XIV, pp. 715-716.

17. (REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON PAQUOIAG PLANTATION), Dec. 19, 1755. 2 sheets.
The committee consisting of John Chandler, John Worthington and Phineas Heywood appointed by the General Court to inform themselves of the state of said plantation and to ascertain which of the original admitted settlers had fulfilled the terms of the grant, report that pursuant to their findings at meetings in the "town of Paquoiag" in May, 1753 and October, 1754 they recommend that, in addition to the twenty-two rights granted to the original settlers by the courts order of January 10, 1751/2, sixteen other rights be confirmed, providing taxes are paid, even if they have been transferred to others; and whereas Thomas Hapgood, an admitted settler, early began improvements on his right and built a house, selling a house lot to Nathan Wait and taking his bond to complete settlement, which has been chiefly, if not wholly, done by Wait, residency excepted, and whereas said Hapgood and two sons are deceased, and a surviving son is proposed by his guardian to settle on said right on becoming of age, the committee propose same should be confirmed to Hapgood's heirs. The committee further report that they find upon inquiry that terms of settlement have not been performed on other remaining 21 rights and although they had no doubt of the right of the Province to reassume those lands nor of its power to make sale of same, yet they have omitted to do so, partly because of the distance from each other and from the lands, partly by necessary attention to their (the committee's) private affairs, but chiefly due to the fact that they find the affairs of the plantation rather mixed in respect to the various individual rights, each attended with some material circumstance peculiar to itself. The committee therefore felt that a diversity of circumstances of said rights should be treated with a diversity of proceedings, and that this committee or another be empowered by General Court to sell the whole or any part of such rights to the remaining 21 lots in the plantation as they may judge most likely to answer the good intent of the court with respect to delinquents and at the same time promote the interests of said place. Signatures of committee. Hdw. 2 pp. 8 x 11½. (Vol. 117, "Towns, 1755-1762", pp. 71-73).

For printed version of this report see Province Resolves, etc., XV, pp. 416-417.

18. (ORDER OF GENERAL COURT), Dec. 26, 1755.
Committee report read and accepted by General Court in so far that the sixteen proprietors' rights laid out to Edward Goddard and others be confirmed, provided arrears of taxes have been paid by May 1, 1755; that John Chandler, John Worthington and Phineas Heywood be a committee empowered to sell so much of said rights as may be needed to pay unpaid taxes and also to sell such part of the remaining rights on which the terms of settlement have not been performed as the different circumstances and the general interest of the plantation may require; also on those the 21 rights confirmed to Zechariah Field and others by order of the Court of January, 1752 on which taxes have not been paid, this committee is empowered to sell rights sufficient to cover the taxes unpaid at May 1st and to dispose of said rights in such manner that there shall be sixty settlers within the plantation and make report of the proceedings to the court for confirmation further that

the inhabitants of Paquoiag to be permitted to assemble together and for carrying on the affairs of the plantation, for space of two years, to vote sums for the ministry, further that they elect a clerk, assessors, etc., who shall be sworn to a faithful discharge of their trusts, and that Joseph Lord warn the first meeting by posting a notification fourteen days in advance, and the chosen clerk succeeding meetings in the same manner during the two years aforesaid. Hdw. 2 pp. 7½ x 12½. (Vol. 117, "Towns, 1755-1762", pp. 74-76).

For the printed version of this order see Province Resolves, etc., XV, pp. 417-419.

19. (REPORT OF PAQUOIAG COMMITTEE ON PROPRIETORS' GRANTS), Feb. 21, 1757. 2 sheets.

Report to General Court by John Chandler and John Worthington, committee on affairs of Paquoiag, summarizing histories of fifteen of twenty-one outstanding proprietors' rights and recommending definite course of action with regard to each, also promising that committee would report further on six rights when grantees shall have fulfilled attendant conditions. Read in council, February 21, 1757; read, accepted and grants confirmed in house of representatives February 21, 1757; read and concurred in council, February 22, 1757. Consented to by (Governor) Phips. Hdw. 2 pp. 7½ x 12. (Vol. 117, "Towns, 1755-1762", pp. 268-271).

For printed version of this order see Province Resolves, etc., XIV, pp. 683-686.

20. (FURTHER REPORT OF PEQUOIAG COMMITTEE ON PROPRIETORS' GRANTS), Nov. 30, 1758. 2 sheets.

Report to General Court by John Chandler and John Worthington on the condition of the rights of Moses Dickinson and James Fay summarizing their history and recommending course of action, also recommending compensation for Samuel Tinney whose right had been sold erroneously for non-payment of taxes. Read in council March 13, 1759 and ordered that James Bowdoin be appointed with members of the house to take matter under advisement. Read and concurred in house of representatives March 28, 1759 and Colonel Clap and Captain Newhall are joined in the affair. Hdw. 2 pp. (Vol. 117, "Towns, 1755-1762", pp. 410-412).

21. (REPORT OF BOWDOIN COMMITTEE ON PROPRIETORS' GRANTS), Apr. 18, 1759. 2 sheets.

Report to General Court by James Bowdoin and others recommending disposition of rights of Moses Dickinson and James Fay; also that £10,6s,8d. be returned to Samuel Tinney; that all bonds and securities given to members of committee on Paquoiag affairs be turned over to province treasurer. Read and recommendations accepted in council, April 18, 1759: read and concurred in house of representatives, April 20, 1759. Hdw. 2 pp. 6 x 7½. Consented to by (Governor) Pownall. (Vol. 117, "Towns, 1755-1762", pp. 413-415).

For printed version of this report and order see Province Resolves, etc., XVI, pp. 351-352.

22. (REPORT ON LAND GRANTS), undated. 1 sheet.
Report to General Court by committee appointed to consider affairs of Paquoiag that inhabitants needed assistance in making their votes and records valid, for purposes mentioned in petition and that settlers who have fulfilled conditions of settlement be given explicit grant of proportion or township; committee further report they have informed themselves concerning performance of conditions of settlement which they submit. Signed by Timothy Ruggles. Date 1752 assigned to this document in state archives. Hdw. 1 p. 7½ x 6. (Vol. 116, "Towns, 1751-1755", p. 245).

23. (PETITION OF PAQUOIAG RESIDENTS), undated. 1 sheet.
Petition to General Court by Richard Morton, Nathaniel Graves, Samuel Norton, Ephraim and Aaron Smith, Abraham Nutt, and Nathan Waite of Paquoiag showing that in July 1732 the court opened their township to settlers on the reasonable terms that each settler should clear and till eight acres within five years and reside thereon in person or by a son two years out of the five and further give a bond of twenty pounds for fulfillment of these terms. Now, however, in expectation of having their numbers increased and a town erected, the petitioners have endured more than fourteen years of hardship, seemingly in vain, unless their numbers may be completed, and the interests of the nonresident proprietors may be extinguished; further, there were but eighteen families in Paquoiag and never more than thirty, a circumstance which caused great difficulties and prevented the proprietors from being incorporated as a town, deprived them of suitable schooling, also the greater part of the time, of the gospel and its ordinances; also of tradesmen for the mending and making of farming tools and necessary utensils; further suffering many hardships by reason of their remoteness from incorporated towns and especially being unable in time of war to carry on farming by reason of the "lurking, lying in waite" enemy and their own fewness of numbers. Therefore, petitioners pray that court cause terms of grant to be fulfilled, complete their numbers and grant them absolute right and dominion over their lands or grant them liberty to remove themselves and their families to some other place where they will be of more service to themselves and the commonwealth, also that the bonds of the delinquent proprietors may be prosecuted and the petitioners may have some compensation for the hardships and difficulties they have undergone. Signed by petitioners. (Date 1750 assigned to this document in state archives.) 1 p. 7½ x 12½. (Vol. 115, "Towns, 1742-1751", p. 820).

24. (PETITION TO BUILD FORTS), Jan. 7, 1755. 2 sheets.
Petition of Joseph Lord and other inhabitants of Paquoiag Plantation that, since they inhabit one of the frontier towns of the province, are exposed to attacks "from their Indian enemies who in the late war killed one and took captive" another, and since by not being incorporated they "are unable to force such persons as claim an equal share of land" with them "to an equal or to even any expense" with them in building necessary forts or garrisons, although the latters' lands will be equally defended with their own, and since petitioners are unable to make any defense against their enemies, pray that the court will allow them at the expense of the province to build two forts of square timbers, one 45 to 50 feet square on west

side of river for receiving the six families on that side and the other 64 feet square on the east or south side of river for the 20 families and 5 single men which, with the fort already built may be sufficient for that side; also that the court will allow them such a number of soldiers as may be necessary for their defense and security. Read in house of representatives, January 7, 1755 and ordered that the committee appointed by the court to build and repair the fortifications between the Connecticut and Merrimack Rivers repair to Paquioag and determine what fortresses are necessary for the defense of said plantation and in order to defray the expense of building same, the committee is authorized to sell part of the lands of the township. Read and concurred in council, January 8, 1755. Consented to by (Governor) W. Shirley. The committee to whom the petition was referred reported that some assistance was necessary to the inhabitants of Paquoiag for defense, that it might be provided from the unsettled lands in Paquoiag and that the committee on the fortifications between the Connecticut and Merrimack Rivers be empowered to perfect same. Signed by Timothy Ruggles for the committee. 2 pp. 7½ x 11. (Vol. 74, "Military, 1751-1755", pp. 295, 296).

For printed version of this petition and order see Province Resolves, etc., XV, p. 260.

25. (JOURNAL OF SCOUTING EXPEDITION), Aug. 1, 1755. 1 sheet.
Journal of Eleazer Lawrence, commander of scouts, outlining scouting expedition from July 3 to Aug. 1, 1755 between Connecticut and Merrimack rivers from Lunenburg north to Dorchester - Canada (now town of Ashburnham) and Ipswich - Canada (now town of Winchendon) and west to Paquoiag; and the finding of a few supposed Indian tracks. Signed by Eleazer Lawrence, commander of said scouts. Hdw. 1 p. 7½ x 8½. (Vol. 38-A, "Journals, 1695-1767", p. 172).

26. (PETITION FOR PROTECTION), Apr. 7, 1758. 1 sheet.
Petition by James Humphrey and other Paquoiag inhabitants reciting the exposed position of the settlement wherein many are now located on the north side of Miller's River, that they have been under great expense in constructing a fort and cannot raise provisions to support their families without protection and praying that a guard may be provided them while at work. Hdw. 1 p. 8 x 13. (Vol. 117, "Towns, 1755-62", pp. 391-392).

27. (PETITION FOR PROTECTION AGAINST INDIAN RAIDS), undated. 1 sheet.
Petition to Governor Shirley and the General Court by Joseph Lord in behalf of Paquoiag inhabitants, stating that in a few years of peace said plantation would be able to defend itself but at present numbers are few, attack by the Indians is expected daily and petitioners pray that some measures for defence may be taken. Hdw. 1 p. 8 x 5. (Vol. 117, "Towns, 1755-1762", p. 403).

Establishment of Township

28. (ACT ESTABLISHING TOWN OF ATHOL), Jan. 28, 1762. 1 sheet. Whereas it has been represented to the court that the inhabitants of Paquoiag Plantation in Worcester County labor under great difficulty by reason of not being incorporated into a town, be it enacted by the governor council and house of representatives that said plantation be erected into a town by the name of Athol, bounded on the north by the plantations of Royalshire and Mount Grace, on the west by Ervingshire and New Salem, on the south by Petersham and Plantation No. 6, and on the east by Plantation No. 6 and that the inhabitants are vested with all powers, privileges and immunities which inhabitants of towns within the province are vested with by law, and John Murray is authorized and empowered to issue his warrant to some of the principal inhabitants of said town qualified to vote in town affairs to assemble in some suitable place to elect officers, provided only that inhabitants pay their share of county and province charges as are already assessed as though this act had not been made. Read three times and passed to be engrossed in house of representatives, January 28, 1762; read twice and concurred to be engrossed in council, January 28, 1762; passed March 6, 1762. Hdw. 1 p. 8 x 12½. (Vol. 117, "Towns, 1755-1762", pp. 791, 792).

For printed version of this act see Province Acts, IV, p. 534.

Proprietors Records

29. (PETITION AND ORDER RELATIVE TO LOSS OF PROPRIETORS' RECORDS), June 11, 1760. 2 sheets.
Petition to (Governor) Thomas Hutchinson, council, and house of representatives and by Reverend Abraham Hill and John Caldwell, committee of the proprietors of Paquoiag, reciting that Paquoiag has been settled upwards of twenty years, now has nearly fifty resident families and a minister settled about ten years; also that Joseph Lord as clerk kept all records of proceedings of the proprietors from beginning of settlement until two years before and was treasurer a greater part of the time, receiving all money collected in taxes or by sale of delinquent proprietors' lands; also that a new treasurer and new clerk were chosen in June 1758 but that Lord refused to deliver up the books and papers of the proprietors; that, when judgment for said books and papers was recovered in the Inferiour Court in November, Joseph Lord, absconded. Petitioners being deprived of their records, are, whether original proprietors or subsequent purchasers, in a bad situation ask for direction and relief. Read in house of representatives, June 11, 1760 and ordered that petitioners be allowed to bring in a bill for purposes mentioned; read and concurred in council, June 11, 1760; read, reconsidered and non-concurred in council, June 18, 1760 and resolved that Abraham Hill, present clerk of the proprietors, be directed to make a new book of proprietors' records during time Joseph Lord was clerk from minutes that may appear of transactions at that time and from memory of proprietors and at completion lay same before proprietors and before court for approval; read and concurred in house of representatives, June 18, 1760. Consented to by (Governor) Hutchinson. Hdw. 2 pp. 8 x 12½. (Vol. 117, "Towns, 1755-1762", pp. 578-580).

For printed version of this order see Province Resolves, etc., XVI, pp. 597-598.

30 (PETITION RELATING TO PROPRIETORS' RECORDS, June 5 1765
2 sheets

Memorial to (Governor) Francis Bernard, council, and house of representatives by Nathan Goddard and John Haven, committee of Athol proprietors, representing that, although the court had refused in January, 1764 to confirm a book of records submitted in May, 1763 and had ordered Reverend Abraham Hill with assistance of Nathan Goddard and under supervision of Captain Charles Baker to complete the book of proprietors' records according to the order of 1760 and lay same before proprietors and court for approval and whereas said proprietors have voted March 8, 1765 that the time limit for completion has expired, therefore petitioners pray that the book of records be established in hands of Nathan Goddard, present clerk, together with transactions of meetings now in hands of Rev. Abraham Hill, their former clerk, as the only records of proprietors. Read in house of representatives, June 5, 1765 and ordered that Colonel Clap, Prescot and Nichols be the committee from the house to consider the petition and report; read and concurred in council, June 6, 1765 and Isaac Royall and James Otis were joined; committee having reported to council it was ordered that petitioners bring in a bill for purpose mentioned, June 7, 1765; read and concurred in house of representatives, June 8, 1765. Hdw. 2 pp. $7\frac{1}{2}$ x $11\frac{1}{2}$. (Vol. 118, "Towns, 1763-1774", pp. 95-97).

31. (ACT TO ESTABLISH AND CONFIRM RECORDS OF PROPRIETORS OF ATHOL), June 12, 1765. 2 sheets.

Whereas Joseph Lord, proprietors' clerk of Paquoiag, now Athol, has disappeared from the province carrying all records with him; and, whereas, the proprietors have from original papers agreed on a new book of records which, with the records of transactions of some meetings of proprietors in hands of Reverend Abraham Hill, late clerk, make a complete book of records to date, confirmation of which has been requested of the court by the proprietors, it is ordered that Reverend Abraham Hill be directed to deliver records of the transactions of the several meetings of the proprietors to Nathan Goddard, present clerk, which with records agreed upon at proprietors' meeting of May 3, 1763 now in Goddard's hands, stand confirmed as records of the proprietors. Read first time in council, June 11, 1765; read a second time and passed to be engrossed in council, June 12, 1765; read a first and second time in house of representatives, June 12, 1765; read a third time and passed to be engrossed in house of representatives June 14, 1765. Hdw. 2 pp. $7\frac{1}{2}$ x 12. (Vol. 118, "Towns, 1763-1774", pp. 116, 117).

Miscellaneous

32. (PETITION RELATIVE TO BUILDING BRIDGE), Feb. 11, 1762. 1 sheet.

Petition to (Governor) Francis Bernard, council, and house of representatives by John Chandler and John Worthington showing that, in executing the powers granted by the province for completing the settlement of the new township of Paquoiag, they took several notes from delinquent settlers of which many still remain unpaid as shown by the annexed list; showing further that, while the settlement ordered by the government has been completed, the people are at great expense in building a bridge over Millers River at a

probable cost of 130 pounds, which would be very unequal to the ability of said inhabitants to finance and which they would not have engaged in had same not been quite necessary both for themselves and the public; therefore, and since province was at no expense for services of committee, petitioner (sic) asks that amount of notes due from delinquent proprietors may be applied to expense of building bridge over Millers River. In house of representatives voted Feb. 11, 1762 that prayer of petitioners be granted and that sums due from several persons in the annexed list be paid by province treasurer to selectmen or treasurer of plantation or district of Paquoiag and by them laid out for building of bridge or bridges in said plantation. Annexed list of delinquent proprietors who have given notes to committee amounting to 48 pounds, 5 shillings, one penny: Samuel Kendall, John Grout, Jason Babcock, Abner Lee. Hdw. 1 p. 7 x 12. (Vol. 117, "Towns, 1755-1762, pp. 795-797).

33. (PETITION RELATIVE TO NEW ROADS), June 1, 1768. 2 sheets. Petition to (Governor) Francis Bernard, council and house of representatives by Nathaniel Graves, agent for proprietors of Athol, setting forth that said proprietors at a meeting on March 31, 1768 passed a number of votes laying out and establishing sundry roads and highways in said town and praying in the name and behalf of the proprietors of Athol that said votes may be confirmed with the streets and lanes laid out and described. Read and resolved in house of representatives, June 2, 1768 that the prayer be granted that the votes of the proprietors at the March meeting be confirmed and that the lands granted at said meeting for streets and lanes as described in petition be confirmed to town of Athol for purposes mentioned; read and concurred in council, June 2, 1768. Hdw. 2 pp. 7½ x 12. (Vol. 118, "Towns, 1763-1774", pp. 351-354).

For printed version of this petition and order see Province Resolves, etc., XVIII, p. 338.

34. (PETITION TO BE SET OFF AS SEPARATE PRECINCT), June 8, 1773. 2 sheets.

Petition to Governor and General Court by inhabitants of westerly part of Templeton and southeasterly part of Athol that because of hardships suffered because of their remoteness from a place of public worship, they be set up as a separate precinct, or that a committee be appointed to review their situation and report. Mr. Howard of Shrewsbury and Mr. Biglow, appointed in house of representatives to investigate circumstances of petitioners, June 8, 1773; read and concurred in council, June 8, 1773 and Artemas Ward added to committee. Hdw. 2 pp. 7½ x 12. (Vol. 118, "Towns, 1773-1774", pp. 681-684.)

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Abstract and Index of the Records of the Inferiour Court of Pleas (Suffolk County Court) Held at Boston, 1680-1698, (iii, 224 pp., mim., 1940).

American Portraits, 1620-1825, Found in Massachusetts, 2 vols., (iv, 254 pp. and 318 pp., mult. dupl., May, 1939).

Brief History of the Town of Braintree in Massachusetts, 1640-1940, compiled and written for the Tercentenary Committee, Marion Sophia Arnold, ed., (64 pp., Boston, Thomas Todd Co., 1940).

Calendar of the General Henry Knox Papers in the Boston Public Library, (ii, 19 pp., mult. dupl., May, 1939).

Calendar of the Letters of Charles Robert Darwin to Asa Gray, (vii, 148 pp., mult. dupl., December, 1939).

Calendar of the Ryder Collection of Confederate Archives at Tufts College, (v, 165 pp., mim., 1940).

Diary and Journal, 1755-1807, of Seth Metcalf, (iii, 31 pp., mult. dupl., October, 1939).

Description of the Manuscript Collections of the Massachusetts Diocesan Library, (ii, 81 pp., mult. dupl., February, 1939).

Guide to Manuscript Depositories in Massachusetts, (ii, 160 pp., mim., September, 1939).

Index to the Hampshire Gazette, 1786-1937, 3 vols., (vii, 213, 217, and 295 pp., mim., May, 1939).

Index to the Proclamations of Massachusetts, 1620-1936, 2 vols., (xvii, 200 and 153 pp., mim., April, 1937).

Inventory to the County Archives of Massachusetts, No. 5, Essex County, (ii, 370 pp., mim., December, 1937).

Inventory of the Town and City Archives of Massachusetts, (Series)
No. 6 Franklin County
Vol. I Ashfield, (ii, 108 pp., mim., 1940).
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Vol. III Buckland, (ii, 74 pp., mim., 1940).

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