

**1783**

**January ye 23 1783**

**Essex SS:** To Lieut Richard Hall one of the Constables of the Town of Methuen

**Greeting** These are to require you in the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts

to warn the Freeholders and other Inhabitants of Said Town who are qualified by law to vote in Town affairs to assemble and meet at the Old Meeting House in Said Town on Monday the Third Day of February next at two other in the after noon then and there

to act on the following perticulars

- 1ly To Choose (chose) a Moderator for Said Meeting
- 2ly To see if the Town will vote to take any measure to stop the uncommon measure of taxing sundry Articles which the General Court published in a late newspaper and to act on that affair as the Town shall think proper
- 3ly To see if the Town will receive the Report of the Committee that was chosen last March to reckon Mr. Swan Town Treasurer
- 4ly To see what money the Town will raise to defray Town charges the present year
- 5ly To see if the Town will vote that the July Court of Common Pleas shall be removed from Salem to Ipswich and the Superior Judicial Court from Ipswich to Newbury Port
- 6ly To bring in and allow Town Debts

Fail not and make a Return of this Warrant and your doings there on to one of us the Subscribers on or before the time of Said meeting

Given under our hand and seal the 23 Day of January 1783

Cutting Marsh } Selectmen  
David Whittier } of Methuen

In obedience to this Warrant I warned the Freeholders and other inhabitants to meet at time and place appointed

**Methuen, February 3 Day 1783**

Richard Hall } Constable of Methuen

## **February ye 3 1783**

**Att (At) a Legal Town meeting on February ye 3 1783** chose Col. Thomas Poor  
Moderator  
for Said Meeting

Voted and accepted the Report of the committee that was chosen to reckon with  
Jonathan Swan Town Treasurer – Mr Ebenezer Barker and John Huse and Nathaniel  
Hazeltine was the committee

Voted in the negative not to move the Court of Common Pleas

Voted in the negative not to raise any money in addition to 150 pound

Voted and accepted the account of Major Bodwell and Company

Voted and allowed the account of Ebenezer Barker and John Huse and Nathaniel  
Hazeltine ten shillings and six pence each 0:10:6

Voted Mr. Jonathan Swan Treasurer his account 3:10:0

## **September 5 1782**

### **A Settlement With Mr. Jonathan Swan Town Treasurer Sept. 5 1782**

We the Subscribers being chosen as a committee to reckon with Mr. Jonathan Swan  
Town Treasurer of Methuen have this day reckoned all the money that we can find  
that was paid into the Said Treasurers hands and if he had paid all that was ordered  
him to pay out by the Selectmen of Said Town and all the notes and orders given by  
the Said Treasurer on the Towns

(Town's) behalf with interest till this day this would remain in the Said Treasurers  
(Treasurer's) hand of the Towns (Town's) money Thirty Six Pounds Seventeen  
Shillings and Three pence lawful money which we expect to be due to him from the  
Old Constables – and One Thousand and Eighty Six pounds nine Shillings and Six  
Pence of the Old Emission of Money and Twenty Seven Dollars of Hampshire New  
Emission and Twenty

Nine Dollars of this States new Emission all which paper money the Said Treasurer  
hath by him and all ready collected

**Methuen September Ye 5 1782**

Ebenezer Barker  
John Huse                    } Committee  
Nathaniel Hazeltine

## The Particulars of the Annual Meeting

### Essex SS

To Mr. William Farnum one of the Constables of the Town of Methuen

**Greeting** These are to notify you in the name of the Commonwealth of  
Massachusetts to

warn the Freeholders and other Inhabitants of Said Town that are qualified by Law to  
vote in Town affairs to meet at the Old Meeting House in Said Town on Wednesday  
the twelfth Day

of this Instant month at ten of O the Clock in the Four Noon then and there to act on  
the following Particulars

- 1ly To Choose (chose) Moderator for Said Meeting
- 2ly To Choose (chose) Town Officers as the Law Directs
- 3ly To see if swine go at large the year ensuing
- 4ly To see what sum of money the Town will raise for schooling the ensuing year and  
every  
Ward have their proportion of money as has been the custom former years or to act on  
that  
affair as the Town shall think proper
- 5ly To see if the Town Treasurer shall send out executions for all those Constables that  
have not settled with him except Constable Hall and Farnum or act on that affair as  
the Town shall think
- 6ly To see what sum of money the Town will raise for the Constables for the year 1782  
for collecting taxes
- 7ly To see if the Town will accept of a road laid out by the Selectmen near Capt Mallon  
to the  
road that leads to Dracut near Doctor Hildreths (Hildreth's)
- 8ly In answer to a number of the inhabitants of Said Town to see if Said Town will vote  
that ye  
third part of this Town or as much as the Town shall think proper

9ly To see if the Town will appoint a Place for the Poor of the Town to be kept

10ly To see what sum of money to raise for highways and private ways

Fail not and make a Return of this Warrant and your doing thereon to one of us the Subscribers on or before the time of Said Meeting

Given under our hands and seal this Six Day of February 1783

Cutting Marsh	}	Selectmen
Stephen Webster		of
David Whittier		Methuen

### **March 12, 1783**

#### **The particulars of the Annual Town Meeting on March 12 1783**

Chose Mr. James Ingalls Moderator for Said Meeting

Francis Swan Town Clerk and Sworn, Capt Stephen Webster and Capt Davis Whittier and Capt John Davis Selectmen

Francis Swan Town Treasurer

Col. Thomas Poor and Jonathan Asten Constables

#### **Surveyors of Highway**

Jacob Messer	Francis Richardson	John Masten Jun.
James Messer	Samuel Richardson	Thomas Herrick
Pain Morse	Elisha Perkins	Capt. Caleb Swan
John Hibbord		

#### **Fence Viewers**

Deacon John Harris	Capt. James Malloon	James Frye
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#### **Hog Reefs**

Caleb Sawyer	Peter Masten
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## **Surveyors of Lumber**

Major Samuel Bodwell    James Wilson            Lieut Bodwell Ladd

Voted that swine go at large the year ensuing if they be yoked and ringed

Voted that the Town Treasurer should send out executions to those delinquent Constables that had not settled with him excepting Constables Hall and Farnum / : land and others

Voted in the negative on the road laid out through James Malloon

Voted that the Poor be sold at Vendue: [*vendue* is a French term derived from the word "*vendre*" meaning to sell – "*vendue*" was a term used by the English when selling the Poor (or their belongings) or when selling Slaves] to the lowest bidder

Voted to raise 150 Pounds to repair the highways & Private ways

Adjourned to Wednesday 20 of this Instant at one O the Clock afternoon

Voted to set off as many as has signed and will sign in one month excepting they pay their equal part and proportion of taxes that has already arisen and may arise till they are part of Said Town

**Adjourned to 28 days of this instant March three O the Clock**

**At the adjournment** voted to raise 40 Pounds for schooling

The vote for laying out the money was reconsidered

Voted the Selectmen should hire a school master as cheap as they can and each Ward to have their equal part of money

**Dated Methuen 29<sup>th</sup> of March 1783**

These are in the name of the Commonwealth of the Massachusetts Bay to warn all the Freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Town of Methuen that are qualified by the Constitution to vote in State affairs to assemble at the Old Meeting House in Said Town on Monday the Seventeenth Day of April next to Choose (chose) State Officers as the Constitution directs

The meeting is at 1 oClock (O'clock) in the after noon

Stephen Webster      Selectmen and  
Jonathan Davis      Assessors of Methuen

**Att (At) a Legal Meeting on April 7<sup>th</sup> 1783**

Voted

John Hancock Esq. **Chief Governor**      21 votes  
Timothy Cushing **Lieut Governor**      23 votes

**Senators**

Samuel Phillips Jun.      19 Do (Ditto)  
Azor Orn      19 Do  
Stephen Chote      19 Do  
Jonathan Greenleaf      19 Do  
Aaron Wood      12 Do  
George Williams      19 Do  
Enoch Titcomb      7 Do

**September 14, 1783**

**Essex SS** To Col Thomas Poor one of the Constables for the Town of Methuen you are hereby required in the name of the Commonwealth of the Massachusetts to warn all the Freeholders and other inhabitants of Said Town qualified by law to vote in Town affairs to meet Att (At) the Old Meeting House in Said Town on Tuesday the 11 day of September next at one O the Clock in the after noon then and there to act on the following perticulars Viz.:

- First      To Choose (chose) Moderator for Said Meeting
- 2ly      To bring in and allow Town Debts
- 3ly      To see what sum of money the Town will raise to defray Town charges the present year
- 4ly      In answer to a number of the Inhabitants of Said Town to see if the Town will vote of one third part of this Town to join with the eastwardly part of Dracut to make a district and if not to act on the affair as the Town shall think proper

5ly Whereas the Town is fined for not keeping a grammar school the year past to see if the Town will send a man to Newbury Port in order to get the fine off or to act thereon as they shall think proper

6ly To see if the Town will allow Moses Morse for money he lost when he served Constable

Hereof fail not and make Return of this Warrant and your doings: as the Law Directs

**Dated Methuen 30 Day of August 1783**  
Selectmen

Stephen Webster }

David Whittier

**Att (At) a Legal Town meeting in Methuen on September 11 1783**

Chose Capt Stephen Webster Moderator for Said Meeting

Voted Simeon Tyler for 34 feet of Timber and 25 feet of Plank 0:7:6

Voted Benjamin Towns for 120 feet of Pine Plank and 80 feet Timber 1:8:0

Voted to raise 50 pounds the year ensuing to defray Town charges

Voted in the negative not to set of one third part of the Town

Voted to send John Pettengill to Newbury Port to see if he can get the fine off

**November 13 1783**

**Essex SS** To Col Thomas Poor one of the Constables of the Town of Methuen.

These

are in the name of the Commonwealth of the Massachusettst is to require you to Warrant all of the Freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Town of Methuen qualified

by Law to vote in Town affairs to meet Att (At) the Old Meeting House in Said Town on

Thirsday (Thursday) ye thirteenth day of November next Att (At) (at) 3 O the Clock in the

after noon then and there to act on the following perticulars viz.

1ly To Choose (chose) a Moderator for Said meeting –

2ly To see what sum of money the Town will raise to defray Town charges

Hear of (hereof) Fail not and make Return of this Warrant to one of us the  
Subscribers  
before the time of Said meeting

**Dated Att (At) Methuen October 29 1783**

Stephen Webster          Selectmen  
David Whittier          }    of  
John Davis                }    Methuen

**November 13 1783** This may certify that I have warned all the within according to  
Law

Thomas Poor } Constable

**At a Legal Town Meeting on November ye 11 1783**

Chose Capt David Whittier Moderator for Said Meeting

Voted to raise Sixty Pounds in addition to fifty already raised

**Essex SS:** To Jonathan Asten one of the Constables of Methuen,  
In the name of the Common Wealth of the Massachusetts you are hereby required to

Warn all the Freeholders and the Inhabitants of the Town of Methuen qualified by  
Law  
to vote in Town affairs to meet Att (At) the Old Meeting House in Said Town on  
Wednesday  
the Tenth Day of March next Att (At) nine Oclock in the Morning then and there to  
Act on the following Peticulars (Viz.)

- 1ly      To chuse (choose) a Moderator for Said Meeting
- 2ly      To chuse (choose) Town Officers at the Law Directs
- 3ly      To see what sum or sums of money the Town will vote to raise to defray Town  
Charges the Present year
- 4thly    To see if the Town will chuse (choose) a Committee to reckon with Ens Francis Swan  
Town Treasurer for the past year
- 5thly    To see if the Town will vote the swine shall go Att (At) large the present year
- 6thly    To see what money the Town will raise for schooling the present year
- 7thly    To see if the Town will vote to sell the entrenching tools belonging to the Town

- 8thly To see what the Town will give the last Constables for gathering the Extraordinary Tax
- 9ly To see if the Town will give or allow Constables Farnum and Morrill James Hibbard rates

Hereof fail not and make return of this Warrant with your doings to one of us Att (At) on or before the time of Said Meeting

Given under our hands and Seal the Twenty-fourth Day of February in the Year of Our Lord 1789

Stephen Webster	} Selectmen and Assessors of Methuen
David Whittier	
John Davis	

**Essex SS:** Agreeable to the within written Warrant I have warned all the Freeholders and other Inhabitants of Said Town to meet Att (At) the time & place within mentioned to Act on the within named Articles

**Dated Methuen March Ye 10<sup>th</sup> 1784** Jonathan Asten - Constable of Methuen

**1784**

**At a Legal Town Meeting on March Ye 10 1784**

Chose Mr. James Ingals **Moderator** for Said Meeting  
Francis Swan chose **Town Clerk** & Sworn

**Selectmen** Bodwell Ladd  
Capt John Davis  
Stephen Barker Junr

**Constables** William Whittier Junr  
Parker Richardson

**Surveyors of Highways**

Richard Whittier  
John Masten Junr  
Lieut. Ebenezer Carlton  
Lt. John Huse

Jacob How  
Caleb Sawyer  
John Harris Junr  
Jonathan Merrill  
John Pettengill Junr  
Timothy Emerson  
Francis Richardson  
Samuel Huse

**Hog Reafs**      Capt Henry Bodwell  
Caleb Hall  
Timothy Emerson  
Thos Dow  
Francis Swan

**Surveyors of Lumber**

James Wilson  
Major Samuel Bodwell  
Col. Thos Poor  
Lieut Bodwell Ladd

**Field Drivers**      Joseph How & William Farnum

**Fish Keepers**      Capt James Malloon  
Thos Herrick  
Joseph Griffen all Sworn/ Col Poor not Sworn

Voted to raise one hundred & fifty pounds to defray Town Charges the year ensuing

Voted Ebenezer Barker, John Huse, Samuel Bodwell Committee to reckon with Francis Swan Town Treasurer

Voted the swine to go Att (At) large the year ensuing provided they are yoked and ringed

Voted to raise forty pounds for schooling the year ensuing

Voted not to sell the intrenching (entrenching) tools belonging to the Town

Voted Colonel Poor and Jonathan Asten to be allowed in proportion to other Constables for gathering Taxes

Voted Constable Morrill & Farnum be allowed James Hibbord rates



**Essex SS** To Parker Richardson one of the Constables of the Town of Methuen  
**Greeting.** You are hearby (hereby) required to notify & warn the Freeholders and other inhabitants of the Town of Methuen that are qualified by Law to vote in Town Affairs to meet Att (At) the Old Meeting House in Said Town on WedneSaiday (Wednesday) of 22 Day September Instant at two of the Clock in the afternoon then and there to act on the following Peticulars viz.

First to chuse (choose) a Moderator for Said Meeting

- 2<sup>ly</sup> To see if the Town will except (accept) the Report of the Committee that was chosen at a former Meeting to Reckon with Town Treasurer & act on that affair as the Town shall see proper
- 3<sup>ly</sup> To see if the Town will allow Nathaniel Hezeltine for Nathaniel Bodwell & James Daveson Paper Money Rates or either of there (their) Rates
- 4<sup>ly</sup> To see if the Town will allow Abner Morrill for Nathaniel William & Samuell Frissels & Edward Fauks & Lazerus Hubbard Rates in his list for 1782 or either of their Said Rates or any part of them
- 5<sup>ly</sup> To see if the Town will abate Samuell Morses (Morse's) Rates in Constable Farnums List for 1782 or any part of them

Fail not to make Return of your doings in this warrant to one of us the Subscribers at or before the time appointed

**September ? 1784**

Bodwell Ladd	Selectmen
John Davis }	of
Stephen Barker	Methuen

**September 22 1784**

I have notified the Inhabitants of Methuen as you Said according to Law by me

Parker Richardson  
Constable for Methuen

**September 22, 1784**

Met and chose Capt. James Maloon, Moderator for Said Meeting

Voted in addition to a Committee to reckon with Francis Swan Treasurer Capt. John Davis & Stephen Barker Junior then adjourned to the sixth Day of October

At the adjournment met & accepted the Report of the Committee chosen to reckon with

Francis Swan former Treasurer

Voted not to act on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Articles

Voted to abate Samuel Morses (Morse's) last Rate in Farnums (Farnum's) List

### **The Settlement with the Treasurer October 6<sup>th</sup> 1784**

We the Subscribers being appointed a Committee to reckon with Francis Swan late Treasurer for the Town of Methuen have Att (At)ended that business and find that there is in his hands the sum of one hundred and forty-six pounds, Eighteen shillings, & one Penny if all the Orders drawn by Said Swan on Constables according to the annexed List were answered which sum and list we turn over to Mr. Jonathan Huse present Treasurer and also three pounds eleven shillings and four pence due from Said Swan to the Town, which we also turn over to John Huse present Treasurer & also 3663 Dollars old Emission paper money and 16 Dollars N. Emission of the Massachusetts 20 Dollars Hampshire New Emission an Silver Money four shillings, which sums Said Huse is to be accountable for

### **Methuen October 6<sup>th</sup> 1784**

Ebenezer Barker  
John Huse  
Samuel Bodwell                    } Committee  
John Davis  
Stephen Barker Junior

### **Methuen 17<sup>th</sup> March 1784 –**

We the Subscribers being appointed a Committee, to reckon with Mr. Francis Swan, Treasurer for the Town of Methuen, have this Day reckoned and find of the Town's Money, in the Treasury, three Pounds three shillings and eleven pence; of all the Orders given by the

Selectmen of Said Town, were answered and all the notes given by the former Treasurer, not reckoning any Interest due on Said notes, since the last reckoning besides the paper money, that was in the Treasury, at the last reckoning –

Ebenezer Barker

John Huse } Committee  
Samuel Bodwell

**Essex SS.** To Parker Richardson one of the Constables of the Town of Methuen  
**Greeting.-** In the Name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts you are hereby required to notify and warn the Inhabitants of the Town of Methuen qualified by Law to vote in Town affairs to meet at the old meeting House in Said Town on Wednesday the 9<sup>th</sup> Day of March next at 9 o'clock in the forenoon then and there to act on the following Particulars (Viz.)

- 1<sup>st</sup> To Choose (chose) a Moderator for Said Meeting
- 2<sup>ndly</sup> To Choose (chose) Town Officers as the Law directs
- 3<sup>rdly</sup> To see what money the Town will vote to raise to defray Town charges the year ensuing
- 4<sup>thly</sup> To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise for schooling the year ensuing and act thereon as the Town shall then think proper
- 5<sup>thly</sup> To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise for repairing the Highways & private ways in Said Town the year ensuing & act thereon as the Town shall then think prope.
- 6<sup>thly</sup> To see if the Town will Choose (chose) a Committee to reckon with Lieutenant John Huse as Town Treasurer for the year past
- 7<sup>thly</sup> To see if the Town will vote for swine to go at large the year ensuing
- 8<sup>thly</sup> To bring in and allow Town Debts
- 9<sup>thly</sup> To see if the Town will accept of a private way laid out by the Selectmen at the Request of Capt. David Whittier and others from the road near the House of Capt. James Malone, thro several persons' Land to the Road near the House of Jacob Tyler
- 10<sup>thly</sup> In answer to a Petition of Caleb Sawyer & Others, to see if the Town will accept of a private way laid out by the Selectmen from the road leading by the House of Daniel Bodwell 3<sup>rd</sup> thro' Sundry persons Land to Dracutt Road near the House of Caleb Sawyer

11<sup>thly</sup> In answer to a Petition of Elijah Carlton and others to see if the Town will vote to hire Constables the year ensuing

12<sup>thly</sup> At the Request of Lieut. Richard Hall to see if the Town will vote to allow to Said Hall for Nathaniel Bodwell, Isaac Barker, Daniel Cross, Joseph Granger, Joseph Newman,

Alexander M<sup>c</sup>Murphy, Enoch Parker, Nathaniel Tyler, Junior, Ebenezer Webster, William Cross Junior and Jonathan Cross their Rates in his list as Constable for the year 1782 –

13<sup>thly</sup> At the Request of Mr. John Chickering to see if the Town will allow him for a counterfeit bill of Eight Dollars new Emission which he received of the Town Treasurer

14<sup>thly</sup> To see if they will allow Mr. Nathaniel Haseltine Constable for 1781 – for James Davison's and Nathaniel Bodwell's Rates in his List

Fail not and make return of this Warrant with your doings thereon at or before Said meeting

	Bodwell Ladd	Selectmen
	John Davis	}
<b>Methuen 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb. 1785</b>	Stephen Barker	Methuen

**Essex SS. Methuen March 1<sup>st</sup> 1785**

Pursuant to the within Warrant I have warned the Inhabitants of Said Town to meet at the time and place within named by posting up notifications as usual

Parker Richardson Constable

**1785**

**Town Meeting on March Ye 9 1785**

**At a Legal Annual Town Meeting in Methuen on March Ye 9 1785**

1ly Mr. James Ingals **Moderator** for Said meeting

Francis Swan **Town Clerk** and Sworn

John Huse **Town Treasurer**

Asa Messer: Bodwell Ladd: James Frye: **Select Men**

Elijah Carlton and William Morse **Constables**

2ly **Surveyors of High Ways**

Joshua Swan: John Masten Junior: Lt. Ebenezer Carlton: Deacon Elijah Sargent:  
Nathaniel Clark: Samuel Clark: Lt. John Richardson: John Palmer: Capt. James  
Jones: Lt. Milds Flint: Jacob Merrick: Elisha Parker:

**Fence Viewers:** John Chickering & Nehemiah Barker

**Field Drivers:** Joseph How and Benjamin Towns

**Hog Reaff:** John Chickering: James Messer: Joseph Haistens

**Surveyors of Lumber:** Major Samuel Bodwell: Col. Thomas Poor: James Wilson:  
Lt. Bodwell Ladd: Thomas Herrick

**Fish Keepers:** Thomas Herrick: Stephen Barker Jr.: Lt. Jacob Tyler and John  
Chickering

**Tything Men:** Capt. John Davis & Nathaniel Pettengell

3ly Voted to raise One Hundred Pounds to defray Town charges

4ly Voted to raise Two Hundred Pounds to repair the High Ways & Privet Ways

5ly Voted to Raise Thirty Pounds for Schooling the year ensuing

6ly Voted Labour to be 4 Shillings per Day

7ly Voted that the Surveyors Return their Lists by the 1 Day November 1785

8ly Voted that those Delinquents that did not work out their Rates in 1784 shall have  
Liberty to Work it in 1785

Voted a Committee to Reckon with Lt. John Huse Town Treasurer  
Capt. John Davis, Stephen Barker Junior, Lt. Bodwell Ladd

Voted that Swine go at large provided they be yoked & ringed

- 9ly Voted to allow the Road laid out by the Selectmen Provided the oners (owners) will give the Land and fence it through Capt. Malloons Land & others
- 10ly Voted not to allow Lt. Hall Nathaniel Bodwells (Bodwell's) Rates and Isaac Barker
- 11ly Voted to allow Hall Daniel Cross: Thos. Newmans: Alexander M<sup>c</sup>Murphy: Nathaniel Tyler: Jonathan Cross: Moses Sargent their Rates
- 12ly Voted not to allow Hall: Joseph Grangers, Enoch Parker, William Cross Junior
- 13ly Voted to allow John Chickering for a Counterfeit Bill
- 14ly Voted to allow Elijah Carlton Moses Sargent Rates provided he can't catch him/Voted to allow James Davis, Edward Frank and Frisel and Lazerus Hubbord in Morrells( Morrell's) List

#### **Annual Meeting 1785 The Articles**

Voted to allow Lt. John Huse 0:12:9 in drawn Sargent's List  
 Voted to allow Lt. John Huse for Timber and work on the Bridge by Mr. Herrick 3:16:3  
 Voted that John Masten Junior acompt (account) be allowed in 1785 List

Voted ? Williams Jr. for 200 feet of plant 0:14:0  
 Voted to allow John Harris for 200 of Plank 0:14:0

His other acompt (account) to be allowed as John Mastens (Asten's) Junior  
 Voted to allow Capt. Henry Bodwell 6/For 25 feet Timber

#### **At the adjournment on Monday April 4 1785**

Voted in he Negative not to hier (hire)\_ Constables Ye year ensuing  
 Voted that the Select Men shall call for the Lists of the Surveyors Ye 1 Day of November 1785 and those Delinquents in Said Lists to be Rated and Collected by the Constables

**Essex SS** William Whittier one of the Constables of Methuen  
**Greeting** You are Hear By (hereby) required in the Name of the Commonwealth to Notify and Warn all the inhabitants of the Town of Methuen that are Qualified by Law to Act in Town Affairs to meet at the Old Meeting House in Said Town on Wednesday Ye 13 Day of March at 10 the Clock in the After Noon then and there to Act on the Following Particulars Viz. –



Peter Osgood Junior	10
Samuel White	13
Stephen Chote	17
Jonathan Greenleaff	15
George Williams	6
Enoch Titcomb	5
Oliver Peabody	1
Tristum Daulton	1

Attest Francis Swan Town Clerk  
 Asa Messer Selectmen  
 Bodwell Ladd } of  
 James Frye Methuen

**May Ye 11 1785**

**Essex SS** To William Morse one of the Constables of the Town of Methuen for the year

**Greeting** 1785 - In the Name of the Common Wealth of the Massachusetts you are hearby (hereby) Required to Warn all the Free Holders of the Town of Methuen that are Qualified by Law to vote in Town Affairs to Meet at the Old Meeting House in Said Town

on Wednesday Ye 14 Day of May Next at 1 O the Clock in the after Noon then and there to

Act on the Following Peticulars Viz. –

1ly First to chuse (choose) a Moderator for Said Meeting

2ly Att (At) the desir (desire) of Enoch Parker & Daniel Cross and Jaber Gage to see if the Town will vote to releaf (relief) their Rates or any part of them or act as they shall think proper

**Methuen April Ye 30 1785**

**May 10 1785** I have notifyd (notified) the within to Appear at Time and Place

William Morse Constable

**May 11, 1785**

**Att (At) a Legal Town Meeting on May 11 1785**

Chose James Ingals Moderator for Said Meeting

Voted not to allow any part of Jaber Gage's Rates

Voted to allow Enoch Parker's and Daniel Cross' Rates

**Essex SS** To Mr William Morse one of the Constables of the Town of Methuen  
**Greeting:** In the Name of the Common Wealth of Massachusetts you are hearby  
required  
to Warn all the Inhabitants of the Town of Methuen that are qualifyd (qualified) by Law  
to  
vote in Town affairs to meet at the Old Meeting House in Said Town on TueSaiday Ye  
13  
of September Instant at 2 O the Clock P.M. then and their to act on the following  
Peticulars

- First To chuse (choose) a Moderator for Said Meeting
- 2ly To see if the Town will chuse (choose) a Committee to meet a committee that is coming from Cort (court) about a Road that was laid out by the Selectmen through Cap. Malloon's Land and others
- 3ly To see what the Town will vote to do with Picket Bridge near Thomas Herrick & others that want repairing
- 4ly To receive the Report of a Committee to reckon with John Huse Present Treasurer
- 5ly At the request of Benjamin Stevens and others to see if the Town will vote to instruct their Representative or act as they shall think proper
- 6ly At the desier (desire) of Col. Poor to see if the Town will vote to releas (release) James Davesons, Nathaniel Bodwells (Bodwell's), & Francis Dinsman Rates in his List or any part of them
- 7ly At the Desier (desire) of Daniel Hibbord to see if the Town will vote to releas part of his rates in Constable Griffen, Morell's & Farnum Lists
- 8ly To bring in and allow Town Debts

Hear of Fail Not and Make Return of this Warrant to us the Subscribers at or before the Time of Said Meeting

**Methuen September 2 1785** Asa Messer Select  
Bodwell Ladd } Men  
James Frye Methuen

**Essex SS**  
**1785**

**Methuen Sept 13**

I have warned all the Free holders and other of the Town of Methuen that are qualifyd (qualified)

by Law to meet at the time and place as you Said

William Morse } Constable

### **The Peticulars of the Meeting September 13 1785**

- 1ly **Att (At) a Legal Town Meeting on September Ye 13 1785** Chose Major Samuel Bodwell Moderator for Said Meeting
- 2ly To see if the Town will chose a committee  
Capt Caleb Swan, Lt. Ebenezer Carlton & William Farnum
- 3ly Voted to Choose (chose) a committee to repair the Bridge by Thos Herrick  
Capt. John Davis, William Farnum, Mr. John Masten voted that the Selectmen should give an acompt (account) to the committee of those Delinquent surveyors that has not worked out their Rates and to work out them on the Bridge
- Voted & excepted (accepted) the Regulation of the ----- ---
- 4ly Voted & Received the Report of the Committee that was chosen to reckon with Lieutenant  
John Huse Present Treasurer
- 5ly Voted to receive the petition that was Presented to the Selectmen  
Voted to chuse (choose) a Committee to act on 2 article set forth in the of Petition Francis Swan, Capt David Whittier, Major Bodwell, Deacon Josiah Osgood, John Masten, Capt Davis, Capt Mallon, Stephen Barker Junior
- 6ly Voted to allow Francis Dinsman in Col Poor's List
- 7ly Voted that the Selectmen should look into the affair of Daniel Hibbard and abate him as they find ----
- Voted to allow Ebenezer Barker & Francis Swan 22/Shillings each for service done reckoning  
with the Treasurer 1:2:0
- Voted Major Bodwell 12/ for saim (same) service
- Voted to give Lt Nathan Swan 0:15:4
- Voted to allow Capt John Davis, Bodwell Ladd & Stephen Barker Junior 3/ Each for reckoning  
with Lt John Huse present Treasurer Total 0:9:0

Voted Francis Swan 15/Shiling for 150 feet of Plant 0:15:0

We the Subscribers being appointed to reckon with Lt John Huse Treasurer for the Town of Methuen; have Att (At)end (Att (At)ended) that business and examined the acompts (accounts) and find that their (there) is in his hands due Said Town the sum of One Hundred and Ten Pounds Sixteen Shillings & ½ pence; if Francis Swan former Treasurer pays those orders which he had drawn on Col Thos. Poor not exhibited in the List annexed to the Settlement made with him October 6;1784 – and 3675 Dollars old Emission paper Money & 20 Dollars Hampshire N Emission and we find that there is due to Said Treasurer in Notes and from Francis Swan and from the several Constables the sum of 134:1:10

Agreable to the list annexed to this Settlement of which sum of a Balance of twenty Three Pounds & Five Shilling and Eight Pence is dew (due) to Deacon Huse as his Property

<b>From</b>	Nathaniel Heseltine	6:14:6	William Pages	0:19:4
	William Farnum	2:13:2	John Pettengill	2: 0:0
	William Page	2:0:8	William Gutterson	2: 9:0
Col	Thos. Poor	12:14:1	Dew (Due) From	
	Jonathan Asten	5:2:5	Francis Swan	<u>3:11:4</u>
	William Whittier	46:18:11		8:11:8
	Parker Richardson	41:13:11		<u>125:10:2</u>
<b>Notes of Hand</b>				133:1:10
	William Whittier	0:12:6		<u>110:16:2</u>
	Joshua Bodwell	0:4:0		<u>23: 5:8</u>
	Capt John Davis	0:4:8		
	William Morse Junior	0:4:7		
Capt	James Malloon	0:14:6		
Lieut	Miles Flint	0:8:0		
	John Barker	0:7:2		
Interest of the above Notes		0:1:10		
	William Morse Junior	0:5:0		
	Dito	2:10:0		
	Samuell Morse	2:10:0		
	Interest	<u>0:1:3</u>		
		125:10:2		

**Methuen September 13 1785**

John Davis  
Bodwell Ladd } Committee  
Stephen Barker Junior

We the Subscribers have laid out a privat way two Rods wide beginning to the West of Deacon John Harrison house running across a corner of Said Harris's Land to the West of

a Walnut Tree marked thence running to the East of a White Oak marked: then to the East of two Black Oaks marked; thence on Said Harris's Land by land of Peter Harris's till it comes to the land of Daniel McClancy's thence a cross a corner of Said McClancy's Land to the East of an Oak Tree marked near by the Town Road that goes by Said McClancy.

**September 17 1785** Asa Messer Selectmen  
**A Road Layd out By the Selectmen** Bodwell Ladd } of  
**By Deacon John Harriss to McClancy** James Frye Methuen

### **October Ye 10 1785**

**Essex SS** To William Morse one of the Constables of the Town of Methuen  
**Greeting -** In the Name of the Common Wealth you are hereby required to Warn all the Inhabitants that are qualified by law to vote in Town affairs to meet at the Old Meeting House  
in Said Town on Monday the 10 day of October next at 3 O the Clock in the Afternoon  
then  
and their (there) to act on the following Peticulars (Particulars)

1ly To chuse (choose) a Moderator for Said Meeting

2ly To see if the Town will except (accept) a Road laid out by the Selectmen 2 Rods wide through land of Deacon John Harris's and Daniel McClancy's at the desier (desire) of Lieut John Wilson and others or act then as the Town shall think proper respecting a Road from the Town Road by Capt James Malloon to the High way that goes by Lieut Jacob Tyler's.

Hear to fail not and make return of this Warrant to one of us before the day of Said meeting

**Methuen September 21 1785** Asa Messer Selectmen  
James Frye } of  
Bodwell Ladd Methuen

**Essex SS** I have notifyd (notified) the Inhabitants to meet a time and place appointed  
October 10 1785

William Morse } Constable

### **October 10, 1785**

## **At a Legal Town Meeting on October 10 1785**

The Chose James Ingals Moderator for Said Meeting

Perticulars Voted to chuse (choose) a Committee to see when it would be most convenient and to consult with the ones of the Land and to see which they can git (get) the checklist : the Committee as follows: James Ingals, Major Samuel Bodwell, Benjamin Stevens, Capt Davis, Thomas Herrick:

Then adjourned to 24 of October at 3 O the Clock

On Monday 24 Met and adjourned to the 31 of October at 3 O the Clock Instant of October

31 of October met and the adjourned and Capt Thomas Herrick voted to except (accept the Privat Way Laid from Deacon John Harris's to Daniel McClancy's as the Selectmen has laid it out then Said Meeting dissolved

## **December Ye 10 1785**

**Essex SS** To Elijah Carlton one of the Constables of the Town of Methuen  
**Greeting** In the Name of the Common Wealth you are hearby required to Warn all the Freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Town of Methuen that are qualifyd (qualified) to vote in Town Affairs to Meet at the Old Meeting House on Thirsday (Thursday) Ye 10 day of December next at 2 O the Clock in the afternoon then and their (there) to act on the following Peticulars (viz.)

1ly To chuse (choose) a Moderator for Said Meeting

2ly To see if the Town will chuse (choose) a Committee to agree with Deacon John Harris about the wall that Said Harris Requests of the Town by reason of the Road that goes through Said Harris's Land or act as the Town shall think proper respecting that affair

3ly At the desier (desire) of Deacon John Hibbord to see if the Town will vote to release his Rates in Constables Farnum's and Asten's Lists or either of them

4ly At the desier (desire) of Elijah Carlton to see if the Town will vote to release several person class Rates in his List or act as the Town shall think proper

Hear to Fail Not and make Return of this Warrant and your doings thereon to one of us on or before the time appointed of Said Meeting

**Methuen November Ye 24 1785**

Asa Messer Selectmen

Bodwell Ladd } of  
James Frye } Methuen

**Essex SS** I have warned the inhabitants to meet at the time and place appointed

**Methuen December Ye 8 1785** Elijah Carlton } Constable

**December 8, 1785**

- 1ly Chose Lieutenant John Huse Moderator for Said Meeting  
Chose Thomas Herrick Clerk for Said Meeting
- 2ly Voted the Second Article be passed over and that the Selectmen should assert (insert) the same in their Warrant for the next Annual Meeting in March
- 3ly Voted that Deacon John Hibbard, Rates be released in Constable Farnum's & Constable Asten's List should be released
- 4ly Voted that the 4 article in the Warrant be passed over and the Selectmen insert the same in their Warrant for the next Annual Meeting in March next

The Meeting dissolved

**Essex SS** To William Morse Constable 1785

**Greeting** In the Name of the Common Wealth of Massachusetts you are hearby (hereby) Required to Notify and to warn all the Freeholders and others of the Inhabitants of the Town Methuen that are Qualifyd (Qualified) by Law to vote in Town affairs to meet at the Old Meeting House in Methuen on Wednesday 10 Day of March at Nine O the Clock in the Morning. Then to act on the following Peticulars

- First To chuse (choose) a Moderator for Said Meeting
- 2ly To chuse (choose) Town Officers as the Law Directs – Year ensuing
- 3ly To see what sum of money the Town will raise to defray Town charges
- 4ly To see what sum of money the Town will raise for schooling the year ensuing
- 5ly To see what money the Town will raise for the highways and privat ways
- 6ly To see if the Town will chuse (choose) a committee to reckon with John Huse the Town Treasurer the year ensuing

- 7ly To see if swine go at large the year ensuing
- 8ly To bring in and allow Town Debts
- 9ly To see if the Town will accept of a Road laid out by the Selectmen at the desier (desire) of Lt. John Parker & others beginning by the Town Road by the Widow Harris's house through Land of Peter Harris's and Land of Capt James Melloon to the Road that leads by R. Melloons House
- 10ly To see if the Town will vote to alter the Privat Way that was excepted (accepted) by Said Town at a meeting of Said Town in October 31 1785 to a Town Road Att (At) the desier of Lt. John Wilson and others or act respecting that mAtt (At)er as the Town shall think proper
- 11ly To see if the Town will vote that those persons that do not work out their highway Rates the year ensuing shall be put into the Constable's List
- 12ly At the desier (desire) of Jonathan Asten to see if the Town will vote to allow him any sum upon the Pound for gathering taxes for the year 1783 or as proper on the mAtt (At)er
- 13ly To see what the Town will do respecting the way that the freight carried off by Capt David Whittier Sawmill by Merrimack River
- 14ly Att (At) the desier (desire) of Jonathan Morse to see if the Town will vote to release his Rates in Constables John Harris's List for the year 1776 and in John Pettengill List for the year 1777 or act thereon as the Town shall think proper
- 15ly At the desier (desire) of Jonathan Barker to see if the Town will release his Rates in Farnum's List
- 16ly At the desier (desire) of Jonathan Stevens to see what the Town will do respecting an order he had for keeping Sarah Roberts which he says he has lost
- 17ly To see if the Town will vote to release part of William Webber Rates

Hear of Fail not and make Return of this warrant and your doings thereon to one of us the Subscribers at or before the time of Said meeting

**Methuen February 21 1786**

Asa Messer	Selectmen
Bodwell Ladd }	of
James Frye	Methuen

**March 6 1786**

I have notifyd (notified) by posting notification as you Said

William Morse } Constable of Methuen

**1786**

**March Ye 8 1786**

**At a Legal Town Meeting on March Ye 8 1786**

Chose Mr James Ingals **Moderator** for Said Meeting

Chose Francis Swan Junior **Town Clerk** and Sworn  
Stephen Barker, Asa Messer and Capt. David Whittier: **Selectmen**  
Lt John Huse **Town Treasurer**

**Constables** for the year: John Pingry, Capt John David for the west part of Town

**Surveyors of High Ways**

Col. Thos. Poor	Elijah Carlton	Lt. John Huse	Wm Hibbard
John Merrill	Nathaniel Whittier	Capt. John Davis	Capt. James Jones
Lt. John Richardson	Abner Morrill	Lt. John Wilson	

**Fence Vewers (Viewers)**

Jonathan Swan      Jacob Hall      Deacon John Harris      Samuel Richardson

**Surveyors of Lumber**

John Masten    Thomas Herrick    Lt Bodwell Ladd    James Wilson    Major Samuel  
Bodwell

**Field Drivers**

Benjamin Towns                      Benjamin Farnum                      Simeon Hastens (Asten's)

**Tything men**

William Richardson                      Lt. John Parker

**Wardens**

Lt. Nathan Swan

Ebenezer Hibbard Junior

### **Fish Keepers**

Capt Henry Bodwell Benjamin Stevens Lt. Nathan Messer Deacon Timothy HARRISS

### **Hog Rafts**

Joshua Swan Junior

Joseph How

William Bodwell

Voted to raise One Hundred and Fifty Pounds to defray Town charges the present year

Voted to raise Thirty Pounds for Schooling the year ensuing

Voted to raise 250 to repair the Highways and Privet Ways the year ensuing

Voted A Committee to reckon with Lt. John Huse Town Treasurer

James Frye Ebenezer Barker Lt. Bodwell Ladd

Voted to chuse (choose) a Committee to work out their Rates on the ? Bridges in the same

manner that Spicket Bridge was by Benjamin Towns

Voted that swine go at large this year ensuing provided they be yoak (yoked) & ringed

Voted Lt. John Huse for serving Treasurer two years 2:8:0

Voted Francis Swan Junior for one year Treasurer 1:4:0

Voted to allow Lt John Huse, Capt Davis and Lt Joshua Swan their acompts (accounts) in the next year's surveyors Lists

Voted John Huse for Timber 0:11:0

Voted Asa Palmer 18/for 300 of oak Plank for a Bridge 0:18:0

Voted to except (accept) the Road laid out by the Selectmen from the Widow Herrick to Capt. James Mellon's by Peter Harris's

Voted to Discontinue the Road by Deacon John Harris's

Voted that those persons that did not work out their highways Rates shall be Returned to the Constable's List

Voted that the Town Treasurer procicute (prosecute) William Whittier

Voted to wait on Said Whittier to see if he can hire a man to serve Constable in his place

Voted to Release Abiel How by his hiering (hiring) half a man of 17 Dollars to hier (hire) a Constable

Voted that the Selectmen allow Mr. Huse for his service as Treasurer the year ensuing

Voted to allow Col. Thos. Poor and Jonathan Asten/3 on the Pound for all Taxes they collect

Voted a committee to joyn (join) the Selectmen to vew (view) the Bank near Capt. Whittier's that the Freight carryd off: Ebenezer Carlton, Thos. Poor, James Melloon, John Davis, Capt ??

Voted to release Jonathan Morse Rates John Harris's List and John Pettengill List

Voted not to release Jonathan Barker Rates Morrill and Farnum's List

Voted that the Selectmen with Mr. Huse settle with Mr. Jonathan ? for an order he says is lost

Voted not to allow William Webber any abatement in his Rates

Voted to except (accept) the Report of the Committee that viewed the road by Capt. Whittier Landing that the freight destroyed & from John Whittier to the River

### **A Report of a Road Laid out by the Selectmen 1786**

We the Subscribers have laid out a Town Road two Rods wide through land of Deacon John Harris's and Land of Daniel McClancy's butted and bounded as follows Viz.} Beginning at the Town Road six poal (pole) Norwesterly of Said Harris's House then running Norwestly about Eleven Rods to a Walnut Tree marked standing on the Easterly side of Said Road thence running Northeasterly about eleven poal to a White Oak tree marked standing on the Westerly side Road thence Northeasterly about ten poal to a road Oak Tree marked standing on the Westerly side of Said Road then Norwesterly about twenty poal to stake and stone standing on the Easterly side of the Road in the line betwixt the Land of the Said Harriss and Land of Peter Harriss thence Northerly on the Said Johns Land by the Said Peters Land about one hundred & twenty eight poal to Land of Said Daniel McClancy, thence Northerly on Said McClancy's Land about twenty three poals to a white oak tree marked standing on the Westerly side of Said Road then Northerly about ten feet to the Town Road that leads by Said McClancy's House

**February 21 1786**

Asa Messer     Selectmen  
Bodwell Ladd }     of  
James Frye     Methuen

We the Subscribers have laid out a Town Road two Rods wide through land of Peter Harris's & Land of Capt. James Melloon's butted and bounded as follows Viz.: Beginning Att (At) the Town Road two rods wide by the widow Sarah Herrick's House thence running two Rods North to the Southwest corner of Said House Said House standing on the Easterly side of Said Road thence running North about Thirty Seven Rods to an apple Tree marked standing on the Easterly side of Said Road thence running Northeasterly and thence running about thirty six rods to a small Red Oak marked Standing on the Easterly Side of Said Road near on the Line Betwixt Said Harris's & Melloon Thence running North to a white oak about Sixty Rods to a white oak marked standing on the Easterly side of

Said road thence running North about Seventeen Rods to a stake and stone standing on the Easterly side of Said Road thence running Northeasterly running about Eleven Rods to a stake and stone standing on the Westerly side of Said Road by the Town Road that Leads to Said Melloons

**February 21 1786**

Asa Messer     Selectmen  
Bodwell Ladd }     of  
James Frye     Methuen

**To the Selectmen of the Town of Methuen           Greeting** Gentlemen

John Wilson and others in Said Methuen prays that you would lay out a Town Road where ? lieu but a private way from the Road where the house of John Harriss to the Road near the house of Mr John McClancy ? nigh the Town Road

**We the Subscribers** being chosen to vew (view) the Road from the House of Capt. David Whittier to the House of Mr. Abner Morrills where the Freight in Merrimack River damaged and carried away part of Said way the last year have Att (At)ended that Service and viewed Said way and report as follows that it is our opinion that is a most for the Publick benefit and interest of this Town to discontinue Said Road and instead thereof to lay out and? Said Road from the road near John Whittier through land of Capt Davis Whittier's and Land of the Widow Lydia Morrill running to the westerly of Abner Morrill's barn to the Road by Said Abner Morrill's house

**March Ye 20 1786**

Ebenezer Carlton		Committee
Thomas Poor		to
John Davis	}	Vew (view)
Caleb Swan		Said
James Melloon		Road

**April 3, 1786**

**The Peticulars of an Annual Meeting for State Officers 1786**

These are in the Name of the Common Wealth of Massachusetts to notify and warn all the Inhabitants of the Town of Methuen to meet Att (At) the Old Meeting House on Monday Ye 3 day of April at one O the Clock in the afternoon then and there to chuse (choose) State Officers as the Constitution Directs

**Methuen April Ye 3 1786**

Stephen Barker	Selectmen
Asa Messer }	of
David Whittier	Methuen

**At a Legal Town Meeting in April Ye 13 1786**

**Votes For Chief Governor**

Isaac Bacus	36
James Bodwin	12
Benjamin Lincoln Esq.	12
Thos. Chushing Esq.	2

**Lieut. Governor**

William Gorden	17
Benjamin Lincoln	6
Tristum Daulton	2

**For Senators**

Jonathan Greenleaf	20
Doctor Samuel Holten	21
Aaron Wood	24
Samuel Phillips Junior	16
Benjamin Goodhue	19

Peter Coffin	14
Peter Osgood Junior	12
Isrel Hutchinson	9
John Manning	9
Stephen Cross	14
Larking Thorndick	11
Moses White Major	2
Isaac Redington	1
Nathaniel Tracy	1
John Choat	2
Samuel Phillips	5
Deacon Joshua Hobb	5

**As Witness**

**In presence of us -**

Francis Swan Junior,	Town Clerk
Stephen Barker	Selectmen
Asa Messer	} of
David Whittier	Methuen

**A Road from John Whittier's to the River**

We the Subscribers have Laid out a Road two Rods wide Beginning Att (At) the Road near House of John Whittier's bounded as follows on the East & West side by Stake and Stones Four Rods wide, and running Six Rods on Land of Capt David Whittier then two Rods wide, then two Rods wide through Land of Said Whittier & Land of the Widow Lydia Morrills on the Easterly side of a Stake and Stone near the Said Lydia Morrill's House, thence running on the Easterly side of a Stake & Stones by the house of Abner Morrills, thence then to the Town Road on the Easterly Side of an Elm Tree standing near the Brook Running about one hundred Rods in Length

**Methuen March Ye 24 17786**

Stephen Barker	Selectmen
Asa Messer	} of
David Whittier	Methuen

**April Ye 10 1786**

**The Peticulars of a Town Meeting on April Ye 10 1786**

**At a legal Town Meeting**

Voted and excepted (accepted) a Town Road laid out by the Selectmen near John Whittier's to Merrimack River two Rods Wide in lieu of the Road Leading from Capt

David Whittier's by the Sawmill, on the Bank of the River to the Road now excepted (accepted)

Voted and excepted (accepted) the Road Laid out by the Selectmen above Spicket Falls

Voted Mr. Benjamin Towns be allowed 12/: for a cord of pine wood for London Bridge  
Mr. James Ingals Moderator for Said Meeting

**Essex SS** To Mr. William Morse one of the Constables of the Town of Methuen  
**Greeting** In the Name of the Common Wealth of Massachusetts you are hearby (hereby) required to Notify and Warn all the Free holders and other inhabitants of the Town of Methuen qualifyd (qualified) by Law to vote in Town affairs to meet at the Old Meeting House in Said Town on Monday Ye 10 Day of April next at one O the Clock in the afternoon then and there to act on the following Peticulars Viz.}

First to chuse (choose) Moderator for Said Meeting

2ly To see if the Town will except (accept) a Town Road laid out b the Selectmen from the Road near John Whittier's through Land of Capt. David Whittier's & Land of Widow Lydia Morrill to near the house of Abner Morrill

3ly To see if the Town will except (accept) a Town Road laid out by the Selectmen from the road leading by the House of Lt. John Sargeant's, through Said Sargeant's Land to Spicket River running across Said River abov (above) Spicket Falls to the Road leading by Capt. Caleb Swan

Stephen Barker    Selectmen  
Asa Messer    }    of  
David Whittier    Methuen

**Essex SS** To Mr. John Pingrey one of Constables of the Town of Methuen  
**Greeting** In the Name of the Common Wealth you are Hearby required to notify and warn all the Freeholders and others of the Inhabitants of the Town of Methuen to meet at the Old Meeting House in Said Methuen on Monday viz. day of July next at one O The Clock in the afternoon then and there to act on the Following Peticulars

1ly First to chuse (choose) a Moderator for Said Meeting

- 2ly For answer to petition of a number of the inhabitants of the Town of Methuen to see what method the Town will take to hier (hire) Constables for the Present Year or act on that as the Town shall think proper ~
- 3ly At the Request of William Farnum Constable for year 1782 to see if they will abate Jesse Parker, Deborah Barker and Benjamin Herrick's Rates in his List
- 4ly At the Request of Nathaniel Hezeltine Constable for the year 1781 to see if they will abate ? Sargent's Rates in his list
- 5ly To see if the Town will abate Joseph Granger Rates in ? Hall's Rates
- 6ly Att (At) the desire of Elijah Carlton to see if the Town will abate a number of persons Class Rates committed to him to collect as Constable for ye year 1785
- 7ly At the Request Capt James Melloon to see if the Town will allow Capt James Melloon three pence on the Pound for one of the Continental Taxes committed to William Farnum to collect one of the Constables for the year 1782

Fail not and make Return of this Warrant with your doing thereon to one of us the Subscribers on or before the time of Said Meeting

**Dated Methuen June 22 1786**

Stephen Barker Selectmen  
Asa Messer of Methuen

### **July Ye 3 1786**

Chose Mr. John Huse Moderator for Said Meeting

Voted to hier (hire) the Constables the y ear ensuing

Voted to chuse (choose) 3 Constables for the West part of the Town

Voted not to act on the 3 articles

Voted to abate Moses Sargeant's Rates in Nathaniel Hazeltine's List

Voted to abase Joseph Granger Rates in Richard Hall's List

Voted not to abate Elijah Carlton his Soldier Rates

Voted not to allow Capt James Melloon anything on the ???

**We the Subscribers** have laid out a Town Road from the Road leading by Lt. John Sargent's through Said Sargent's Land on the Westerly side of a white oak tree marked, thence on the Westerly side of a maple tree marked by the Southerly Branch of Spicket River, thence across Said Branch of the River and on the Westerly Side of two maples on the Island, thence of the Westerly side of a Maple marked & across the Northerly Branch of Said River to a Ledge of Rocks. Thence in the nighest place to the Town Road leading by Capt. Caleb Swan ~

Said Road laid out two rods wide

**March 27 1786**

Stephen Barker    Selectmen  
Asa Messer    }    of  
David Whittier    Methuen

**Essex SS**    To Mr. John Pingrey one of the Constables of the Town of Methuen  
**Greeting**    You are hereby required in the Name of the Commonwealth to notify and warn all the Inhabitants of the Town of Methuen to appear at the Old Meeting House in Said Town on August Ye 7 1786 at one O the Clock in the afternoon / Viz. } then and there to act on following

First    To chuse (choose) a Moderator for Said meeting

2ly    To see if the Town will chuse (choose) a Committee of Correspondence or Saftey (safety) to send to Concord to see the move must or act on mAtt (At)er of Publick given us

Stephen Barker    Selectmen  
Asa Messer    }    of  
David Whittier    Methuen

**August 17 1786**

**At a Legal Town Meeting on August 17 1786**

Chose Capt. David Whittier Moderator for Said Meeting

Committee of Saftey Mr. Thos. Herrick, Capt. Henry Bodwell, Capt. James Melloon, Lt. Miles Flint, Lt. John Huse, Lt John Richardson, Major Samuel Bodwell

At the adjournment voted that John Richardson should read the Consult of the Convention at Woster (Worcester)

Voted to chuse (choose) a committee of Correspondence to meet our Saftey Committee at Concord

Chose Capt. Melloon to go to Concord to the Convention

Voted a committee of Saftey Capt. James Melloon, Capt. Henry Bodwell, Capt. Ebenezer Carlton, Major Samuel Bodwell, Lt. John Richardson, Lt. Miles Flint, James Wilson, Francis Swan

**March 9 1786    Att (At) the adjournment (adjournment) August 21 1706**

Voted that the Selectmen should abate Jesse Parker's Rates in Farnum's List

Adjorned to Ye 1 WedneSaiday (Wednesday) in September 3 O the Clock after noon

Met and voted the Treasurer should be procured for hiring Constables

Capt. John Davis chose Constables for the West Part of the Town

Voted that Mr. Huse give Capt. Davis Security for the ---- ----- besides the fines

Voted the Treasurer give Capt. Davis Security

Voted that the Treasurer should be ---- for hiring the Constables

This Meeting dissolved

**We the Subscribers** have examined William Webber's Rates as far back as the year  
1776

and find that Said Webber has been Taxed 4:10:0 above other who stand equal with him  
in the Present Value action –

We also proceeded in another manner and took off one fourth part of his Taxes as far  
back

as the year 1781 which we find his Son John Webber was first Rated for a part of his  
Estate and then took off one eight part of Said Tax as far back to the year 1789 when we  
find that his son Samuel was Rated for part of his Estate then one ninth part to the year  
1776 which we find his son was Rated for a part of his Estate which sum so taken off  
Amounts to 9:8:0

**Methuen Sept Ye 5 1786**

Stephen Barker	Selectmen
Asa Messer }	of
David Whittier	Methuen

**Essex SS** To Mr. John Pingrey one of the Constables of the Town of Methuen  
**Greeting** In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts you are  
required to notify to Warn all the Freeholders and others of the Inhabitants of the Town  
of

Methuen qualifyd (qualified) by Law to vote in Town affairs to meet Att (At) the Old  
Meeting House in Said Town on Monday the 25 day of September at one O the Clock in  
afternoon then  
and their to act on the following Peticulars (Viz.)

First To chuse (choose) a Moderator for Said Meeting

Second In answer to a Petition of Capt. Henry Bodwell's and others to see if the Town will draw  
a  
petition to send to the General Court for Redress of grievances and converse with

other Town on that Subject

Thirdly To see if the Town will chuse (choose) a committee to examine the Town Stock of Powder and Procure more if wanted and act thereon as they think proper

Fourthly To see if the Town will chuse (choose) a committee to settle with Lt. John Sargent respecting the Road laid out by the Selectmen through his Land last April and act thereon as they shall think proper

**September Ye 10 1786**

Stephen Barker    Selectmen  
Asa Messer    }    of Methuen

**September 25, 1786**

**At a Legal Town Meeting on September 25 1786**

Chose Major Samuel Bodwell Moderator for Said Meeting

Voted to send a petition to the General Court for the Redress of Publick grievances

The 3 article passed over

Voted to chuse (choose) a committee to draw up some Instruction or a petition to the General Court Stephen Barker, Thomas -----, Capt Malloon

Voted to chuse (choose) a committee to settle with Lt Sargent, Co. T. Poor, Capt Ebenezer Carlton, Major Samuel Bodwell, respecting a road laid out by the Selectmen last April

At the adjournment voted the committee be continued and make report at the next meeting  
Voted and excepted (accepted) the Petition to send to the General Court

The powder examined and found good

**December 7, 1786**

**Essex SS** To Capt John Davis one of the Constables of the Town of Methuen within Said

County **Greeting** In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts you are hearby

(hereby) required to notify and warn all the Freeholders and other of the Inhabitants of the Town

of Methuen to meet Att (At) the Old Meeting House in Said Town on Thirsday (Thursday) the Seventh day of December next at one O the Clock in the afternoon then and there to act on the following Peticulars Viz.

- First To chuse (choose) a Moderator for Said Meeting
- 2ly At the request of Francis Swan Junior, former Town Treasurer to see if the Town will chuse (choose) a committee to look over and examine the reckoning that was made with Said Treasurer and rectify any mistakes that may appear therein and act thereon as the Town shall think proper
- 3ly To receive the Report of the Committee that was chosen to reckon with Mr. John Huse present Treasurer
- 4ly To see if what the Town will allow Lt John Sargent as damage done him for laying out a road through his land last April

Fail not and make Return of this Warrant and your doings to one of us on or before the time appointed

Stephen Barker		Selectmen
Asa Messer	}	of
David Whittier		Methuen

**November 25 1786**

Pursuant to the within I have Warned the Inhabitants of Methuen to appear at time and place

John Davis Constable of Methuen

**December 7, 1786**

**At a Legal Town Meeting** chose Mr. John Huse Moderator for Said Meeting

Voted to chuse (choose) a Committee of three men to reckon with Francis Swan Junior former Treasurer – Stephen Barker, Lt Jacob Messer, Mr Thos Herrick

Voted and excepted (accepted) the Report of the Committee that was chosen to reckon with Mr. Huse present Treasurer

Voted to allow Lt John Sargent twelve pounds for the laid land out through his and his son John Sargent Junior from Spicket River to the road past to be allowed according to the number of Rods

Voted the Selectmen should examine the Town stock of powder and dispose of it if not good and purchase none

**Essex SS** To Capt John Davis one of the Constables of the Town of Methuen within Said

County **Greeting** – In the Name of the CommonWealth (Commonwealth) of Massachusetts

you are hearby (hereby) required to notify to warn all the Freeholders and others of the Inhabitants of the Town of Methuen to meet at the Old Meeting House on Monday the 29 Day of January instant at one O the Clock then and there to vote on the following Peticulars Viz.

First To chuse (choose) a Moderator for Said Meeting

2ly In answer to a number of Petitioners to see if the Town will take into consideration the alarming state of our Publick affairs and act as the Town shall think proper

3ly To see if the Town will take in some measure to procure Town Stock and act as the Town shall think proper

Fail not and make Return of this Warrant and your doings on or before the time appointed

**Methuen January 22 1787** Stephen Barker } Selectmen  
David Whittier } Methuen

**1787**

**January ye 29 1787**

**At a legal Town meeting 29 1787**

Chuse (choose) Capt David Whittier Moderator for Said Meeting

Voted not to send provision to the men that is gone to Worster (Worcester) which Nathan Swan required of the Selectmen

Voted to procure the Town stock of powder and balls and that the Treasurer give his security for the same

## March 14, 1787 - Annual Town Meeting

**Essex SS** To Captain John Davis one of the Constables of the Town of Methuen within Said County

**Greeting -** In the Name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts you are hereby (hereby) required to Notify and warn all the Freeholders and others of the Inhabitants of Said Town who are qualified by law to vote in Town affairs to meet Att (At) the Old Meeting House in Said Town on Wednesday the 14 Day of March 1787 at nine O the Clock morning then and their (there) to act on the following Peticlars } viz.

- First To chuse (choose) a Moderator for Said Meeting
- 2ly To chuse (choose) Town Officers as the law directs and to act respecting hiring Constables as the Town shall think proper
- 3ly To see what sum of money the Town will raise for defraying Town charges the present year
- 4ly To see what sum of money the Town will raise for schooling the present year
- 5ly To see what sum of money the Town will raise for repairing the Highways and Private ways the year ensuing
- 6ly To chuse (choose) a Committee to reckon with Lt John Huse present Treasurer
- 7ly To see if swine go at large the present year if they be yoked & ringed
- 8ly To see if the Town will vote to build a powder house the year ensuing
- 9ly At the request of William Cross and Zebediah Barker's rates and Andrew Webbers rates in his List or either of them
- 10ly At the request of William Farnum to see if the Town will abase James Sprague rates in his lists for 1782
- 11ly At the desier (desire) of Samuel Cole to see if the Town will abate his rates in Parker Richardson List on acompt (account) of his paying rates the same year at Pelham –
- 12ly At the request of William Whittier & Parker Richardson to see what the Town will allow them on the pound for collecting taxes

- 13ly To see if the Town will abate Ebenezer Sawyer his rates in Captain Davis list
- 14ly At the request of Parker Richardson to see if the Town will abate James Palmer rates in his List  
of Nathaniel Clark their rates in his List or both of them –
- 15ly At the request of Elijah Carlton to see if the Town will abate William Cross rates in Lt Halls List
- 16ly To bring in and allow Town debts

Fail not and make Return of this Warrant and your doing thereon (thereon) to one of us at or before the time of Said meeting

Stephen Barker	Selectmen
Asa Messer	} of
David Whittier	Methuen

**Essex SS** I have warned the Inhabitants by posting up notification as the same denotes (denotes)

John Davis Constable of Methuen

**The Particulars of the Annual Town Meeting 1787 on March 14**

**At a Legal Annual Town Meeting on March Ye 14 1787**

Chose Mr. Thomas Herrick **Moderator** for Said Meeting

Francis Swan Junior **Town Clerk & Sworn**

Asa Messer, Lt Bodwell Ladd & Capt Carlton **Selectmen**

Timothy Poor **Town Treasurer**

Voted that the Selectmen hire Constables this present year

**Fence Viewers (Viewers)**

Jonathan Swan      Jacob Hall      William Farnum      Samuel Richardson

**Surveyors of Lumber**

Col. Thos. Poor	Mr John Masten	Capt Henry Bodwell	Thomas Herrick
Lt Bodwell Ladd	Lt Jonathan Frye		

### **Surveyors of High Ways**

Col. Thos. Poor	James Messer	Caleb Sawyer	Joseph How Junior
Lt James Wilson	Simeon Tyler	Lt ---- Emerson	Joseph Griffen
William Morse Jr	John Whittier	Timothy Clark	Thomas Herrick

### **Hog Reafs**

Capt John Davis	Aaron Noyes	Lt Nathaniel Messer	Deacon	John
Harris				
Nathaniel Pettengill				

### **Fish Keepers**

Major Samuel Bodwell	Benjamin Steven	Lt Miles Flint	Samuel Webber
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### **Wardens**

William Swan	David McClary
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### **Tything Men**

Elijah Carlton	Lt John Richardson
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### **Field Drivers**

Benjamin Towns	Benjamin Towns
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### **Leather Sealer**

Mr. Thomas Herrick

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

Voted to raise pounds for Schooling the year ensuing

Voted to raise 150 pounds for repairs to the Highways & privat ways

Voted that swine go at large the year ensuing provided they be yoked and ringed

Voted to chuse (choose) a committee to reckon with Lt John Huse Town Treasurer

Voted to build a powder house with wood eight feet square

Voted the Selectmen build the Powder House and appoint the place to set it

Voted to release Joseph Granger rates in William Whittier List and William Cross Junior

Voted not to release Zebediah Barker rates and Andrew Webbers in Said Whittiers List

Voted not to release James Spragues rates in William Farnum List

Voted to abate half of Deacon Corless Pole Tax in Constables Richards List

Voted to allow William Whittier and Parker Richardson one penny on the pound for gathering their taxes

Voted to allow Ebenezer Sawyer rates in Capt Days List

Voted to abate James Palmers rates in parker Richardsons List

Voted to abate William Cross rates in Richard Halls List

Voted to allow Capt. Henry Bodwell for 352 feet of plank 1:4:0

Voted to allow Lt Wilson for 72 feet of oak plank 0:4:0

Voted Doctor Hildreth 14/Shillings for visiting Mary Robin 0:14:0

Voted Daniel Hibbard 7/ for timber found on a bridge 0:9:0

Voted Daniel Richardson 5/6 for timber or --- 0:5:6

Voted to allow Capt Swan for 4 days Att (At)endance on a Committee 0:12:0

Adjourn to April ye 10 day at 2 O the Clock in the afternoon

### **At the adjournment**

Voted to allow William Farnum for 4 days Att (At)endance on a committee at Capt David Whittiers  
0:12:0

Voted Capt Ebenezer Carlton for 4 days Att (At)endance on the Said committee 0:12:0

Voted Capt Caleb Swan five pence half penny on the Pound for serving Constable for the year 1787;

Voted and chose Stephen Barker /6 on the pound for serving Constable the present year

**April 2, 1787**

**At a Legal Town Meeting on April Ye 2 1787**

John Hancock **Chief Governor** 27 votes  
James Bowdoin Chief -- 5

**Lt Governor** Thomas Chushing 75  
Azor Orn 2

**Senators**

Doctor Samuel Holton 6  
Benjamin Goodhue 2  
Israel Hutchinson 70  
Isaac Osgood 68  
Peter Coffen 70  
Aaron Wood 76  
Samuel Phillips Junior 16

Stephen Chote 7  
Baley Bartlett 3  
Azor Orn 4  
Jonathan Greenleaf 19  
Peter Osgood Junior 2  
Joseph Hains 1

Signed in presence of us Asa Messer } Selectmen  
Ebenezer Carlton } of Methuen  
Francis Swan Junior – Town Clerk

**Essex SS** To Capt John Davis one of the Constables of the Town of Methuen  
**Greeting** in the Name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts you are hereby required to notify and warn all the Freeholders and other of the Inhabitants that are qualifyd by Law to vote in Town affair to assemble at the Old Meeting House in Said Town on Monday ye 2 day of April at three O the Clock in the afternoon to act on the following Peticulars [Viz.]

- First To chuse (choose) a Moderator for Said Meeting
- 2ly To see if the Town will allow Francis Swan Junior former Treasurer for the money he says he has lost by serving in Said office after Mr. Jonathan Swan or act thereon as the Town think proper respecting Said affair

Hereof fail not and make return of this Warrant and your doing thereon at or before the time appointed for Said meeting

**March Ye 16 1787**

Asa Messer            Selectmen  
Bodwell Ladd        } of  
Ebenezer Carlton   Methuen

**Essex SS**        I have notifyd the within to appear at time and place within mentioned by me

John Davis Constable of Methuen

**April ye 2 1787**

**At a Legal Town Meeting on April Ye 2 1787**

Chose Mr. Asa Messer Moderator for Said Meeting

Voted and allowed Francis Swan Junior the money he lost by the Treasurer Office 8:16:4

**Methuen May Ye 1 1787**

Methuen May Ye 1 1787 Stephen Barker one of the Constables took the oath of allegiance  
and May Ye 3 Capt Caleb Swan the other Constable took the oath of allegiance before me –

James Ingals Justice of the Peace

**Essex SS**        To Stephen Barker one of the Constables of the Town of Methuen  
**Greeting** in the Name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts you are hearby notifyd (notified) to Warn all the Freeholders and the Inhabitants of the Said Town that are qualifyd by Law to vote in Town affairs to meet at the Old Meeting House in Said Town on TueSaiday Ye eight day of May at one O the Clock in the after Noon then and there to act on the following Peticulars

- First    To chuse (choose) a Moderator for Said Meeting
- 2ly     At the desier (desire) of Deacon John Harriss, to see if the Town will allow him the money he lost by Jonathan Swan former Treasurer or act thereon as the Town think proper
- 3ly     At the desier of Deacon John Harriss and others to see if the Town will discontinue the road laid out by the house of the Widow Lydia Morrill to the River and upon the road that leads to Capt Whittier's Mill land and lay out an addition to it on the River or act thereon as the Town shall think proper



**June 27, 1787**

**At a Legal Town Meeting on June 27 1787** Met and chose Lt Bodwell Ladd Moderator for Said Meeting

Voted to send a man to Salem to git off the fine of the Town ---

Voted to send James Ingals Esquire

**At Essex SS** To Stephen Barker one of the Constables of the Town of Methuen **Greeting** in the Name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts you are hereby required to warn all the Freeholders and others of the Inhabitants of the Town of Methuen qualifdy by Law to vote in Town affairs to meet at the Old Meeting House in Said Town on Monday Ye 15 Day of October at 2 OtheClock in the afternoon then and there to act on the following peticulars {Viz.}

First To chuse (choose) a Moderator

2ly At the desier (Desire) of the Selectmen of the Town of Salem and the desier of Jonathan Turk and others a committee desiring to know the Minots (Minutes) of the Town of Methuen Wheather (whether) they would have the bridge built at Beverly Ferry or some other place

3ly At the desier (desire) of Col. Thos. Poor to see if the Town will abate Zebediah Barkers, Nat Bodwells (Bodwell's), William Cross Junior, Joseph Granger, Nat Tyler, James Davison's rates in his List or act thereon as the Town shall think proper

4ly At the desire of Capt Ebenezer Carlton to see if the Town will vote to release several persons rates in his List

Hear of Fail not and make Return of your doings to one of us at or before the time of Said Meeting

**October Ye 8 1787**

Asa Messer                      Selectmen  
Bodwell Ladd                 } of  
Ebenezer Carlton            Methuen

**Essex October Ye 15 1787**

Pursuant to the within Warrant I have notifdy the Inhabitants of Methuen by posting up notification as usual

Per Stephen Barker Constable

**October 15, 1787**

**At a Legal Town Meeting on October Ye 15 1787**

Chose Stephen Barker Moderator for Said Meeting

Voted that the Bridge betwixt Salem and Beverly be built at the Ferry way

Voted to chuse (choose) a Committee to draw a petition to send to the General Court in favour of the Bridge at Beverly Ferry -

Lt John Huse, Stephen Barker, Mr. Thomas Herrick

Voted to postpoan (postpone) the 3 and two article in favour of Col. Thos. Poor and Capt Ebenezer Carlton to the Next Meeting

**Essex SS** To Stephen Barker one of the Constables of the Town of Methuen  
**Greeting** in the Name of the Common Wealth of Massachusetts your are requested to warn all the Freeholders and other inhabitants of the Town of Methuen that are qualifyd by Law to vote in Town affairs to meet at the Old Meeting House in Said Town on thirSaiday (Thursday) ) Ye twentieth Day of December at OtheClock in the after noon then and there to act on the following Peticulars VIZ.

- First To chuse (choose) a Moderator for Said meeting
- 2ly To see if the Town will vote to except (accept) the Report of the Committee that was chosen to reckon with Lt John Huse former Treasurer
- 3ly At the desier (desire) of Moses Morse and others to see if the Town will vote to set off one third part of the Town of Methuen at the West End of Said Town to joyn (join) with the Easterly part of Dracut for a Town district or ---- or act thereon as the Town shall think proper
- 4ly At the desier (desire) of Col. Thos. Poor to see if the Town will vote to release a Number of Persons in his List
- 5ly At the desier (desire) of Capt. Ebenezer Carlton to see if the Town will release several persons in his List
- 6ly To bring in and allow Town Debts

Hear of fail not and make return of this Warrant with your doing thereon to use the Subscribers at or before the time of Said Meeting

**December Ye 7 1787**

Asa Messer        Selectmen  
Bodwell Ladd    }    of  
Ebenezer Carlton    Methuen

**Essex SS        December 20 1787**

Pursuant to the within Warrant I have warned all the Inhabitants of the Town of Methuen by posting up Notifcations (Notifications) as usual

Per Stephen Barker Constable of Methuen

**December 20, 1787**

**At a Legal Town Meeting December Ye 20 17887**

Voted to send Capt Ebenezer Carlton to set with the Convention at Boston the Second TueSaiday in January 1787

Voted not to Instruct our Delegate

At the request of a petition a number to see if the Town would send two to the Convention

Voted in the negative

**At a Legal Town Meeting December Ye 20 1787**

Chose Mr. James Ingals Esquire Moderator for Said Meeting

Voted and excepted (accepted) the Report at the Committee that was chosen to reckon with Lt John Huse former Treasurer

Voted to chuse (choose) a Committee to take a plan of the Town and see how far the line will come to take one third part of the Town

Voted to have five on the committee Capt. Henry Bodwell, Mr. Thomas Herrick, Capt. Ebenezer Carlton, Mr. Samuel Richardson and Daniel Russ

Voted the Committee to procure a copy from the Clerk of the Previous Parrish to see if they have voted to give up their Parrish

Voted not to release Zebediah Barker rates in Col. Poor's List

Voted to release Nat Bodwell's rates in Poor's List

Voted to release William Cross Junior rates in Poor's List

Voted to release James Davison's rates in Poor's List

Voted to release Joseph Granger rates in Col. Poor's List

Voted to release Nat Tyler's rates in Poor's List

Voted to allow I--- Emerson rates in Col. Poor's List

Voted to allow all in Capt William Carlton's List all excepting Simeon Cross Rates

Voted to allow Ebenezer Barker for 4 days & half reckoning with the Treasurer 0:13:6

Voted to allow Benjamin Farnum for 2 & half of Timber 0:12:0

Voted to allow Mr. Herrick & Stephen Barker for 3 day each reckoning with John Huse former Treasurer 0:12:0

Voted to allow Benjamin Town for 2 --- of timber 100 of plank 0:14:10

Voted to allow John Pingrey for keeping --- --- --- 2:0:0

Voted to allow Stephen Barker for sytation (citation) of Elias Heath 0:9:0

Voted to allow Capt John Davis for 2 days work and his team 0:6:0

Voted not to grant the one third part of the Town to joyn with Dracutt

This Meeting dissolved

**We the Subscribers** being appointed a Committee to examine the accompts (accounts) of Mr. John Huse late Treasurer for the Town of Methuen have Att (At)ended that business

and find that there is due in his hands of the Town's money the sum of Two Hundred and Sixteen Pounds Fourteen shillings & four pence

Which sums we find due from the several Constables and in Notes of hand & from Francis Swan former Treasurer if all the orders agreable to the --- List are answered and also thirteen shillings more which is due from old Constables which is a balance

due to Said Huse; making in the hole (whole) Two Hundred and Seventeen Pounds Seven Shillings and Ten Pence and also 3663 Dollars Old Emission –

**Money Due from Constables as follows**

From John Pingrey	73:9:7
Capt John Davis	78:4:0
William Morse	16:2:4
Elijah Carlton	9:14:9
William Page	2:0:8
William Whittier	6:8:8
Parker Richardson	2:19:8

Jonathan Asten	5:10:1
Col. Thos. Poor	9:15:10
Notes William Page	0:19:4
John Pettingill	2:0:0
William Gutterson	2:1:0
Stephen Barker	0:13:10
William Whittier	0:12:6
Capt John Davis	0:4:8
William Messer Jr.	2:10:0
<u>Due from Francis Swan</u>	<u>3:11:4</u>

Capt James Melloon	0:3:1
Nathaniel Pettengill	0:9:0
Eliphaz Chapman	1:5:0
Bodwell Ladd	2:5:8
--- to Morse	13:14:0

#### **Orders Drawn of John Pingrey**

In favor of William Webber	6:19:2
Doc Samuel Hildreth	1:1:0
Joseph Gage	3:19:0
Joseph Page	1:11:0
Joseph How	1:10:0
James Frye	3:14:10
Nathaniel Whittier	0:8:0
Jonathan How	0:4:8
James Ingals Esquire	2:8:0
Jonathan How	0:14:0
John Swan	3:0:0

#### **On Capt Davis**

Jonathan Stevens	2:2:0
Benjamin Town	2:1:0
John Swan	0:10:2

#### **On William Morse**

James Sargent	4:7:0
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Caleb Sawyer	5:9:0
Samuel Griffen	2:13:4
Samuel Brown	6:0:0
Amos Morse	4:6:8
Robert Young	1:8:0
Wm. Farnum	5:10:5
Capt John White	1:0:0
Wm. Farnum	0:1:7
Major Bodwell	0:18:0

### **On Elijah Carlton**

John Chickering	0:16:0
Asa Messer	4:10:0
Benjamin Osgood	0:4:6
Samuel Griffen	6:0:0
Thomas Herrick	0:10:0
Caleb Hall	0:15:4
Doctor Samuel Hildreth	1:5:0
Jacob Hall	0:10:0
William Whittier	0:13:6
---- Emerson	0:11:0
James Frye	2:1:4
James Jones	1:3:2
Jonathan -----	0:9:2
James How	1:1:6
<u>Receipted to Carlton</u>	<u>43:4:5</u>

### **Orders on William Whittier**

John Masten	4:16:0
John Chickering	1:6:0
Daniel Russ	1:16:0
Jacob Hall	4:10:0
William Webber	1:2:8
Daniel Russ	1:2:1
Benjamin Towns	3:0:0
Elijah Sargent	0:16:0
<u>Receipted to Whittier</u>	<u>59:1:3</u>

### **Orders on Parker Richardson**

Capt David Whittier	1:10:0
Jeremy Stevens	5:3:0
Abner Morrel	10:16:0
Daniel Hibbard	5:8:7

Solomon Jennings 0:8::0  
Capt James Melloon 1:3:8  
Received to Richardson 37:15:1

**Orders on Jonathan Asten**

James Ordway Junior 0:10:7  
Nat Pettengill 1:1:0  
Jona Merrill 3:19:0  
Nat Pettengill 1:0:0  
Jeremy Stevens 5:0:0  
Joshua Sargent 0:3:5  
Lt John Sargent 1:10:0  
Received to Asten 46:17:1

**N.B. April 30 1787**

We find by reckoning the accompts (accounts) that there is due four shillings & six pence more to Mr. Huse than what was mentioned in the former reckoning

**Methuen April Ye 20 1787**

Thomas Herrick  
Ebenezer Barker } Committee  
Stephen Barker

**1788**

**March 12, 1788 – Annual Meeting**

**Essex** To Stephen Barker one of the Constables for the Town of Methuen within Said County of Essex

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

to notify and warn all the Freeholders & other Inhabitants of Said Town qualified by Law to

vote in Town affairs to meet at the Old Meeting House in Said Town on WedneSaiday (Wednesday) the 12<sup>th</sup> Day of March next at Ten of the Clock in the forenoon then & there to act on the following particulars viz. –

- First To Choose (chose) a Moderator for Said Meeting
- 2dly To Choose (chose) Town Officers as the law directs
- 3dly To see if the Town will vote to allow the Constables any sum upon the pound for gathering

Taxes the year ensuing or act respecting Constables as the Town shall then think proper

- 4thly To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise to defray Town charges the year ensuing
- 5thly To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise for schooling the year ensuing
- 6thly To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise for repairing the Highways & Private ways in Said Town the year ensuing
- 7thly To see if the Town will vote to have those persons assessed that do not work out their Highways Rates & committed to Constables to collect
- 8thly To see if the Town will vote for swine to go at large the year ensuing
- 9thly To see if the Town will vote to build a Work House to put Idle persons that belong to Said Town
- 10thly To see if the Town will Choose (chose) a committee to reckon with Timothy Poor Town Treasurer
- 11thly At the desire of Benjamin Town to see if the Town will vote to release what he says he was over rated in several Constables lists
- 12thly At the desire of Parker Richardson to see if the Town will vote to release several persons rates in his list or any part thereof
- 13thly At the desire of Jonathan Asten to see if the Town will vote to release several persons rates in his list
- 14thly At the desire of William Morse to see if the Town will vote to release several persons rates in his list
- 15thly To bring in and allow Town Debts

Hereof fail not & make Return of this Warrant with your doings thereon to one of us the Subscribers at or before the time of Said meeting

**February 26<sup>th</sup> 1788**

Assessors

Asa Messer                      Selectmen  
   Bodwell Ladd            }            &  
Ebenezer Carlton            of Methuen

**Essex SS      Methuen March 12<sup>th</sup> 1788 ~**

Pursuant to this Warrant I have warned the Inhabitants of this Town to meet at the time & place within mentioned by posting up notification as usual ~

**Particulars of the Annual Meeting March 12<sup>th</sup> 1788**

Chose Mr. Thomas Herrick for **Moderator**

Chose Stephen Barker **Town Clerk**

Chose Lt. Bodwell Ladd, Capt. John Davis & Capt. Henry Bodwell for **Selectmen**

Chose Stephen Barker **Town Treasurer**

Voted to postpone (postpone) choosing Town Officers till the Town has acted on the third Article

Voted to give the Constables four pence on the pound for collecting Taxes for the year ensuing

Chose Samuel Webber **Constable for the East part of the Town**

Chose Samuel Richardson **Constable for the West part of the Town**

**Fence Viewers - Sworn**

Moses Pingry                      Jacob Hall                      John Palmer                      John Pettingill

**Surveyors of Lumber - Sworn**

Col. Thos. Poor                      John Masten                      Major Samuel Bodwell  
Thos. Herrick                      Lt. Bodwell Ladd                      Jonathan Currier

**Surveyors of Highways – Sworn**

Col. Thos. Poor Howe	Peter Master	Ebenezer Barker	Jonathan
William Whittier Jr	Seth Emerson	Robert Hastings	John Ladd
Elephar Chapman	Nathaniel Pettingill	Thomas Herrick	Elisha Upton

**Wardens - Sworn**

James Frye	Nathaniel Hibberd
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**Tything men**

William Whittier Junior	Aaron Noyes	William Whittier
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**Field Drivers – sworn**

Capt. Caleb Swan (out)	Benjamin Town (crossed out)	John Whittier (cross out)
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**Hoggreefs**

Capt. Caleb Swan Nathaniel Pettengill	Timothy Poor	Asa Messer	James Messer
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**Fish keepers**

Lt. Nathan Swan	Richard Whittier	Capt. James Malone	Lt. Jonathan Parker
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**Sealer of Leather**

Thomas Herrick

Voted to raise one hundred pounds to defray Town charges the year ensuing

Voted to raise 30 pounds for Schooling

Voted to raise 150 pounds for repairing the Highways \* Privat ways

Voted to have those persons assessed that do not work out their Highway rate

Voted for swine to go at large being yoked & ringed

9<sup>th</sup> Article voted in the negative

Voted & chose Capt. James Mallone, Peter Masten & John Pettengill a Committee to reckon

with Mr. Timothy Poor late Town Treasurer

Voted to leave it to the Selectmen to adjust Benjamin Towns rates in Constables Farnums (Farnum's) & Astens (Asten's) (Asten's) lists

Voted to postpone the Ye 12<sup>th</sup> Article till the Town has acted on the 13<sup>th</sup>

Voted to give in Solomon Astens (Asten's) (Asten's) rates in Jonathan Asten's list

Voted to allow Jonathan Asten 11/5 for abatement of Joshua Bodwell rates

Voted to allow Parker Richardson as follows

10/3 as abatement of Nathaniel Challue's rates – 13/5 for John Barker Junior – 7/7 for Ebenezer Sawyer's – 9/10 for Solomon Asten's rates & 4/5 for Joshua Bodwell's in his list –

14<sup>th</sup> Article postponed till the Adjournment. –

Voted to Adjourn this meeting till this Day fortnight at one o Clock P:M

### **At the Adjournment of the Annual Meeting March 26<sup>th</sup> 1788**

Voted and chose Samuel Masten Hogg Reef –

Voted to allow William Moses Constable as follows

7/1<sup>1/2</sup> for abatement of David Silver's rates

3/5<sup>1/2</sup> for Ebenezer Sawyer's

13/11 for Joshua Bodwell's

4/6 for Zebediah Barker's

3/6<sup>1/2</sup> for Solomon Asten's rates in his List

Chose John Ladd & Nathaniel Pettengill **Surveyors of Highways** & Sworn

Chose Samuel Huse **Tything man** and Sworn

Nathaniel Hibberd **Warden** & Sworn

Capt. Caleb Swan **Field Driver** & Sworn

Deacon John Harris **Hogg Reaf** & Sworn

Voted to abate Seth Emerson Highways Rate in Lt. Hall's list being 5/1 –

Chose Major Samuel Bodwell, Farnum Hall & Jacob Merrick **Hog Reafs** & Sworn

Voted and excepted (accepted) Major Samuel Bodwell for **Constable for West part of the**

**Town** instead of Samuel Richardson

Voted and excepted (accepted) Capt. Caleb Swan for **Constable for the East part of the Town** instead of Samuel Webber both Sworn

Voted & allowed James Ingalls, Esq: 6/ for Att (At)ending the inferior Court on behalf of the Town to get off a fine for not keeping School

### **Warrant for a Town Meeting March 26<sup>th</sup> 1788**

**Essex SS** To Stephen Barker one of the Constables for the Town of Methuen within Said County **Greeting -** In the Name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts you are hereby required to notify & warn all the freeholders & other Inhabitants of Said Town qualified by Law to vote in Town affairs to meet at the Old Meeting House in Said Town on WednySaiday (Wednesday) the 26<sup>th</sup> Day of March Instant at three o Clock PM. There & then to act on the following particulars – viz.

First To Choose (chose) a Moderator for Said meeting

2dly At the desire of Capt. Caleb Swan & others to see if the Town will vote to let Shad & Alewives up Spicket River as far as Spicket falls and make a suitable course for them

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

Given under our hands & seals the 13<sup>th</sup> Day of March 1788 –

Bodwell Ladd	Selectmen
John Davis	} of
Henry Bodwell	Methuen

### **Essex SS Methuen March 26<sup>th</sup> 1788**

By virtue of this Warrant I have notified the Inhabitants of this Town to meet at the time & place within mentioned by posting up notifications as usual

Stephen Barker Constable for Methuen

### **Particulars of the above meeting**

Chose Mr. John Huse Moderator

2dly Voted to let Shad and Alwives up Spicket River to the falls & to make suitable courses for them agreeable to the above Warrant

**April 7, 1788**

**At a Legal Town Meeting on the Seventh Day of April 1788 for the choice of State Officers Agreeable to the Constitution of this Commonwealth –**

Honorable Elbridge Gerry for **Chief Governour** 33 votes  
Honorable John Hancock for **Chief Governour** 27  
Honorable James Warrant **Lieut. Governour** 37

Honorable Benjamin Lincoln **Lieut. Governour** 20

**Vote for Senators**

Tristum Dalton Esq.	20	Aaron Wood	41
Stephen Choat Esq.	20	Israel Hutchinson	36
Benjamin Goodhue	21	Daniel Kilham	40
Samuel Phillips Esq.	20	Dr. John Maning	36
Azor Orne	20	Capt. Richard Ward	38
Samuel Holton Esq.	27	Peter Coffren	5
		Isaac Osgood Esq.	4

Signed in the presence of Us

Bodwell Ladd                      Selectmen  
John Davis                        } of  
Henry Bodwell                  Methuen  
Stephen Barker – Town Clerk

**Essex SS**        To Capt. Caleb Swan one of the Constables for the Town of Methuen within Said County    **Greeting**    In the Name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts you are hereby required to notify and warn all the freeholders & other Inhabitants of the Town qualified by Law to vote in Town affairs to meet at the Old Meeting House in Said Town on Monday Ye 7<sup>th</sup> Day of April next at one o Clock in the afternoon then & there to act on the following particulars viz.

- First        To Choose (chose) a Moderator for Said meeting
- 2ndly        To see if the Town will except (accept) the Report of the Committee that was chosen to reckon with Timothy Poor late Town Treasurer
- 3rdly        To see if the Town will vote to release several persons rates in William Whittier's list or any part thereof
- 4thly        To see if the Town will release part of Major Bodwell's rates in Capt. John Davis' List

Hereof fail not & make return of this Warrant with your doings thereon to one of us the Subscribers at or before Said Meeting – **March 26<sup>th</sup> 1788**

Bodwell Ladd - John Davis - Henry Bodwell } Selectmen of  
Methuen

**Essex SS.** In obedience to this Warrant I have warned the Inhabitants of this Town to meet at ye time & place within mentioned by posting up notifications as usual

Caleb Swan Constable for Methuen

### **The particulars of the above meeting**

Met & chose Col. Thomas Poor for **Moderator**

Voted to recommit the Report of the Committee that was chosen to reckon with the Town Treasurer

Voted Mr. Thomas Herrick & Francis Swan be added to the Committee

Voted to adjourn this meeting till a fortnight from next Tuesday at two O'clock P.M-

### **On adjournment**

Voted to except (accept) the Report of the Committee that was lastly appointed to reckon with Ye Treasurer & that Capt. Malone & Francis Swan be present at ye time of turning over the papers to Stephen Barker –

Voted not to act on the 3d Article in the Warrant

Voted that the Selectmen examine (& if need be) adjust Major Bodwell's rate in Capt. Davis' List

### **Reconing (Reckoning) with the Treasurer 18 of April 1788**

We the Subscribers being appointed a Committee the accounts of Mr. Timothy Poor late Treasurer for the Town of Methuen; Have Att (At)ended that Service & find in his hand due to the Town the sum of One Hundred and ten pounds eighteen shillings & nine pence & 3654 dollars old Emission paper money; Said Poor paying all his own out of standing orders drawn on Constables and all the outstanding orders of Mr. John Huse former Town Treasurer, that were

turned over to Said Poor. And we find there is due from the several Constables & in Notes of Hand & from several other persons to the Treasurer according to the annexed list, the sum of Two Hundred & forty one pounds five shillings & five pence which makes a Balance of one Hundred & thirty pounds Six shillings & eight pence which Said Poor turns over to Stephen Barker present Town Treasurer to pay Said Poor's outstanding orders with & order of Mr. Huse as aforesaid—

**Due from the Several Constables**

**As follows:**

Capt. Caleb Swan 63:2:6  
 Stephen Barker 51:3:0  
 Elijah Carlton 13:19:4  
 William Moses 34:17:11  
 William Whittier 9:13:7  
 Parker Richardson 1:15:8

**Due from**

Francis Swan Jr 3:11:4  
 Capt. Eben. Carlton 0:9:4  
 D. Isaac Thom 0:9:4  
 Lt. John Sargent 0:2:8  
 Daniel Hardy 0:5:4  
Benjamin Town 0:4:0

Jonathan Asten 18:14:1  
 William Page 2:0:8  
 Capt. John Davis 33:19:2

**Notes of Hand**

Francis Swan Jr 0:2:3  
 Stephen Barker 0:13:10  
 William Morse Jr 0:3:10  
 Capt. John Davis :4:8  
 John Pettengill 2:0:0  
 Wililam Gutterson 2:1:1  
 William Page :19:4  
 William Whittier :12:6

Put into Mr. Poor's Hand  
 333:4:0  
 Paid by Said Poor 222:5:3  
 Pounds 110:18:9

Turned over in the Constables & other persons Hand 241-5-5  
**Methuen 18 April 1788** Balance n Poor's favour 130:6:8

James Mallon  
 John Pettengill } Committee  
 Thomas Herrick  
 Francis Swan Jr-

**Warrant for a Town Meeting September 25<sup>th</sup> 1788**

**Essex SS.** To Capt. Caleb Swan one of the Constables for Said the Town of Methuen within Said County **Greeting** In the Name of the Commonwealth

of Massachusetts you are hereby required to notify and warn all the freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Town of Methuen qualified by Law to vote in Town affairs to meet at the Old Meeting House in Said Town on Thirsday (Thursday) the twenty fifty day of September Instant at two oClock P.M. then and there to vote on the following particulars viz.

- First To Choose (chose) a Moderator for Said meeting
- 2dly To see if the Town will vote to raise a sum of money in addition to the sum voted last March meeting for defraying Town Charges ~
- 3dly At the desire of Capt. John Davis to see if the Town will vote to release James Pitman, John Barker Jr & Samuel Clough rates in his list or act as the Town shall think proper respecting Said rates
- 4thly At the request of Col. Poor, to see if the Town will vote to release Zebediah Barker's rates in his list
- 5thly At the desire of Benjamin Town to see if the Town will vote to allow him interest for what the Town owes him
- 6thly At the request of John Pettengill to see if the Town will vote to abate part of a note his father gave the Town Treasury
- 7<sup>th</sup> At the desire of William Whittier to see if the Town will vote to abate part of a note he gave the Town Treasurer
- 8<sup>th</sup> At the desire of James Ordway to see if the Town will vote to abate his poll tax in Several Constables lists
- 9<sup>th</sup> To bring in and allow Town Debts

Hereof fail not and make return of this warrant with your doings thereon to us the Subscribers

at or before Said meeting: **September 11<sup>th</sup> 1788**

Bodwell Ladd	Selectmen
John Davis	} of
Henry Bodwell	Methuen

**Methuen 21<sup>st</sup> September: 1788 ~**

In obedience to the within Warrant I have notified the Inhabitants of this Town to meet at the time & place within mentioned by posting up notifications at the meeting House areas as usual

Caleb Swan Constable of Methuen

**September 25, 1788**

**Particulars of a Legal Town Meeting 25<sup>th</sup> September 1788**

Voted & chose Mr John Huse **Moderator** for Said Meeting

Voted to raise Sixty pounds in addition to what was voted last March – for defraying Town charges

Voted to abate James Pitman poll & personal Tax in Capt. Davis List estimated at 18/10<sup>1/2</sup>  
State part of 6/for pound & Continental List at 3/6 pound

Voted to abate John Barker Junior and Samuel Clough in Capt. Davis list to be estimated in  
the same proportion

Voted to allow Benjamin Town 8 years interest on five pounds the Town owes him

Voted the Selectmen to settle William Whittier's note amounting to the price of the Certificates  
with which his tax was paid

**Warrant for a Town Meeting December 18<sup>th</sup> 1788**

**At a Legal Meeting of the Inhabitants of the Town of Methuen duly qualified to vote for a Representative on the 18<sup>th</sup> of December 1788 for the purpose of giving their votes for a Person to Represent this District in the Congress of the United States**

**The votes were as follows**

The Honorable Samuel Holton Esq.	23 votes
Honorable Benjamin Goodhue	4 votes
Honorable Nathan Dean	2 votes

Also at the same time the following Persons were voted for as **Candidates for an Elector of the President and Vice President of the United States.**

**The votes were as follows –**

Honorable George Cabbot Esq.	13 votes
Honorable Nathan Dean, Esq.	12
Honorable Samuel Holton	10
Honorable B. Goodhue	10
Honorable Samuel Phillips Jr., Esq.	9

A true record Attest Stephen Barker – Town Clerk