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*Inventory of Town and City Archives
of
Massachusetts*



*Prepared by
The Historical Records Survey
Division of Professional and Service Projects
Work Projects Administration*

GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY
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No. 6. Franklin County
VOL. III. BUCKLAND



*The Historical Records Survey
Boston, Massachusetts
1940*

INVENTORY OF CITY AND TOWN ARCHIVES
OF MASSACHUSETTS

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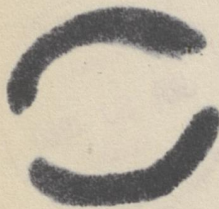
No. 6 Franklin County

Vol. III. BUCKLAND

* * * * *

The Historical Records Survey
Boston, Massachusetts
1940

The Historical Records Survey Program



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The Historical Records Survey
Division of Professional and Service Projects
1933

PREFACE

By authority of a Presidential Letter, the Historical Records Survey was established in January, 1936, under the national direction of Dr. Luther H. Evans, as a federally sponsored project of the Works Progress Administration (now the Work Projects Administration). Since federal sponsorship ceased on August 31, 1939, the sponsorship of the Massachusetts unit of the survey has been undertaken by Frederic W. Cook, Secretary of the Commonwealth.

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

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

Scarcely less important, however, are the editorial processes to which all field information must be subjected before publication. Here gaps and inadequacies are spotted, inconsistencies reconciled, and order brought out of chaos. In the field of public records it has been found necessary not only to sketch briefly the history of the county or town and its government but also to preface the inventory of each subordinate office or institution with an outline of its development, based upon its own records or upon statutory or other sources. In the inventories of church records, similarly, the preparation of the history of each church constitutes a task equally arduous with that of locating and listing its records. In Massachusetts two broader works have also been undertaken. The general historical background, statutory origin and functioning of county, city, or town offices have been studied with a view to providing satisfactory accounts of the development of county and municipal government generally. These latter undertakings are now happily nearing completion.

In the field of county records the surveys of eight of the fourteen counties of Massachusetts are nearing completion. In that of municipal records, approximately sixty of 350 cities and towns have been covered

Preface

to date including several of the more populous. Editorial work is now also proceeding on six of an estimated ten volumes of the inventory of the records of the city of Boston. Some 200 manuscripts depositories, large and small, have been surveyed and a preliminary guide to them published. An inventory of the records of Universalist churches in Massachusetts will soon be published, and field work is being carried on in other denominations, particularly in the Unitarian, Congregational, Baptist and Jewish bodies. A catalogue of portraits painted before 1825 in Massachusetts has been published and editorial work is proceeding on similar listings for the other New England states and New York State. A listing of the publications of the Massachusetts unit of the survey follows at the end of this volume.

This inventory of the town archives of Buckland is the third in the alphabetical series covering the towns of Franklin County. The field work and historical research were done in the first instance by Frank Lane and Ethel Cheves of the survey staff. The historical and office sketches were originally prepared by Samuel Levenson of the Worcester office of the survey. Both these branches of work were under the direction of Lincoln E. Ross, supervisor in Worcester and Franklin Counties. The inventory of records was edited in the Boston office by George H. Ferran under the supervision of Morris I. Wartow; the historical, governmental and office sketches by the writer. Final approval was given the volume by Sargent B. Child, field supervisor representing the Washington office. The index was prepared by Charles N. Haskell; the maps, charts and covers by William Rabinowitz, and the technical work of publication was under the direction of Ralph Kahn.

The Historical Records Survey is happy to acknowledge the helpfulness of the officials of the Town of Buckland, the very substantial aid rendered by Mrs. Fannie Shaw Kendrick's History of Buckland, 1779-1935, and also the sponsorship of Secretary of the Commonwealth, Frederic W. Cook, without which this volume would not have been possible.

Carl J. Wennerblad
State Supervisor
Historical Records Survey

FOREWORD

The Inventory of the Town and City Archives of Massachusetts is one of a number of bibliographies of historical materials prepared throughout the United States by workers on the Historical Records Survey of the Work Projects Administration. The publication herewith presented, an inventory of the Archives of Buckland in Franklin County, is volume III of number 6 of the Massachusetts series.

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

The inventories produced by the Historical Records Survey attempt to do more than give merely a list of records--they attempt further to sketch in the historical background of the county or other unit of government, and to describe precisely and in detail the organization and functions of the government agencies whose records they list. The county, town, and city inventories for the entire country will, when completed, constitute an encyclopedia of local government as well as bibliography of local archives.

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

The Survey was organized and has been directed by Luther H. Evans, and operates as a nation-wide project in the Division of Professional and Service Projects, of which Mrs. Florence Kerr, Assistant Commissioner, is in charge.

F. C. Harrington
Commissioner of Work Projects

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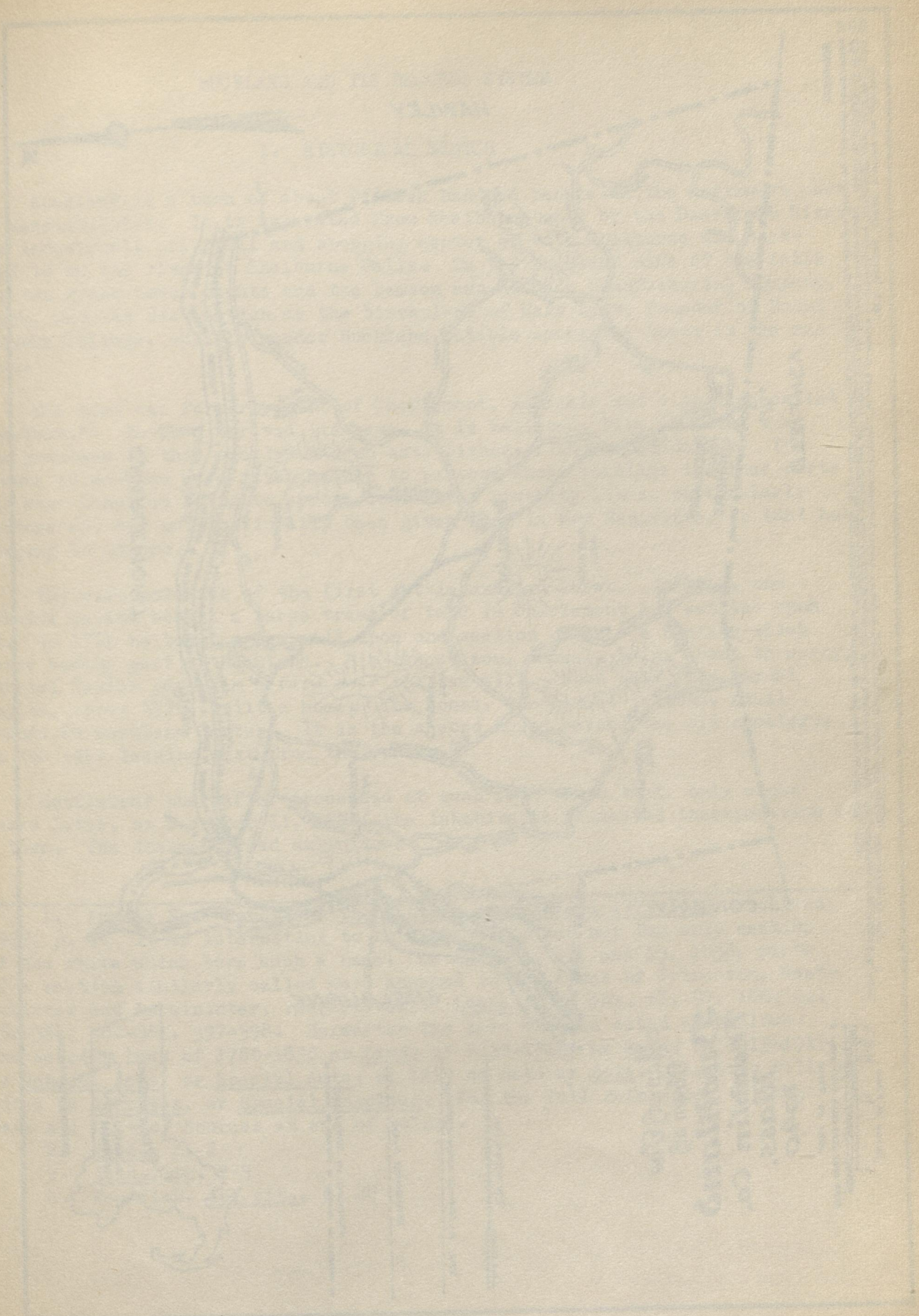
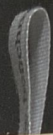
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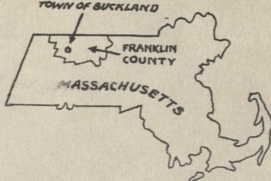
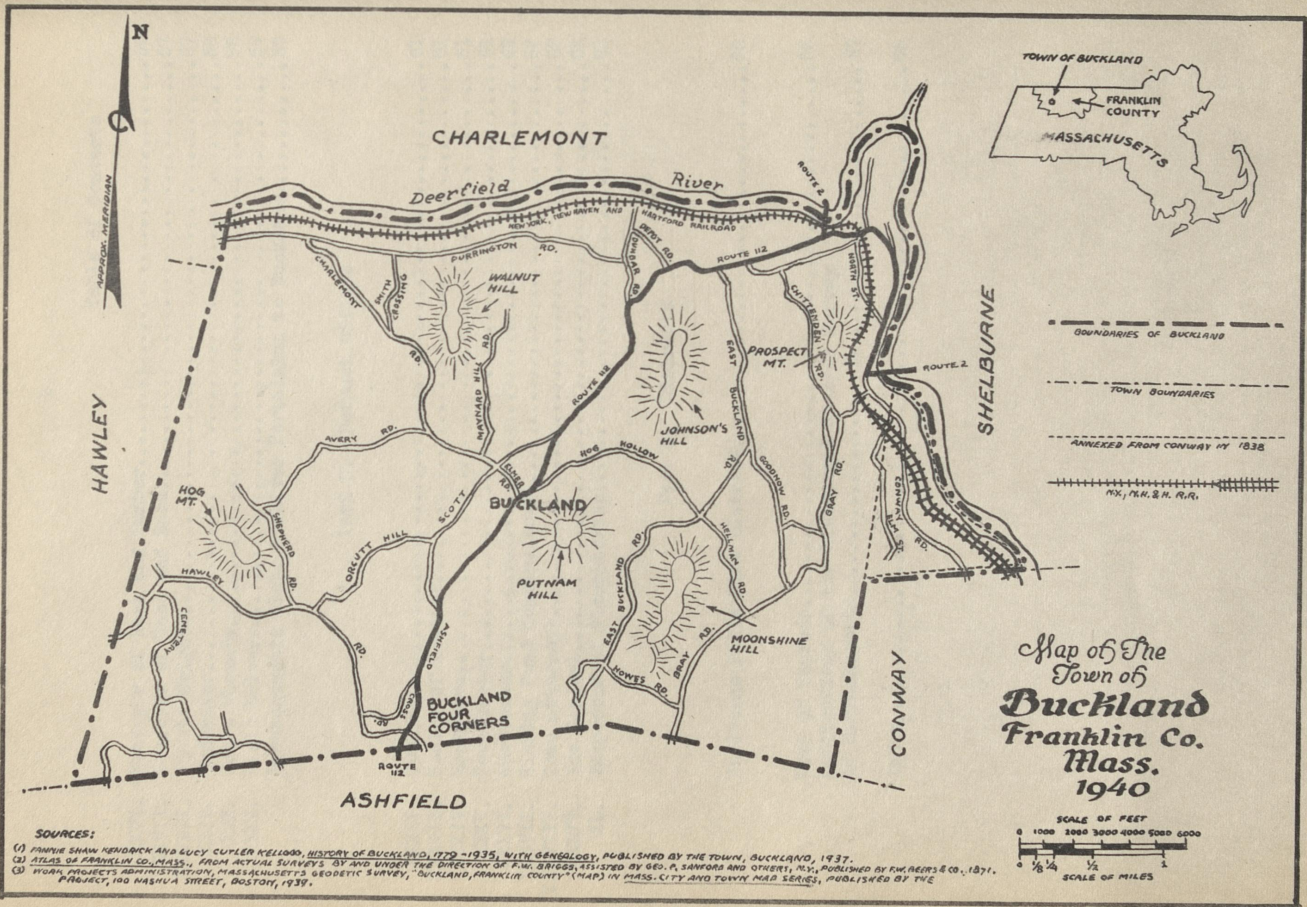
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BOUNDARIES OF BUCKLAND
 TOWN BOUNDARIES
 ANNEXED FROM CONWAY IN 1838
 N.Y., N.H. & H. R.R.

Map of The
 Town of
Buckland
 Franklin Co.
 Mass.
 1940

SCALE OF FEET
 0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 6000
 SCALE OF MILES
 0 1/4 1/2 1

SOURCES:
 (1) MARYE SHAW NEWBICK AND LUCY CUTLER KELLOGG, HISTORY OF BUCKLAND, 1772-1935, WITH GENEALOGY, PUBLISHED BY THE TOWN, BUCKLAND, 1937.
 (2) FILES OF FRANKLIN CO., MASS., FROM ACTUAL SURVEYS BY AND UNDER THE DIRECTION OF P.W. BRIDGES, ASSISTED BY GEO. A. SANFORD AND OTHERS, M.Y., PUBLISHED BY F.W. REEDS & CO., 1871.
 (3) ROAD PROJECTS ADMINISTRATION, MASSACHUSETTS'S GEODETIC SURVEY, "BUCKLAND, FRANKLIN COUNTY" (MAP) IN MASS. CITY AND TOWN MAP SERIES, PUBLISHED BY THE PROJECT, 100 NASHUA STREET, BOSTON, 1939.

BUCKLAND AND ITS RECORDS SYSTEM

I. HISTORICAL SKETCH

Buckland is a town of about fifteen hundred people in the northwest part of Massachusetts. It is separated from Shelburne only by the Deerfield River; the industrial, political and shopping center of both Shelburne and Buckland is on the river at Shelburne Falls. On the Buckland side of the falls are two great power plants and the Lamson and Goodnow Manufacturing Company. These, and its distinction as the birthplace of Mary Lyon, founder of Mount Holyoke College, chiefly render Buckland notable among the towns in the region.

The town was formerly part of Charlemont, Ashfield and a section called "No-Town."¹ No-Town derived its name, it is believed, from the fact that the grantees in this section had no established or known residence.² The grants in No-Town were given mainly to persons whose holdings in other parts had been annulled owing to errors concerning property lines, particularly persons who had unintentionally been given land in New Hampshire, or land belonging to others.³

The circumstances of the first settlement are known. In 1742, one Othniel Taylor bought a large tract of land in Charlemont and settled upon it. In 1769 he built a saw mill upon one section of it - a section which later became part of Buckland. His oldest son, Samuel, being about to marry, Othniel Taylor gave him a farm near the saw mill. Upon this farm Samuel Taylor, about 1770, built a home. The house, the oldest in town, still stands at Buckland Center. It is the second house beyond the old cemetery, on the road leading west from the center.⁴

Settlement thereafter proceeded at such fast tempo that, only eight years later, on December 11, 1778, the inhabitants requested incorporation as a town. The document read as follows:

1. Fannie Shaw Kendrick, The History of Buckland 1779-1935, Buckland, 1937, p. 1. It is interesting to note that this was not the only section of the state which bore such a name. On April 4, 10, and 13, 1838, parts of a section similarly called were annexed to the towns of Princeton, Westminster and Leominster, respectively. Laws, 1838, chs. 67, 97, 106; pp. 352-354, 380-381, 397-398. Hereafter the laws will be cited as follows: The session laws of 1780-1838 as Laws; of 1839-1914, as Acts; of 1915-1919, as General Acts, or Special Acts; of 1919 to date as Acts. Resolves will be cited as Resolves, or Special Resolves. For the full references to these laws see List of Sources at end of volume.

2. Ibid., p. 2

3. Ibid., pp. 2-3

4. Kendrick, op. cit., p. 28

The Petition of a Number of Inhabitants settled on a Number of Grants called No-Town Adjoining Ashfield on the South, Shelburne on the East, Charlemont on the North, on the West Partly by Charlemont and Partly by Number Seven as will Appear on the Plan, Delivered herewith Together with a Number of Inhabitants on the south side of Charlemont Above Named in the County of Hampshire Humbly Sheweth.

That the Inhabitants of No-Town being a Non incorporate State are in Consequence thereof Destitute of Gospel Ministry and Schooling and the means of providing and making Roads and all Other Town Privileges and Labour under the Inconvenience of being Taxed to Sundry Towns, and those of sd Charlemont being at the Extreme part of the Town some of which are about Six miles from sd Charlemont Meeting House, and all separated from the main body by Deerfield River which is very Difficult to pass the greater part of the year and are therefore Destitute of Preaching and Schooling and other Town Advantages and being Desirous of enjoying the whole which Cant be unless are incorporated into a Town, do...Petition... that said Honorable Court would...Incorporate(d) the Lands as Delineated in the Plan into a Township, so that we may Enjoy Privileges in Common with our fellow Creatures which will greatly facilitate...settling the Non-Resident lands...¹

In other words, the distance from the Charlemont meeting house, separated as it was by the Deerfield River, the desire for better roads, a more accessible school and church, and the hope that these advantages would attract further settlement, were the principal grounds advanced by the inhabitants for incorporation. The committee of the inhabitants consisting of Jesse Edson, Philip Mathewson, Samuel Taylor and Elias Carter chose Colonel Jonathan Ward to prefer their petition.²

In response to this plea of the inhabitants of No-Town "and that part of Charlemont on the South Side of Deerfield River and east of Number Seven," the general court, on January 30, 1779, ordered the petitioners to notify the town of Charlemont, incorporated four years earlier, to show cause, if it had any, why the petition should not be granted and also to notify all the non-resident proprietors of the proceedings.³ A certificate to the effect that this had been done was filed by Colonel Ward under date of March 9th.⁴

1. (PETITION FOR INCORPORATION) in folder marked "Acts of 1778, chapter 40" in Massachusetts Archives, Rm. 438, State House, Boston. See entry 74

2. (CERTIFICATION OF AGENT) in Massachusetts Archives, loc. cit. See entry 73

3. (ORDER OF GENERAL COURT ON PETITION FOR INCORPORATION) in Massachusetts Archives, loc. cit. See entry 75. Also Massachusetts General Court, Acts and Resolves, Public and Private, of the Province of Massachusetts Bay, 1692-1780, 21 vols., Boston, 1853-1922, XX, ch. 427, p. 580. Hereafter cited as Province Acts and Resolves

4. (CERTIFICATION BY JONATHAN WARD) in Massachusetts Archives, loc. cit. See entry 76

The non-resident proprietors also urged the granting of a charter,¹ the committee of both houses reported favorably² and on April 14, 1779, the region was incorporated "into a town by the name of Buckland . . . invested with all the powers, privile(d)ges and immunities which the inhabitants of towns within this state do or may by law enjoy."³ Section one of the act of incorporation defined the boundaries; section two ordered the inhabitants and proprietors of the new town to pay taxes already levied; in section three David Field, Esquire, was instructed to issue a warrant to some principal inhabitant of Buckland requiring him to summon a town meeting to choose town officers; and the final section ordered the town clerks of those towns where the inhabitants formerly had residence to give to the new town a copy of the last valuation list of such residents in order that the qualifications of voters in the new town might be validly determined.

At its formation, the new town comprised about sixteen thousand acres, or about eighteen square miles.⁴ Its area now is 19.9 square miles owing to the annexation of a small section of Conway in 1838.⁵ A prior boundary revision, ordered February 16, 1795, did not materially alter the area.⁶

Buckland was named after Lord Buckland of England⁷ although there is a legend in existence that the town derived its name from the fact that an early resident, Samuel Taylor, shot five bucks in his deer trap on the Deerfield River one morning.⁸

The records of the general court indicate several minor repercussions of the incorporation of Buckland. Less than a week after the act was passed, in response to the petition of Asaph White, agent of the town of Charlemont, that the act might be repealed or altered, the court on April 20th ordered the petitioner to notify Buckland to show cause why the prayer should not be granted,⁹ but the records fail to give the grounds for the prayer or to indicate any further action that was taken. Perhaps, however, it concerned Buckland's share of taxes and the fine laid upon Charlemont for failing to procure a man to serve in the Continental Army, for on November 16, 1780 the general court passed a resolve ordering Buckland to show cause why one-fourth of the taxes laid on Charlemont should not be abated and assessed on Buckland since Charlemont claimed that Buckland had not been called upon for any taxes. The court, however, abated the fine of 600 pounds since

1. (REQUEST OF NONRESIDENT PROPRIETORS) in Massachusetts Archives, loc. cit. See entry 77

2. (REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF GENERAL COURT ON PETITION FOR INCORPORATION) in Massachusetts Archives, loc. cit. See entry 78

3. (ACT OF INCORPORATION) in Massachusetts Archives, loc. cit. See entry 79. Also Province Acts and Resolves, V, (1769-80), ch. 40, pp. 957-958

4. Kendrick, op. cit., p. 16

5. Laws, 1838, ch. 120

6. Laws, 1795, ch. 65

7. Greenfield Recorder, August 6, 1929

8. Kendrick, op. cit., p. 9

9. Province Acts and Resolves, XX, Acts of 1779, ch. 675, p. 680

Buckland had sent a man for the required nine months' service in the Continental Army.¹ On January 25, 1781 the proportion of the Charlemont tax that had to be paid by the new town was fixed, and deducted from the Charlemont assessment.² Among other charges that were deducted from the Charlemont tax and added to the Buckland levy was an item of 688 pounds of beef for the use of the Continental Army.³

The organization of a church body and the erection of a church building was delayed in Buckland for many years after its incorporation as a town, owing to the troubled conditions of the war and post-war periods. In October 1785 a Congregational society was formally organized, and the first moderator and clerk were elected in August 1786.⁴ Building was begun in 1793, but was not completed until 1800.⁵ It was a simple wooden structure, square in shape, and devoid of steeple. Meanwhile, meetings were held in a barn. The church thrived thereafter, and in 1846 the church was remodeled and raised to make room for a vestry underneath. In this vestry room, town meetings were conducted for almost thirty years thereafter. A belfry and bell were added at this time.⁶ Although some members departed in 1850 to join in forming the Methodist Episcopal Church at Shelburne Falls, the Congregational Church soon recovered from their loss.⁷ It was incorporated on January 27, 1888, and in 1908, the church building was redecorated and rededicated.⁸ As the first church in Buckland, and founder of a library which has become the town library, it has played a major role in the development of the town.⁹ Although actual disestablishment occurred in 1833 with the passage of the eleventh amendment to the state constitution,¹⁰ all town claims on the vestry of the church building at Buckland Center were not relinquished until 1905.¹¹

In 1775 there was founded in Ashfield, at Baptist Corner so-called, a Baptist Church.¹² In 1785 dissension arose within the church on the question as to whether the minister should receive a fixed salary for his services, or whether he should rely on the voluntary but irregular generosity of the congregation. The two factions were headed by Elder Ebenezer Smith, and his father, Chileab Smith.¹³ On July 29, 1789 Chileab Smith and a group of dissenters, mostly from Buckland, formed a new Baptist church and

1. Province Acts and Resolves, (1780-1781), ch. 53, p. 160. This fine was in the depreciated Continental currency

2. Laws, 1781, ch. 31, 32

3. Idem

4. Kendrick, op. cit., pp. 112, 120

5. Ibid., p. 112

6. Kendrick, op. cit., p. 114

7. Ibid., p. 124

8. Ibid., p. 115

9. Ibid., p. 127

10. "Constitution or Form of Government for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts", Amendments, Article XI in General Laws, Tercentenary Edition, Boston, published by the Commonwealth, 1932, p. 50

11. TOWN RECORDS, 1876-1940, 4 vols., mss., 1899-1913, p. 160. See entry 10

12. Kendrick, op. cit., p. 128

13. Ibid., p. 129

proceeded to erect a one-story structure a few rods north of the Ashfield line, in Buckland.¹ In 1796 the two groups were reconciled and the dissenters returned, having had their own church for a period of only seven years. The church was then incorporated, on February 26, 1800, under the title of "The United Baptist Church and Society in Ashfield and Buckland."² The act enabled "any person in the said Towns of Ashfield and Buckland" to be considered a member of this society provided that he delivered a certificate to that effect fourteen days previous to the town or parish meeting to the town clerk.³ In practice, therefore, Buckland Baptists worshipped again at Baptist Corner in Ashfield until 1828. It is interesting, to note that Mary Lyon's family, on both sides, were members of this congregation.⁴

On August 26, 1828, the Baptists residing in Buckland formed a new church and adopted a constitution. On November 1, 1830, they voted to build a meetinghouse for this Second Baptist Church.⁵ The house was completed on January 16, 1832, at the cost of a little more than sixteen hundred dollars. It was located just west of Mrs. Samuel Taylor's residence, and was the first church in town to possess a belfry and bell. It existed for thirty-nine years, and was represented in the Baptist Association until September 1859.⁶ In 1868 the property was given to the Baptist Society in Ashfield. The church was dismantled and removed to Ashfield Plain, where it is still used as a place of worship.⁷

From 1820 on, grove meetings were held by the Methodists at the base of Hog Mountain; occasionally, meetings were held at the east schoolhouse, also.⁸ On April 3, 1828, the congregation voted to build, and a church was erected on what is now the site of the house of Dean Fairbanks.⁹ It was dismantled in 1849 and in the following year a new church building was erected. The Methodist Episcopal Church flourished for about twenty years thereafter. After 1873, however, there was no settled preacher attached to this church; a minister came for part of every Sabbath from the Methodist Episcopal Church at Shelburne Falls. Preaching was entirely discontinued in 1887, and the property reverted to the lessor.¹⁰ The building was finally removed to the rear of the Congregational Church and is now the Grange Hall.¹¹

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1. Kendrick, *op. cit.*, p. 129
 2. *Laws*, 1800, ch. 62
 3. *Ibid.*, sec. 2
 4. Kendrick, *op. cit.*, p. 130
 5. *Ibid.*, p. 131
 6. *Ibid.*, p. 132
 7. *Idem*
 8. *Idem*
 9. *Ibid.*, p. 133
 10. *Idem*
 11. *Ibid.*, p. 345

Meanwhile, there had been formed another Methodist Episcopal Church, located on the Buckland side of Shelburne Falls. It originated in 1842, and thereafter the congregation met at various houses and in barns.¹ In April 1851, it secured its first resident minister, and on January 1, 1852, its first church was dedicated. It was on the site of the present Buckland town hall, and seated four hundred people. The building was burned in the fire of 1876, but a new building, dedicated in January 1877, was constructed on the same site. It was used until October 1906, when it was sold to the town as a town hall.² In 1905, the Woodward House was purchased for a parsonage and dedicated. On October 18, 1906, the present building of the Methodist Episcopal Church, at the corner of Ashfield and Clemons Streets, was dedicated. Its membership is approximately one hundred and fifty.³

Attracted by the building of the Troy and Greenfield Railroad and the expansion of what is now the Lamson and Goodnow cutlery works, the first Irish immigrants settled in Shelburne Falls during the middle of the past century. For some years, services were held at private homes, with priests from Holyoke, later Northampton, and later still, from Greenfield officiating.⁴ In 1884, the Greenfield parish was divided, and St. Joseph's set up as a distinct parish in Shelburne Falls. Mass was celebrated regularly at Odd Fellow's Hall at Buckland. In 1888, the present St. Joseph's Church, located on the Buckland side of Shelburne Falls, was erected.⁵ The priest and curate attached to this church minister to the spiritual needs of Catholics not only of Shelburne Falls and Buckland, but also of Colrain, Charlemont, Hawley, Heath, Rowe and Zoar.⁶

Owing to the generally unsettled conditions of the times, Buckland had great difficulty in setting up its school system after its incorporation. Even the moderate sums deemed sufficient in those times for educational facilities were difficult to raise. In 1770 Charlemont appropriated nine pounds for its three school districts - the lower district later became Buckland - but this money had been long exhausted.⁷ On several occasions from 1783 through 1791, the townspeople presented petitions to the general court asking for its assistance in maintaining, not only a minister, but also a schoolmaster.⁸ Finally, on February 21, 1792, the general court granted the "petition of Samuel Taylor in behalf of the town of Buckland praying that a certain strip of unappropriated land lying within the incorporating line of said Town may be granted them for the use of Public Schools within sd. Town."⁹

1. Kendrick, op. cit., p. 143

2. Kendrick, op. cit., p. 135

3. Idem

4. Ibid., p. 136

5. Ibid., p. 138

6. Ibid., pp. 138-139

7. Ibid., p. 22

8. Ibid., p. 141. See also p. 6, of present volume

9. Laws, 1792, ch. 87

By this resolve, a tract of land containing 372 acres, belonging to the commonwealth but lying within confines of Buckland, adjoining the Ashfield line, was deeded to the town "On condition the land aforesaid or the principal of the money for which it shall be sold shall be kept unimpaired & appropriated to the use of supporting public Schools in said Town forever." Several persons who had settled and made some improvements on this land were however to be confirmed in their possessions provided they made due payment for the land. The land was finally sold in 1839, and the fund lost sight of.¹

Apparently, the first supervisory body for the schools consisted of the selectmen and the minister. By 1829, their work had been taken over by a prudential committee of nine persons, one elected from each school district, and an "examining" committee of three persons elected at large.² The location of these district schools furnishes a good index to the centers of population in early Buckland. The first school, that of District No. 1, was at Buckland Center, and was built sometime before 1799.³ The present school building in the same section was erected about 1855.⁴ The school of District No. 2, now known as the North District, was formally at the foot of Purrinton Hill. The old building existed from about 1806 to 1840, when it was replaced by the present brick building.⁵ The school of District No. 3 was located near the Dennison Kendrick Farm. Here Mary Lyon taught her first class at a wage of seventy-five cents a week. It existed from about 1818 to 1850. In the vicinity is now located the Crittenden School, named after a former school committeeman, George D. Crittenden. It has eight rooms, and was erected in 1920 at a cost of fifty thousand dollars.⁶ District No. 4 was in the eastern part of the town, at the little settlement known as Hog Hollow.⁷ The school building erected in 1876 is being used again, after a period of disuse, with an enrollment of ten pupils.⁸ District No. 5 existed from 1829 to 1885, and the school was located at Buckland "Four Corners".⁹ The original building of District No. 6 was built in 1801. It was superseded in 1850 by the present High Street School, in the same section.¹⁰ District No. 7, at Buckland "Upper City", near Hawley, existed from 1831 to 1868.¹¹ District No. 8, in "Apple Valley", closed its doors in 1870.¹² District No. 9, near the Charlemont line, was discontinued about 1885.¹³ District No. 10, in the southeast section of town, near Ashfield, was discontinued about 1850.¹⁴ District No. 11, also known as the Pine Woods School, was the last district to be formed, existing from 1844 to 1870.¹⁵

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1. Kendrick, op. cit., p. 141
 2. Ibid., p. 142
 3. Ibid., p. 143
 4. Ibid., p. 144
 5. Idem
 6. Ibid., p. 145
 7. Ibid., p. 146
 8. Ibid., p. 147
 9. Idem
 10. Idem
 11. Ibid., p. 148
 12. Idem
 13. Idem
 14. Ibid., pp. 148-149
 15. Idem

The educational facilities of these district schools were meager; their "plants" were wooden shacks; the teachers were ill-trained, as reckoned by modern standards, knowing little of progressive education, or educational psychology. But some of them had a natural gift for teaching, and occasionally inspired in their pupils a genuine hunger for knowledge. One of these, in particular, not only desired knowledge for herself but passionately longed to impart it to other girls, without stint or limit. Mary Lyon, as the founder of Mount Holyoke College, made a most significant contribution to the higher education of women.

She was born on February 28, 1797, in Buckland. Her father, a Baptist deacon, died in 1802, leaving a widow and seven children. The mother married again when Mary was thirteen years old, leaving her in charge of an older brother.¹ She attended one of Buckland's district schools, and soon was allowed to teach at another.² Fortified with small funds but great ambitions, she then attended Sanderson Academy, opened in 1817 in near-by Ashfield. Her entrance was described by a school mate as follows:

"When Mary, with her books, first entered the Academy, her curling auburn hair caught back in heavy masses from her high forehead and twisted in a careless coil on top of her head, her broad figure simply outlined in a factory cotton gown, with a 'running string' at the neck and another at the waist, her gaunt soul struggling with its angular frame by long strides of her stout limbs, and her elbows beating the air to conquer time and space, her fellow students were inclined to smile."³

It was not long, however, before the quality of her recitations and her piety won their respect and admiration. Her association with Buckland remained unbroken for many years thereafter. In 1824 she taught a "Select Female School" in Griswold's Hall; as was the custom, her twenty-five scholars secured room and board in private homes in the town. In 1829 and 1830 she again conducted a girls' academy in Buckland; the number of her pupils was now one hundred, and school was held in Graham's Hall.

It was during later teaching experiences at Ipswich on the coast that Mary Lyon conceived the idea of a seminary for the higher education of young women. Meanwhile in 1834 she founded Wheaton Seminary in the town of Norton, now the seat of Wheaton College, leaving there to establish a similar institution, at Mount Holyoke, at South Hadley in 1837. A characteristic feature of Mary Lyon's plan of education was the requirement from all students of one-hour's service a day in household tasks, a requirement still in force at Mount Holyoke.

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1. Kendrick, *op. cit.*, p. 166
 2. *Ibid.*, pp. 145-167
 3. *Ibid.*, p. 168

With the exception of Mary Lyon's schools, no higher education has ever been offered in Buckland. On February 24, 1860, the town was authorized to assist Shelburne in the purchase of land for, and the erection of the Arms Academy in Shelburne Falls.¹ Since that time, Buckland children in search of higher education have generally gone to this school; in 1899, the town voted to pay the tuition of these children at the Arms Academy.²

A school union including the towns of Shelburne, Colrain and Buckland was formed in 1892.³ Upon his death in 1927, Clifton McKnight left a fund of five thousand dollars, the income of which is used to help deserving Buckland boys and girls to further their education.⁴

When Buckland was incorporated, the Revolutionary War was in its third year, and volunteers had already enrolled from among the towns' inhabitants. Although the absence of records creates unfortunate gaps in its history, there is no doubt that Buckland's existence thereafter was fairly tranquil and uneventful. It played no part in Shays' Rebellion, and little part in the War of 1812,⁵ but joined with Shelburne, under authorization of the general court, in supporting the government in the Civil War.⁶

In consequence of the fire of 1876, which destroyed two of the most important buildings in the town, and the town records as well, the general court, on March 6, 1877, ordered the secretary of the Commonwealth to furnish the town of Buckland with copies of all books and documents heretofore furnished to towns so far as it was possible without detriment to his files; and the treasurer of the Commonwealth was similarly directed to furnish the town with a set of standard weights, measures and balances.⁷

On the Buckland side of Shelburne Falls are located the outstanding industrial features of the present town: The power plants of the New England Power Company and the Western Massachusetts Electric Company, and the manufacturing plant of the Lamson and Goodnow Company. With these facts in mind, it is somewhat difficult to remember that, at various times in the past, there were six grist mills, two turning shops for ironware, two carding machines, three cider mills, four distilleries, two cloth dressing and fulling works, a trip hammer and forge, a factory equipped with flax dressing machinery, a file shop and a tannery.⁸ And these were but incidental to the main business of early Buckland, namely the manufacture of wooden products of all types. There have been no less than nine saw mills in Buckland. Clesson's River, running through the center of Buckland, was dotted with turning shops for wooden goods.⁹ At "Upper City," Deacon Harris Wight

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1. Acts, 1860, ch. 50, p. 37
 2. Kendrick, op. cit., p. 143
 3. Idem
 4. Ibid., p. 150
 5. Ibid., pp. 80-81
 6. Acts, 1861, ch. 71, p. 384
 7. Acts, 1877, ch. 15, p. 673
 8. Kendrick, op. cit., p. 143
 9. Ibid., p. 247

made fine wagons.¹ On the farm owned by the late Walter D. Smith, his grandfather, Elisha Smith, had a mill where doors, sashes and blinds were made in quantity. Elisha Smith and his son Hoyt were master carpenters, who used the products of their mill in erecting many of the houses in Buckland.² At the "Four Corners" in the southern part of the town were manufactured augers, bits, bit braces, and shaving and lather boxes.³ In the 1860's the turning shops here were described as making "all the wooden faucets used in the country."⁴ At the center, Major Griswold made coffins as early as 1809, and for many years thereafter.⁵ Newton Griswold built a mill which was converted by Linwood Elmer into another sash and blind factory.⁶ At the mill yard was once located the first saw mill in the section, built by Samuel Taylor and his father while Buckland was still unincorporated.⁷ Near the present north schoolhouse, about 1800, were manufactured wooden cisterns and wash tubs, and, from about 1825 to 1830, a great number of meat barrels of white oak.⁸

In addition, a variety of other occupations were carried on in early Buckland: granite quarrying, charcoal burning, braiding palm leaf for hats, and manufacturing whip snaps. There were also blacksmiths. At the other extreme, there was a cooperative creamery, owned jointly by farmers from Ashfield, Buckland, Charlemont, and Colrain, which existed from 1885 to 1904. The plant of this creamery was located on the Buckland side of Shelburne Falls.⁹

It is easy, of course, to exaggerate the importance of these industries. What they indicate, mainly, is the habit that these early communities had of supplying their own needs, at a time when those needs were simple and mass production unheard of. Today, only one saw mill and one grist mill survive; and one of these is run by power generated by the Western Massachusetts Company. No dams now check the peaceful flow of Clesson's River along its entire length.¹⁰

In 1833 Ebenezer Lamson began manufacturing scythes. He turned to the manufacture of cutlery in 1842 and was joined in 1844 by Abel F. and Ebenezer Goodnow. Together with Nathaniel Lamson, they established a cutlery at Shelburne Falls, on the Shelburne side of the river, in 1850.¹¹

1. Mendrick, op. cit., p. 247

2. Ibid., p. 248

3. Idem

4. Idem

5. Ibid., p. 249

6. Idem

7. Ibid., p. 250

8. Idem

9. Ibid., pp. 255-260

10. Ibid., p. 251

11. Ibid., pp. 253-254; Orra L. Stone, History of Massachusetts Industries, 2 vols. Boston-Chicago, S. J. Clarke Publishing Co., 1930, I, p. 432

In the following year they were incorporated as the Shelburne Falls Manufacturing Company, and moved to the present site of the Lamson and Goodnow Company, on the Buckland side of the falls.¹ In the following year, they employed about two hundred men, and constructed a three story brick building. The name was changed to the Lamson and Goodnow Manufacturing Company in 1853, and in October 1855 it was incorporated as a stock company under that title. Their building was destroyed by fire in October 1862.² It was promptly rebuilt and continued to sell fine cutlery until, by 1930, it was marketing a quarter of a million dollars' worth of its goods annually.³ Today it remains, as it has been for many years, the largest industry in Buckland, employing about one hundred persons.⁴ The first power was developed at Shelburne Falls for the use of the saw and grist mills that once dotted all of New England. After 1837, the power rights came under the control of what later became the Lamson and Goodnow Manufacturing Company. It, in turn, was succeeded by the New England Power Company, which in 1911 built a dam on the Buckland side of the falls which stepped up the power produced from three hundred to eight thousand horse-power.⁵

Another huge power plant on the Buckland side of the falls is owned by the Western Massachusetts Electric Company. The predecessor of this plant was the Shelburne-Falls Electric Light and Power Company, organized in 1896, which produced electricity by means of a gas engine.⁶ In 1910, this company consolidated with the Greenfield Electric Light and Power Company, and water power was used.⁷ The Gardner Falls power plant of this company, built by the Greenfield Company in 1903 and 1904 on the Buckland side of the falls, supplies electric power to Shelburne, Buckland and Colrain. Recently, the name of the company has been changed to the Western Massachusetts Electric Company.⁸ The property of the New England Power Company and the Western Massachusetts Electric Company is valued at more than a million and a half dollars, and these companies pay about half of the town's taxes.⁹

On May 10, 1848 the general court passed an act incorporating the Troy and Greenfield Railroad Company. Among other provisions, the railway was given the right to extend its line west from Greenfield through the Hoosac Mountain.¹⁰ Delayed by mechanical difficulties and by the Civil War, the first section, to Shelburne Falls, was not completed until 1867.¹¹

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1. Kendrick, *op. cit.*, p. 254; Stone, *op. cit.*, p. 432
 2. Kendrick, *op. cit.*, p. 254
 3. Stone, *op. cit.*, p. 433
 4. Kendrick, *op. cit.*, p. 254
 5. *Ibid.*, p. 288
 6. *Idem*
 7. *Idem*
 8. *Ibid.*, p. 289
 9. *Ibid.*, p. 288
 10. Acts, 1848, ch. 307
 11. Kendrick, *op. cit.*, pp. 285-286

(First entry on p. 31)

Some English and German immigrants had already settled there to work in the outlery. The new railroad was a great impetus in bringing a large number of Irish immigrants as well. The present railroad station was built in 1910.¹

On March 5, 1861, the Northampton and Shelburne Falls Railroad was incorporated.² One of its short runs was from South Deerfield to a Shelburne Falls station on the Buckland side of the Deerfield River. The company was later absorbed by the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad, and the line was discontinued about 1910.³

In 1903 the Shelburne Falls and Ashfield Street Railway Company was incorporated, and in 1907 the Shelburne Falls and Colrain Street Railway Company was authorized to extend its railway into the town of Buckland.⁴ It was probably the latter company which, from 1908 to 1929, ran street cars over one of the bridges connecting Shelburne and Buckland. Since 1929, however, no street car system has been in existence in Buckland.⁵

In 1790, eleven years after Buckland was incorporated, its population was 718, representing 121 families. In 1810 the population had increased to 1097, but it remained stable for the next forty years, being 1084 in 1830, and 1056 in 1850.⁶ In the next decade, owing to the expansion of the cutlery works and the introduction of the railroad, Buckland experienced a minor boom; its population grew to 1702 by 1860.⁷ For a period thereafter, the population continued to show growth, reaching a peak of 1946 in the year 1870, but slumped sharply thereafter.⁸ In 1890 the population was 1570;⁹ in 1910 it was 1573;¹⁰ in 1925, 1555;¹¹ in 1930, 1497;¹² and in 1935, 1540;

1. Kendrick, op. cit., p. 287

2. Acts, 1861, ch. 65

3. Kendrick, op. cit., p. 287

4. Acts, 1903, ch. 364, Acts, 1907, ch. 218

5. Kendrick, op. cit., p. 68

6. Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Secretary of the Commonwealth, Abstract of the Census of Massachusetts, 1860, From the Eighth U.S. Census, Boston, 1863, pp. 202-203

7. Ibid., p. 22

8. United States, Department of the Interior, The Statistics of the Population of the United States, 1870, Embracing the Tables of Race, Nationality, Sex, Selected Ages, and Occupations, Washington, 1872, I, p. 166

9. United States, Department of the Interior, Report on the Population of the United States at the Eleventh Census: 1890, Washington, 1895, I, p. 199

10. United States, Bureau of the Census, Thirteenth Census of the United States Taken in the Year 1910, Washington, 1913, II, p. 859

11. Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Secretary of the Commonwealth, The Decennial Census, 1925, Boston, p. 21

12. United States, Bureau of the Census, Fifteenth Census of the United States: 1930, Washington, 1932, III, Part I, pp. 1106-1107. Hereafter cited as Fifteenth Census

practically stationary during the half century. Of the 1935 total 839 were legal voters.¹ In 1855 the total foreign born population of Buckland was 177, of whom 81 were natives of England, and 60 of Ireland.² The same boom that swept the population of Buckland to new heights brought in an influx of aliens, particularly from Germany. In 1865, of the total population of 1902, 429 were foreign born. Of these, 99 came from Ireland, 158 from England, and 158 from Germany.³ While some of these foreign born departed with the ebbing of population, enough have remained to form a permanent admixture of peoples; in 1930, of a total population of 1497, 160 were foreign born, and 406 were of foreign parentage. In other words, a little more than one-third of the population of Buckland is foreign-born or of foreign extraction. A little less than one-third of the population is listed as farmers.⁴

In 1889 Mr. LeBaron C. Ruddock, of Buckland, left a legacy to the library of the Congregational Church. The public-spirited minister of that church, Reverend Alpheus C. Hodges, offered to give a thousand dollars for a library building if the townspeople would raise a similar amount. The offer was accepted, and, on July 4, 1891, the building of the Free Public Church Library was dedicated. For twenty years the church bore the expense of the library. In 1912, however, the library was placed in charge of the town.⁵ This, however, does not complete the story of library facilities for Buckland. In 1894 and 1899, and probably at various other times, the town donated money to the Arms Library in Shelburne Falls, on the Shelburne side, on condition that it be free to residents of Buckland.⁶ This procedure was formalized on February 13, 1928, when the general court passed an act authorizing the town of Buckland to appropriate annually to the Arms Library Association a sum of money not exceeding seven hundred dollars, on condition that the inhabitants of Buckland have free use of the library.⁷

Three cemeteries in Buckland are no longer in use. Their names, and dates of existence are: Old Cemetery (1799-1893); Second Cemetery (1804-1876); and "Private Yards" (dates unknown). The three cemeteries that are still used, with dates or origin, are Upper City Cemetery, 1841; East Buckland Cemetery, 1849; and Buckland Center Cemetery, 1850. On January 8, 1851, while all six cemeteries were being used, the Buckland Union Cemetery

1. Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Secretary of State, The Decennial Census, 1935, Boston, p. 21

2. Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Secretary of the Commonwealth, Abstract of the Census of Massachusetts, 1855, Boston, 1857, p. 107

3. Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Secretary of the Commonwealth, Abstract of the Census of Massachusetts, 1865, Boston, 1867, pp. 66-67

4. Fifteenth Census, III, Part I, pp. 1106-1107

5. Kendrick, op. cit., pp. 290-293; ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TOWN OFFICERS, 1884-1939, 5 vols., printed annually by the town, bound in groups of years, 1936, p. 13. See entry 2. Hereafter cited as Annual Reports.

6. TOWN RECORDS, 1876-98, p. 342; 1899-1914, p. 5

7. Acts, 1928, ch. 33

Association was incorporated. It has elected annually a president, clerk, treasurer and three directors to the present time. The town, as such, plays no part in the management of the three existing cemeteries.¹

The main road in early Buckland, according to a map drawn up by Samuel Taylor in December, 1794, was a county road which ran from Charlemont across the Deerfield River near Buckland Station. It continued through the northern part of Buckland, emerging past the Old Job Woodward Inn, then went through Conway south to Northampton.² On March 11, 1802, the Fourteenth Massachusetts Turnpike corporation was organized.³ Its pike was scheduled to run from Greenfield, through Shelburne, Buckland and Charlemont to the east terminus of the Second Turnpike leading over Hoosac Mountain, but the records available do not indicate whether or not it was ever built.⁴ In 1826 the county commissioners approved the building of a road extending from Shelburne Falls to Buckland, then to Hawley near the west branch of Clesson's River.⁵ Shortly after, another county road was constructed, which led from Charlemont, crossed the Deerfield River at the "Town Plain", then proceeded to the bridge near Shelburne Falls, and finally connected with the new road to Buckland.⁶

The Mohawk Trail, dedicated in 1914, running from Greenfield to North Adams, passes through Buckland at Shelburne Falls for one mile of its length. In 1929 this section was relocated and rebuilt.⁷ The trail, part of State Route 2, furnishes a direct road from Boston, Fitchburg, Athol and Greenfield through the Berkshires. State Route No. 112 runs through Buckland Center. It branches off both State Routes 2 and 9.

The story of the bridges, ferries and fords, that have, at various times connected Buckland and Shelburne Falls is a lengthy recital in itself. The earliest bridge, built some time before 1789, was constructed of logs for foot passengers only, and was located just above the falls.⁸ In 1818 crude boats were used. The first bridge of substantial size was built in 1821, after the general court in 1820 had authorized the court of sessions to grant money for its construction.⁹ This bridge was swept away by a freshet in 1869, and replaced by a handsome "Parabolic Iron Truss Bridge" in 1870.¹⁰ It had to be repaired in 1873, and was finally replaced by a bridge, still standing, erected in December, 1890.¹¹ There are several other bridges, the most striking of which is the "bridge of flowers." It is 398 feet in length, with four piers and five arches.¹²

1. Kendrick, op. cit., pp. 77-79

2. Ibid., op. cit., p. 61

3. Laws, 1802, ch. 77, p. 391

4. Kendrick, op. cit., p. 61

5. Ibid., p. 62

6. Idem

7. Ibid., p. 64

8. Idem

9. Ibid., p. 65; Resolves, 1820, ch. 88

10. Kendrick, op. cit., p. 65

11. Kendrick, op. cit., pp. 66-67

12. Ibid., p. 68

Originally used mainly by the street railway, it became privately owned in 1929, and was transformed into the colorful foot bridge of the present, covered its entire length by colorful flowers and plants.¹

Telephone connections were first established in Buckland in 1883, by the New England Telephone Company under the name of the Deerfield Valley Telephone Company.² In 1903 the Heath Telephone Company established a rival line in Buckland and Ashfield. Eventually, the New England Telephone Company left the town. In 1917 the Heath Company moved its central office from Shelburne to the Newell Block in Buckland. Its name was changed to the Western New England Telephone Company in 1928.³

The town offices for a time were in the Anawasett Block, until it was demolished by the fire of 1876.⁴ In December 1895, they were moved to the Newell Block, now the location of the telephone company's office. The town meetings were held here also. When the new Methodist Episcopal Church was built in 1906, the town purchased the old church building at the corner of State and Williams Streets for five thousand dollars. A fire proof vault was built, and the building has been used for the town offices and town meetings ever since. Until 1935, motion pictures were shown regularly in the auditorium of this building.⁵

The Buckland Grange was established in 1875 "to furnish the farmers of Buckland (an organization) for cooperative buying" in the difficult years following the Civil War.⁶ It lost strength when a Farmer's Club, which is still in existence, was established in 1878,⁷ but was revived in 1903, and purchased as a Grange Hall the Methodist Church which had not been used since 1887.⁸

Other strong organizations are the Alethian Lodge of the I.O.O.F., organized in 1848, and with a present membership of 167;⁹ and the Sons of St. George, composed of people of British origin, organized 1884, with a present membership of twenty-three.¹⁰ Both of these organizations have women's auxiliaries.

On April 30, 1924, the town of Buckland was authorized to appropriate money for the purpose of contributing to the rent of the American Legion quarters in Shelburne "to the same extent as if said quarters were situated within the limits of the said town of Buckland."¹¹

1. Kendrick, *op. cit.*, p. 68

2. *Ibid.*, p. 290

3. *Idem*

4. *Ibid.*, p. 299

5. *Ibid.*, p. 300

6. *Ibid.*, pp. 240-241

7. *Ibid.*, p. 241

8. *Ibid.*, p. 242

9. *Ibid.*, p. 245

10. *Ibid.*, p. 246

11. *Acts*, 1924, ch. 319, p. 284

(First Entry on p. 31)

Historical Sketch

Buckland is included in the Franklin and Hampshire Senatorial and Councillor Districts and in the First Franklin Representative District.¹ It is 120 miles from Boston and 14 from Greenfield, the shire town of Franklin County.² The town is bounded on the north and east by the Deerfield River, on the southeast by Conway, on the south by Ashfield and on the west by Hawley.

1. Kendrick, *op. cit.*, p. 182

2. *Ibid.*, p. 8

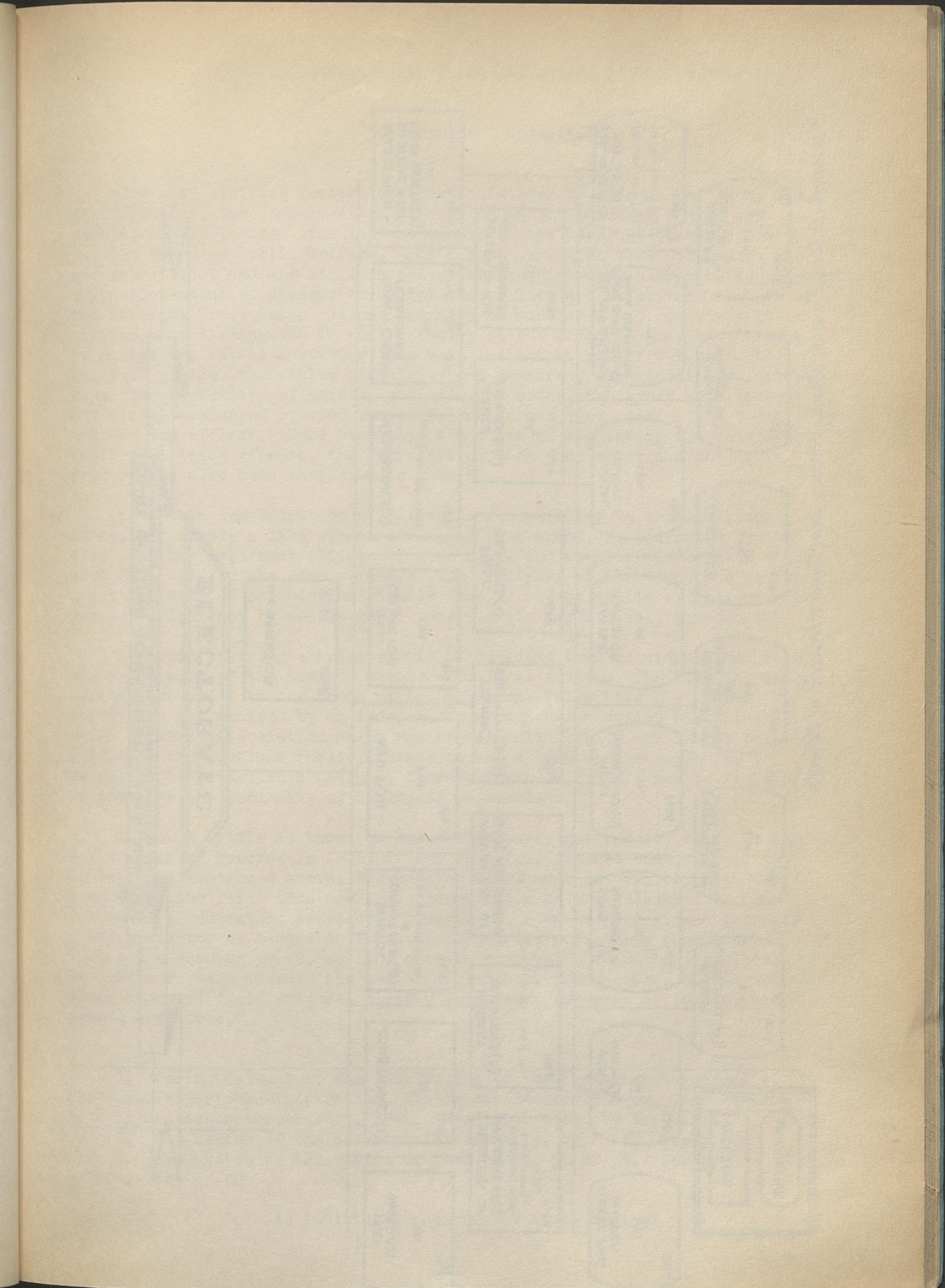
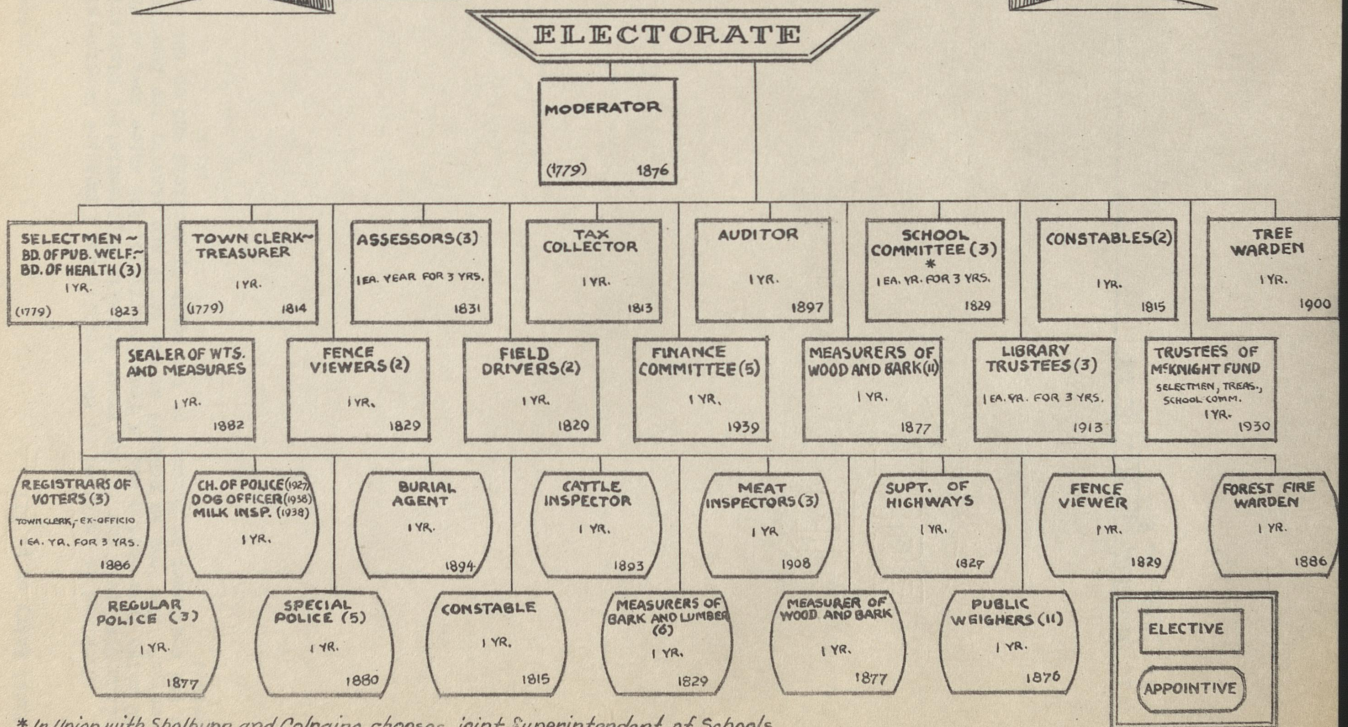


CHART OF TOWN GOVERNMENT ~ BUCKLAND ~ 1939

SHOWING NAME, NUMBER, TERM, DATE OF FIRST RECORD AND PRESUMABLE DATE OF ORIGIN (IN PARENTHESES) FOR EACH OFFICE.



* In Union with Shelburn and Colrairie chooses joint Superintendent of Schools.

2. GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION AND RECORDS SYSTEM

Governmental Organization¹

The most striking feature of Buckland's town government has been, and still remains, the concentration of offices in the hands of a very few people. The selectmen, for instance, have always been the board of health and the board of public welfare. For a long period of time, they were the assessors also, and are still in charge of the highways, although they appoint a superintendent of streets to assist them. They are ex officio members of the McKnight Trust Fund. In one capacity or another - and sometimes it is difficult to distinguish in what capacity at the moment - they have always appointed the cattle inspector, the meat inspector, public weighers, the chief of police, the sealer of weights and measures, occasional town attorneys, the registrars of voters, the milk inspector, the gypsy moth inspector, additional measurers of wood and bark, the forest fire warden, the burial agent and the dog officer. More recently, the power of appointing the constables, additional fence viewers, the measurers of bark and lumber and the field drivers has also been entrusted to them.²

That this concentration of office is not peculiar to the selectmen alone, nor simply a late stream-lining of government, is indicated by the fact that the important offices of town clerk and town treasurer have since 1886 been held by the same person.³ The smallness of the town, the consequent scarcity of capable individuals free to accept public office, and the greater efficiency of concentrated power largely explain this phenomenon.

A second striking characteristic of Buckland town government has been the reluctance of the town to assume additional duties. The fire and water systems are still in the hands of the Shelburne Falls Fire District,⁴ the cemeteries are managed by an independent organization called the Buckland Union Cemetery Association which was organized in 1851,⁵ and it was only in 1912 that the Buckland Public Library became a town charge rendering it necessary to establish a board of library trustees.⁶ This may be explained, in part, by the proximity of Shelburne to Buckland.

Although little is known of Buckland's early government, owing to the destruction of records in 1876, it can be safely assumed that, within the limitations mentioned above, the regular complement of town officers was elected at the first town meeting. In addition to the selectmen it consisted of a moderator, assessors, town clerk, town treasurer, and probably a tax collector or a constable who performed tax collecting functions. During the ensuing years, we find certain expected changes taking place. New officers were added: the sealer of leather, poundkeeper, tithingmen, fence viewers, field drivers, highway surveyors, surveyor of lumber, and school committee.⁷

1. For an account of the functioning of town government generally, see Work Projects Administration, Historical Records Survey, Town Government in Massachusetts, Boston, 1940. Hereafter cited by the title.

2. See sketch of the selectmen's office, p. 28 5. See p. 60

3. See sketch of the office of town clerk, p. 32 6. See pp. 17, 48

4. See p. 60

7. See individual sketches of these offices

The period from 1876 to 1900, concerning which we may speak with more assurance, saw the inception of various other offices. It is probable that public weighers, measurers of wood and bark, and licensed auctioneers were in existence before 1876, but it is certain that the sealer of weights and measures was newly established in 1882, the burial agents in 1884, the registrars of voters and the forest firewards in 1886, the inspector of animals in 1893, and the auditor in 1897.¹

A few offices have been added in the present century. In 1900 the first tree warden was elected. The selectmen appointed the first meat inspector in 1908, and in 1911 appointed the forest warden as the first gypsy moth inspector. The library trustees were established in 1913, and at various times during the next fifteen years a town attorney was appointed by the selectmen. In 1938 the selectmen appointed the chief of police as milk inspector and dog officer, and in 1939 the final modern touch was added by the election of a finance committee of five.²

There is little to be said concerning other governmental changes in Buckland. On the whole, the town has been conservative in seeking the assistance of the general court for laws enabling it to perform various types of duties. The most important change has been the adoption in 1892 of Chapter 386 of the Acts of 1890, introducing the Australian ballot.³ In general, for the annual town meeting, the moderator has always appointed the tellers or election officials; since 1892, these officers have been chosen explicitly with an eye to equal representation for the major political parties.⁴

In 1898 the town adopted a curfew law, forcing children fifteen years old or under to remain at home after nine o'clock, but general observations concerning the conservatism of the town of Buckland must be weighed with an eye also to the fact that in 1881, the proposition to allow women citizens the right to hold office and to vote was defeated only by the very close margin of thirty-four to twenty-eight.⁵

Records System⁶

Owing to the fact that in 1876 a fire in Buckland destroyed practically all of the town records, it is not to be wondered at that the records extant are, with minor exceptions, complete and in good condition. The loss by the fire has been, of course, irreparable, although a mitigating factor exists in that the town's early history was apparently marked by no great divergences

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1. See individual sketches of these offices
 2. Idem
 3. TOWN RECORDS, 1876-98, p. 281
 4. Ibid., 1876-98, p. 161, 289; 1927-39, p. 5, 239
 5. Ibid., 1876-98, p. 476, 51
 6. For an account of the records systems of Massachusetts towns generally, see Town and City Government in Massachusetts

from conventional New England town history. The handful of records which survived the fire indicate rather clearly a normal town development.

The basic town records¹ have, since 1876 been faithfully maintained. It is recommended, however, that the first volume concerning the period 1876-1898, be renovated and treated by the acetate or emery process. Nine missing Annual Reports² should be located if possible, and added to the present town collection. The vital statistics date from 1868 or 1869, since some original returns had been preserved and the town clerk was able to recall data for some years prior to the fire and included it in his first volumes.³ All library records prior to 1913 must be considered as pertaining to the church library originally established in 1891.

It will be noted that a surprising number of town officers do not keep any records whatsoever. While the duties of some of these officers are but nominal, nevertheless, there are undoubtedly certain officials who are failing to keep adequate records. Minutes of meetings would appear to be a necessary record for the finance committee, the trustees of the McKnight Fund, the library trustees, and for the selectmen in their separate capacities as a board of public welfare and board of health. The chief of police should keep at least a blotter or daily record of arrests.

1. See entry 10

2. See entry 12. In addition to the period 1867-1883 which is missing in both the state library and the Buckland sets, the following years are missing in the Buckland set: 1884, 1886, 1889, 1890-1892, 1921, 1924, 1925

3. See entry 14-17, incl.

3. The Housing, Care and Accessibility of the Archives

The bulk of the town records are located on the second floor of the town hall on State Street. The town office in the front of the building contains many current records of most officials in a safe, a wooden cabinet, a wooden desk, and a small steel cabinet. The safe and cabinets are overcrowded, and more room is needed to house the records properly. In the rear of the auditorium is the town vault which, again, is much too small for proper housing of records. Moreover, this vault is extremely damp, and records kept there for any great length of time become mildewed. It is of steel and brick, but by no means fire-proof, being constructed on a wooden floor. A fire destroying this floor would cause the vault to collapse and destroy the records.

The sealer of weights and measures keeps his records in his office, located in the rear of the first floor of the town hall, on an open shelf; these records have no fire protection whatever. The library records are in the library building. The records of the Shelburne Falls Fire District are divided between the Shelburne Falls Fire Station and the residence of Jacob Haigis. The latter records are not protected against fire. School department records are to be found in the School Superintendent's office in the Wood Block at Shelburne Falls, and in the homes of two members of the school committee. All town officials seem to take great interest in the care and preservation of their respective records.

Buckland Town Hall, State Street				
Depository	Town Office	Town Vault	Store Room	Sealer's Room
Location	2nd fl.	2nd fl.	2nd fl.	1st fl.
Dimensions	25x15x9	8x5x7	7x7x10	11x7x10
Cubic Feet	3375	280	490	770
Class of Construction ¹	3rd	2nd	3rd	3rd
Shelving	Wood	Steel	Wood	Wood
Containers	Steel&Wood	Steel&Wood	None	None
Lighting	Good	Fair	Good	Good
Accessibility	Good	Good	Good	Good
Arrangement	Fair	Fair	Fair	Good
Physical Condition ²	Fair	Poor	Fair	Good
Room for Expansion	Limited	None	Ample	Ample
Departments having records there	Sel. Town Cl. Tax Coll. Treas. Assess. Public Welfare Auditor School Dept. Bd. of Health	Town Cl. Treas. Auditor School Dept. Tax Coll. Assess. Sel. Fire District Bd. of Health	Town Cl. Reg. of Voters Sel.	Sealer of Weights & Measures

1. 1st class is fire resistant throughout; 2nd class, fire resistant exterior; 3rd class, not fire resistant.

2. By physical condition is meant the degree of dampness, dust, vermin or other adverse factors affecting the preservation of the records.

The Housing, Care and Accessibility of the Archives (First entry on p. 31)

Shelburne Falls Fire Station, State Street		Buckland Library, Buckland Center
Depository	Town Office	Circulation Room
Location	1st fl.	1st fl.
Dimensions	17x12x9	37x30x12
Cubic Feet	1836	13,320
Class of Construction	3rd	2nd
Shelving	Steel	Wood
Containers	Steel	Wood
Lighting	Good	Good
Accessibility	Good	Good
Arrangement	Good	Good
Physical Conditions	Good	Good
Room for Expansion	Ample	Ample
Departments having records there	Shelburne Falls Fire District Water Commissioners	Library
Supt. of Schools Office, Wood Block, Bridge Street, Shelburne Falls		
Depository	Supt's Office	Storer room
Location	2nd fl.	2nd fl.
Dimensions	22x13x10	18x10x9
Cubic Feet	2,860	1,620
Class of Construction	2nd	2nd
Shelving	Wood	Wood
Containers	Steel	None
Lighting	Good	Good
Accessibility	Good	Good
Arrangement	Good	Good
Physical Condition	Good	Good
Room for Expansion	Ample	Ample
Departments having records there	School Dept.	School Dept.

Jacob M. Haigis, superintendent of the Shelburne Falls Fire District has some of its records in his home on Conway Street; Mrs. Fannie Shaw Kendrick has records of the school committee at her home on State Street; and Preston Warfield, present secretary of the school committee, has some of its records in his home on Hawley Road.

ABBREVIATIONS, SYMBOLS AND EXPLANATORY NOTES

arr.	arranged	op. cit.	work cited
assrs.	assessors	p. pp.	page, pages
bd.	board	ptd.	printed
bdl(s).	bundle(s)	pub.	public
ch(s).	chapter(s)	rd.	road
chron.	chronologically	rm.	room
coll.	collector	secy.	secretary
dept.	department	sel.	selectmen
disc.	discontinued	st.	street
estáb.	established	strm.	storeroom
hdw.	handwritten	supt.	superintendent
ibid.	in the same place	T.H.	Town Hall
lib.	library	treas.	treasurer
loc. cit.	place cited	va.	vault
o.	number	vol(s).	volume(s)
off.	office		

Symbols

x	by	denotes omission in
--	continues to date		quoted matter
'	feet	:	equivalent to
"	inches		

Inventory Arrangement

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

Titles

Exact titles of records are shown in upper case without parentheses. The contents of untitled records are indicated by assigning titles to them. Titles of this kind are shown in upper case enclosed by parentheses. When an exact title does not adequately describe the true nature of the record, such information is inserted in the title line but in lower case and enclosed within parentheses. The current or most recent title of a record is used as the entry title, and any variation of title within the record series

is noted

Labeling

The numbering, lettering or other markings on a record are shown in parentheses following the quantity.

Cross References

Cross references are made in each entry to records of the same series found in other entries. References to similar records are embodied in a separate line immediately following the entry. References below subject headings are made to other related record series suggested by the headings or subheadings. Where no comment is made regarding prior or subsequent records, it is to be presumed that none were found.

Indexing

If there is no index to a record, the fact is stated in the entry. If no mention is made of the absence of an index, it is either contained in the entry or in a separate entry, immediately following it, if possible.

Dimensions

Except where otherwise indicated, dimensions of volumes, file boxes, or maps are shown in inches; dimensions of volumes in the order of length along binding edge, width, and thickness; dimensions of file cases, boxes and drawers in the order of height, width and depth.

Location

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

Condition of Records

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

I. SELECTMEN¹

Although the town records prior to 1876 have been destroyed, some isolated warrants and minutes of town meetings in 1823 and 1829-1832 indicate that selectmen were elected annually for one year terms at that time.² At any rate, there can be no doubt that from 1876 through 1907, three selectmen were elected annually.³ From 1908 through 1912, three selectmen were elected, one annually, for three-year terms.⁴ Since 1914 the old system of electing three selectmen annually for one year terms has been in effect.⁵

In a rather complete way, the selectmen have always been the chief administrators of government in Buckland. Their duties have ranged from making equal distribution to taxpayers of town work,⁶ surveying roads "to settle differences",⁷ and perambulating town lines⁸ to preparing jury lists⁹ and closing unlicensed liquor stores.¹⁰

Their appointive powers have increased rather than lessened with the passing of the years. In 1877 and 1878 they appointed the poundkeepers, from 1917 through 1920 they appointed ice dealers, and from 1918 through 1925 they appointed an inspector of slaughtering. They appointed auctioneers at various times between 1877 and 1911, and town attorneys at various times between 1915 and 1927. They have appointed the registrars of voters regularly since 1886, policemen since 1877, the sealer of weights and measures since 1882, and the forest fire warden since 1911. Since 1929 they have appointed a superintendent of highways, but have appointed his predecessor, a superintendent of streets, since 1890. Since 1876 they have appointed public weighers annually, a gypsy moth inspector since 1923, and

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

2. (WARRANTS AND MINUTES OF TOWN MEETINGS), May 5, 1823; Apr. 22, 1829; March 7, 1831; March 5, 1832, 6 sheets, mss. Hereinafter cited as (Warrants and Minutes). See entry 12. There are less than dozen fragmentary records which have survived the fire of 1876, of which the above are four. The records for 1829, 1830 and 1831 are in the possession of Miss Sara M. Ward; records for 1814 and 1815, which will be cited later, are in the Buckland Public Library

3. TOWN RECORDS, 1876-98, pp. 10, 311; 1899-1914, pp. 8, 210. The second volume of these records, though labeled as concluding in 1914, extends only through September 1, 1913. The third volume is labeled October 1, 1913 to 1927, and ends December 31, 1926. It will be cited hereafter as TOWN RECORDS, 1913-27

4. Ibid., 1899-1914, pp. 240, 266, 293, 347

5. Ibid., 1913-1927, pp. 25, 359; 1927-39, pp. 9, 67, 243

6. Ibid., 1876-1898, p. 51

7. Ibid., 1876-1898, p. 29

8. Ibid., 1913-1927, p. 86

9. Ibid., 1913-1927, p. 22

10. Ibid., 1876-1898, p. 65

measurers of lumber since 1924. They have appointed an inspector of cattle, also called an inspector of animals, since 1893, and meat inspectors since 1908. Occasionally, prior to 1934 and regularly thereafter, they have appointed a burial agent. Since 1938 the selectmen have appointed the milk inspector and dog officer.¹

Finally, and most important, the number of offices which the board of selectmen occupies has similarly increased. Only the office of assessors, which they held from 1872 through 1907, has been taken away from them.² Since 1832, and perhaps before, they have been the overseers of the poor, now officially called the board of public welfare.³ They have been in charge of highways, generally with the assistance of superintendent, since 1879, first as highway surveyors (1879-1887), then as road commissioners (1888-1890), and finally, without title, since 1890.⁴ Since 1882 they have been the formal board of health, and probably handled whatever health matters arose before that date.⁵ They have been ex officio included among the trustees of the McKnight Fund since its establishment in 1930.⁶

Except where otherwise noted, all records are in the town office, second floor, Town Hall, State Street. In addition to the following records, see entry 39 for certification of town notes 1909--; entry 55 for approval of school pay rolls 1919--.

Minutes and Reports

1. (Minutes of) SELECTMEN'S MEETINGS, 1927--. 1 vol.
Appointments of town officers, employees; granting of licenses, permits; approval of departmental appropriations, selection of jurors; date of meeting. Arr. by date of meeting. No index. Hdw. 190 pp. 9 x 9 x $\frac{1}{2}$. Safe.
2. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TOWN OFFICERS, 1884--. 5 vols. (1-5, dated).
Missing: 1867-83. Title varies slightly.
Contains reports of town departments, officers, and committees as described in entries 3, 13, 26, 32, 36, 44, 47, 48, 50-53, 59, 63, 70, 71. Also contains:
 - i. Commander of G.A.R. Post 93, report of, 1908-9: Itemization of Memorial Day expenditures; Name of payee; amount, purpose of payment; amount of town appropriation.
 - ii. Civil engineer on construction of sewer, report of, 1911: Specifications, description, dimensions, cost of sections of sewer system.

1. See descriptive paragraphs for these offices
 2. TOWN RECORDS, 1899-1914, p. 240
 3. (WARRANT AND MINUTES OF TOWN MEETING), March 5, 1832. See entry 12
 4. TOWN RECORDS, 1876-1898, pp. 29, 78, 120, 452; ibid., 1899-1914, passim
 5. Ibid., 1876-1898, p. 68
 6. Ibid., 1927-1939, pp. 67, 151

(3)

- iii. Fund commissioners, annual report of, 1901-27:
 - a. Funds: Names of securities of which funds are invested; amount, place of deposit of fund; amount of interest collected.
 - b. Payments: Amount of payments to town treasurer, balance.
 - iv. Jury list, 1900-1923: Names of persons selected for jury service.
 - v. Safety committee report, 1929: Narrative account of highway traffic conditions, recommendations for increasing highway safety.
 - vi. School building committee report, 1920:
 - a. Appropriation: Amount of appropriation.
 - b. Expenditures: Amount, purpose, itemization of payments.
 - c. Receipts: Amount, source of income; balance.
 - vii. State auditor's report, 1921, 1927, 1930-32, 1935, 1937:
 - a. Examination of town securities and departmental accounts.
 - b. Liabilities of town, 1927, 1930, 1937: Name, amount of account.
 - c. Motor vehicle excise accounts, 1930, 1935: Amount of commitment warrants, abatements, payments to treasurer, outstanding obligations, overpayments to treasurer.
 - d. Narrative account of financial condition of town: Verification of accounts, surety bonds of officers; comment on tax rate, appropriations; name of resigned officials.
 - e. Receipts from rental of town property, 1927, 1930, 1935: Amount, source of income.
 - f. Reconciliation of tax collector's accounts, 1921, 1927, 1930, 1932, 1935: Amount of payments, abatements, commitments, outstanding claims; summary of departmental accounts; total amount of receipts, payments; amount of balance.
 - viii. Tax list, 1885: Names of taxpayers assessed \$20 or more; tax rate; amount of taxes paid by residents, nonresidents.
 - ix. Town-meeting warrants, 1892--: List of articles to be considered at meeting; place, date, time of meeting; signatures of selectmen, attest of constable. 1925-- includes time of opening, closing of polls; place of posting copies of warrants.
- Arr. by subject. No index. Ptd. 300 pp: 6 x 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 1. State Lib., State House, Boston. (Also 47 vols., 1883, 1885, 1887-88, 1893-1920, 1922-23, 1927-- in town off., T.H.)

3. (ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SELECTMEN), 1896-1900--. In Annual Report of the Town Officers, entry 2.

Contains:

- i. Appropriations, 1922--: Amount of appropriation for each department.
- ii. Assets, 1900-1931: Amount of uncollected taxes, funds due from state, balance.
- iii. Expenditures of departments under control of selectmen: Name of payee; amount, purpose of payment. 1900-1903 includes list of outstanding claims against town; showing amount, purpose of claim; 1900-- includes recapitulation of expenditures, totals; 1900-1906 includes summary of school expenditures; 1925-- includes summary of expenditures for aid to poor.
- iv. Liabilities, 1900-1931: Amount of outstanding notes.

- v. Motor vehicle excise tax, 1937: Names of persons receiving refunds, amount of refund.
- vi. Narrative statement of investigation and recommendations concerning borrowing of money for highway maintenance and construction.
- vii. Receipts, 1900--: Amount, source of receipt. 1937-- includes amount received from private funds.

Orders and Licenses

4. TOWN ORDERS, 1876--. 4 vols. Missing: 1885-86, 1901-20. Prior records destroyed.

Record of orders for payment of departmental bills: Name, address of payee; amount, purpose, date, number of order; signatures of selectmen. Arr. by order no. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 1 vol., 1876-84, binding and paper poor. 800 pp. 14 x 9 x 3. 2 vols., 1876-1900, town va., second fl.; 2 vols., 1921--, steel locker.

For original bills 1921--, see entry 40.

5. (Copy of) LICENSE TO CARRY A PISTOL OR REVOLVER, 1935--. 2 vols. System estab. 1935.

Name, address, physical description, age, birthplace of licensee; purpose, number, date of license; signatures of selectmen and licensee. Arr. by license no. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 100 pp. 6 x 4 x 1.

For approval of licenses, see entry 1.

Maps and Plans

6. (MAPS OF DEERFIELD RIVER BRIDGE), 1890--. 12 maps.

Maps showing truss bearings, details of bracing, floor beams, elevations, sections of spans, abutments. Includes names of bridge committee. Edward S. Shaw, Boston, publisher unknown. Blueprint. $\frac{1}{4}$ " : 1'. 24 x 24. Town va., second fl., T.H.

7. (PLAN OF STATE HIGHWAY BETWEEN ASHFIELD AND BUCKLAND), 1896. 1 plan.

Plan of state highway showing location of intersecting roads and underground culverts. Charles Mills. Publisher unknown. Black-and-white. 1" : 40'. 18 x 36. Cabinet.

8. (MAPS OF SHELBURNE FALLS AND BUCKLAND), Jan. 20, 1922. 5 maps.

Maps showing electric light pole locations, names of streets and abutting property owners. Greenfield, Greenfield Light and Power Co. Blueprint. 1" x 80'. 36 x 22. Town va., second fl., T.H.

9. (PLANS OF POLE LOCATIONS), Feb. 21, 1931. 5 plans.

Plans for location of electric light, telephone and telegraph poles in Buckland Center. Turner Falls, Greenfield Electric Light Co. Blueprint. 1" : 80'. 36 x 14.

II. TOWN CLERK¹

Although town records prior to 1876 have been destroyed, a town clerk has probably been elected annually for a one year term since the incorporation of the town in 1779.² From 1877 through 1885 the office was consolidated with that of treasurer; since 1886 the two offices has been separate but the same man has been elected to both offices.³

Except where otherwise noted, all records are in the town office, second floor, Town Hall, State Street.

Minutes and Reports

10. TOWN RECORDS, 1876--. 4 vols. (dated). Prior records destroyed by fire.

Proceedings at town meetings: Election of town officers, appointments of committees, approval of departmental appropriations, amendments of bylaws; results of national, state, county elections; place, time, date of meeting. Includes warrants for town meetings and miscellaneous correspondence. Arr. by date of meeting. No index. 1 vol., 1876-98, binding very poor, writing faded. Hdw. 450 pp. 16 x 11 x 2. 3 vols., 1876-1927, town va., second fl.; 1 vol., 1927--, safe. For town-meeting warrants published in annual reports 1892--, see entry 2-ix.

11. (MINUTES OF TOWN MEETINGS), 1813; Mar. 2, 1829. 2 sheets. Election of town officers; approval of appointments, appropriations, bylaws; place, date, time of meeting. Hdw. 4 pp. Residence of Sara M. Ward, River St., Buckland Center.

12. (WARRANTS AND MINUTES OF TOWN MEETINGS), April, 1823; May 5, 1823; Apr. 22, 1829; May 3, 1830; Mar. 7, 1831; Mar. 5, 1832. 6 sheets.

List of articles to be voted on and action thereon. Includes instructions to constable and constable's return. Hdw. 12 pp. Residence of Sara M. Ward, River St., Buckland Center.

13. (ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK), 1920-21, 1938--. In Annual Report of the Town Officers, entry 2.

Contains:

- i. Licenses, 1920-21: Number, type of dog, hunting, fishing licenses issued.

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

2. (WARRANTS AND MINUTES OF TOWN MEETINGS), March 7, 1831; March 5, 1832. See entry 12.

3. TOWN RECORDS, 1876-1898, pp. 10, 101, 119, 478; 1899-1914, p. 8, 383; 1913-1927, pp. 24, 359; 1927-1939, pp. 9, 243

- ii. Receipts, 1920-21: Amount of fees received from licenses.
- iii. Payments, 1920-21: Amount of payments to state treasurer.
- iv. Vital statistics, 1938--:
 - a. Births: Name, date of birth of child; names of parents.
 - b. Deaths: Name, age, date of death of deceased person.
 - c. Marriages: Names, addresses of contracting parties; date of marriage.

Vital Statistics
(See also entry 13-iv)

14. (Record of) BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS, 1869--. 5 vols.
Births: Name, sex, color of child; date of birth; name, occupation of father; maiden name of mother, residence of parents, name of informant. Marriages: Names; addresses, color, ages, occupations, birthplaces of contracting parties; place, date of marriage; names of parents; name, address, position of person officiating. Deaths: Name, address, sex, color, age, marital status of deceased person; place, cause, date of death; names, birthplaces of parents; name of informant. Arr. chron. For index, 1869-1913, see entry 15. Hdw. 150 pp. 18 x 11 x 1.
15. INDEX TO BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS, 1869-1913. 3 vols.
System discontinued, 1913.
Names of principals, volume and page reference. Arr. alph. by names of principals. Hdw. Writing faded, binding and paper poor. 250 pp. 11 x 9 x $\frac{1}{2}$. Town va., second fl., T.H.
16. RETURNS OF BIRTH, MARRIAGE AND DEATH CERTIFICATES, 1868--. 1 wooden box, 19 file boxes. Prior records destroyed by fire.
Birth certificates, 1874--: Name, sex of child; place, date of birth; name, occupation of father; maiden name of mother; birthplaces, residence of parents; signature of attending physician. Marriage certificates, 1868--: Names, ages, occupations, birthplaces, prior marital status of contracting parties; name of father; maiden name of mother; place, date of marriage; signature of town clerk. Death certificates, 1873--: Name, sex, color, occupation, birthplace of deceased person; place, cause, date of death; names of parents; place, date of burial; signature of physician, undertaker. Arr. chron. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form, 1868-94, paper and writing poor. File boxes, 10 x 4 x 12, wooden box, 18 x 14 x 10; 1 wooden box, 1868-94, 10 file boxes, 1895-1928, town va., second fl., T.H.; 9 file boxes, 1929--, town off.
17. NOTICE OF INTENTION OF MARRIAGE, 1869--. 3 vols., 9 file boxes.
Prior records destroyed by fire. Title varies: Intention of Marriage, 1869-1920, 3 vols.
Names, addresses, color, ages, occupations, birthplaces, prior marital status of contracting parties; names of parents, date of intention, signature of town clerk. Arr. by date of intention. No index. Hdw. to 1905, hdw. on ptd. form thereafter. Vols., 200 pp. 12 x 9 x 1; file boxes, 4 x 6 x 12. 2 vols., 1869-1919, town va., second fl., T.H.; 1 vol., 1919-20, 9 file boxes, 1921--, town off.

(18-20)

Town Clerk - Property Records;
Licenses

18. DEPOSITION (of) BIRTHS, 1905. 1 vol.

Correction of birth records entered in (Record of) Births, Marriages, Deaths, entry 14: Name, sex, color of child; place, date of birth; name, occupation of father; maiden name of mother, residence of parents; signature, address of attending physician; signature of town clerk, date of deposition. Arr. by date of deposition. No index. Hdw. 100 pp. 10 x 8 x $\frac{1}{2}$. Town va., second fl., T.H.

Property Records

19. (Record of Personal Property) MORTGAGES (and Other Legal Instruments), 1876--. 7 vols. (dated). Prior records destroyed.

Name of mortgagor, mortgagee; location, description of property; date of mortgage; signatures of principals, witnesses; date mortgage discharged. Also contains:

- i. Record of assignment of wages: Name, address of assignee, assignor; amount of weekly payments; terms, date of assignment.
- ii. Record of bills of sale: Name, address of vendor, vendee; type, description of goods purchased; date of bill of sale.
- iii. Record of conditional-sales contracts: Name, address of lessee, lessor; itemization of goods purchased; place of delivery, payment; provisions for payment, date of sale.
- iv. Record of notices of foreclosure: Name, address of party served; name of sheriff; cause, date of foreclosure; date of notice, service.
- v. Copies of petitions for pole locations: Name of petitioner; location, number of poles; date of petition. For plans of pole locations 1931, see entry 9.
- vi. Copies of orders for pole erection: Authorization for erection of poles; conditions, specifications of construction work; date of order; signature of selectmen.

Arr. by date of recording. Indexed alph. by names of principals. 6 vols., 1876--, hdw. on ptd. form; 1 vol., 1894-1900, hdw. 400 pp. 15 x 10 x 2. 2 vols., 1876-1900, town va., second fl.; 5 vols., 1901--, safe.

Licenses

(See also entry 13-i)

20. DOG LICENSE (Records), 1877--. 9 vols. Missing: 1893-1921, 1928-32. Title varies: List of Dog Licenses in the Town of Buckland, 1877-90, 2 vols.

Name of owner; name, age, sex, breed, color of dog; date, number of license. Arr. by license no. No index. Hdw., 1877-92; hdw. on ptd. form thereafter. 190 pp. 10 x 8 x $\frac{1}{2}$, 200 pp. 12 x 5 x 1. 4 vols., 1877-92, 1933--, town off.; 5 vols., 1922-27, town va., second fl.; T.H.

Miscellaneous

21. (MARRIED WOMEN'S BUSINESS CERTIFICATES), 1877-1914. 1 vol.
Record of certificates issued to married women for conduct of business independent of their husbands: Name, address, age of woman; location, type of business; release of husband's obligation, date of certificate. Arr. chron. No index. Hdw. 70 pp. 8 x 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ x $\frac{1}{2}$.

22. LIST OF MILITIA, 1877-84. 1 vol.
Names of town residents eligible for enrollment in the militia. Arr. alph. by name of resident. No index. Hdw. 50 pp. 10 x 8 $\frac{1}{4}$ x $\frac{1}{2}$.

23. NOTICES OF APPLICATIONS FOR NATURALIZATION, 1886-97. 1 vol.
Subsequent records kept in county superior court.
Name, address, age, occupation of applicant; name of court, date of application. Arr. by date of application. No index. Hdw. 100 pp. 12 x 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ x $\frac{1}{2}$.
Town va., second fl., T.H.

III. REGISTRARS OF VOTERS¹

Under the provisions of Chapter 298, Section 14 of the Acts of 1884, the selectmen have appointed three registrars of voters, one annually, for three year terms, since 1886.²

24. GENERAL REGISTER OF VOTERS, 1884--. 4 vols.
Name, signature, address, age, birthplace, occupation of voter; date of registration. Also contains minutes of registrars' meetings: Appointment of employees; checking, recount of votes; registration, disqualification of voters, revision of voting list, date of meeting.
Arr. by date of registration or meeting. No index. Hdw. 48 pp. 15 x 11 x $\frac{3}{4}$. Town va., second fl., T.H., State St.

IV. ASSESSORS¹

In 1831 and 1832, and probably for many years prior and subsequent to that time, three assessors were elected annually, for one-year terms.⁵

1. For the statutory origin and development of this office see Town and City Government in Massachusetts
2. TOWN RECORDS, 1876-1898, pp. 126, 151, 484; 1899-1914, pp. 16, 392; 1913-1927, pp. 243, 348; 1927-1939, pp. 97, 245
3. (WARRANTS AND MINUTES OF TOWN MEETINGS), March 7, 1831; March 5, 1832

Assessors - Minutes and Reports;
Valuations and Assessments

In the period from 1829 through 1871 the board of assessors continued to consist of three members elected annually, but many times the selectmen were elected as assessors also. During the entire period from 1872 through 1907, the custom of electing the selectmen annually as assessors was invariably followed.¹ Since 1908, three assessors have been elected, one annually, for three-year terms.²

Except where otherwise noted, all records are in the town office, second floor, Town Hall, State Street.

Minutes and Reports

25. ASSESSORS' RECORDS (Minutes of Meetings), 1910--. 1 vol. Discussion and decisions pertaining to property valuations, petitions for tax abatements, tax rate. Arr. by date of meeting. No index. Hdw. 300 pp. 12 x 8 x 1. Safe.
26. (ANNUAL REPORT OF ASSESSORS), 1910, 1921--. In Annual Report of the Town Officers, entry 2.
- Contains:
- i. Appropriations, 1910: List of appropriations for previous year.
 - ii. Motor vehicle assessments, 1929-30, 1932--: Total amount of excise taxes. 1929-- includes number of automobile assessed; 1932-- includes dates of commitments of automobile assessments.
 - iii. Real and personal property assessments: Number of live stock assessed. 1930-- includes number of fowls assessed; 1933-36 includes number of dwellings, acres of land assessed.
 - iv. Taxes: Amount of taxes assessed on real, personal property; tax rate. 1921 includes amount of overlayings; 1921-36 includes amount of poll, state, county, city, town taxes.

Valuations and Assessments

(See also entries 2-viii, 26-ii,-iii,-iv, 30)

27. VALUATION LISTS, 1876--. 62 vols. (dated). Prior records destroyed by fire.
- Assessments on polls, real and personal property: Name, address of taxpayer; location, description, valuation of property; amount, date of assessment. Arr. alph. by name of taxpayer. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 23

1. TOWN RECORDS, 1876-1898, pp. 10, 478; 1899-1914, pp. 8, 237
 2. *Ibid.*, 1899-1914, pp. 240, 266, 384; 1913-1927, pp. 25, 359; 1927-1939, pp. 9, 94, 129, 243

Assessors - Abatements; Motor Vehicle
Excise

(28-31)

vols., 1876-98, binding poor. 75 pp. 18 x 15 x 3/4. 57 vols., 1876-1932, town va., second fl., T.H.; 5 vols., 1933--, safe.

For commitments 1871--, see entry 33; for tax receipts 1926--, see entry 34.

28. ASSESSMENTS FOR SIDEWALK BETTERMENTS AND WATER RENTS, 1887-1935.
1 vol. System discont. 1935.

Contains:

- i. Assessments on property owners for sidewalk improvements, 1887-96:
Name, address of taxpayer; amount, date of assessment.
- ii. Water rent tax, 1901-35: Name, address of consumer; amount, date of assessment, payment.

Arr. by date of assessment. No index. Hdw. 225 pp. 8 x 5 x 1.
For tax receipts 1926--, see entry 34.

Abatements

(See also entries 25, 31-34)

29. (Record of Poll and Property Tax) ABATEMENT CERTIFICATES, 1908--.
2 vols. Title varies: Abatement Record, 1903-33, 1 vol.

Name, address of taxpayer; location of property; amount, type, date of tax; amount, cause, date of abatement; total amount due, certificate number.

1 vol., 1908-33, arr. by date of abatement; 1 vol., 1934--, arr. by certificate no. Hdw. to 1933, hdw. on ptd. form thereafter. 100 pp. 11 x 9 x 3/4, 200 pp. 8 x 3 x 1.

Motor Vehicle Excise

(Tax authorized by law 1929; see also entries 2-vii c, 3-v, 26-ii, 32)

30. MOTOR VEHICLE EXCISE (Assessments), 1929--. 9 vols.

Name, address of motor vehicle owner; make, year, model, type, valuation of car; date of registration, number of months assessed; amount, date of assessment. Arr. alph. by name of car owner. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 40 pp. 19 x 16 x 1/4. 3 vols., 1929-31, town va., second fl., T.H.; 6 vols., 1932--, safe.

For commitments, see entry 35; for tax receipts, see entry 34.

31. (Original) ABATEMENT CERTIFICATE-MOTOR VEHICLE EXCISE, 1934--.
1 vol.

Name, address of car owner; amount, cause, date of abatement; total amount due; certificate number. Arr. by certificate no. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 100 pp. 8 x 3 x 1.

V. TAX COLLECTOR¹

In 1813, and probably for many years prior and subsequent to that date, a tax collector was elected annually.² In 1829, the office was sold to the lowest bidder, who was then generally appointed a constable to provide him with ample collecting powers.³ Since 1878 a tax collector has been elected annually, for a one year term.⁴

Except where otherwise noted, all records are in the town office, second floor, Town Hall, State Street. In addition to the following records, see entry 2-vii -f for state auditor's report of collector's accounts 1921, 1927, 1930, 1932, 1935.

32. (ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TAX COLLECTOR), 1921--. In Annual Report of the Town Officers, entry 2.
Amount of uncollected and recommitted taxes, payments to treasurer, abatements, interest collected. 1929-- includes amount of payments to treasurer for commitments on motor vehicle excise taxes, amount of abatement.

33. TAX COMMITMENT BOOKS, 1871--. 59 vols. (dated). Missing: 1872-77, 1879-80. Prior records destroyed by fire.
Commitment of poll, personal and real estate taxes: Name, address of taxpayer; amount, type, date of tax; amount of abatement, interest; total tax. Includes record of payments. Arr. alph. by name of taxpayer. No index. Hdw. on ptd. Form. 100 pp. $6\frac{1}{2} \times 5 \times \frac{1}{2}$. 50 vols., 1871-1928, town va., second fl., T.H.; 9 vols., 1929--, town off.
For valuations 1876--, see entry 27.

34. TAX COLLECTOR CASH BOOKS, 1926--. 12 vols.
Receipts from poll, property, excise taxes, and special assessments: Name, address of taxpayer; amount, type, date of tax; amount of abatement, interest; amount, date of payment. Arr. alph. by name of taxpayer. No index. Hdw. 52 pp. $12 \times 9 \times \frac{1}{2}$. Safe.
For treasurer's record of tax receipts 1876--, see entry 37.

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

2. (MINUTES OF TOWN MEETINGS), 1813. See entry 11

3. Ibid., March 2, 1829. See entry 11, TOWN RECORDS, 1876-98, p. 10

4. TOWN RECORDS, 1876-1899, pp. 19, 87, 478; 1899-1914, pp. 8, 384; 1913-1927, pp. 25, 359; 1927-1939, pp. 10, 243

35. COMMITMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLE EXCISE TAX, 1929--. 6 vols. Tax authorized by law 1929.

Name, address of car owner; amount, date of tax, payment; amount, of interest, total tax. Arr. alph. by name of car owner. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 25 pp. 14 x 17 x $\frac{1}{4}$. Safe.

For assessments, see entry 30; for abatements 1934--, see entry 31.

VI. TREASURER¹

Records which have survived the fire of 1876 indicate pretty clearly that a town treasurer has been elected annually since the incorporation of the town.² From 1877 to the present the offices of clerk and treasurer have been held by the same person, although, since 1886, they have been considered separate offices.³

Except where otherwise noted, all records are in the town office, second floor, Town Hall, State Street. In addition to the following records see entry 2-iii b for fund payments 1901-27; 2-vii c for motor vehicle excise payments 1930, 1935; entry 32 for collector's report of tax payments to treasurer 1921--.

36. (ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TREASURER), 1884--. In Annual Report of the Town Officers, entry 2.

Contains:

- i. Assets, 1884-99: Amount, source of assets.
- ii. Expenditures, 1884-99, 1929-31: Itemization of expenditures, name of payee; amount, purpose of payment, 1929-31 includes amount, date of selectmen's, school committees orders; state tax.
- iii. Fund, Clifton L. McKnight, 1928--: Amount of total receipts, expenditures, balance; name of payee, place of deposit of fund, bankbook number.
- iv. Liabilities, 1884-99: Amount, purpose of liabilities.

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

2. (SETTLEMENT OF TOWN ACCOUNTS), March, 1814 and March, 1815, 2 sheets, mss. See entry 43; (WARRANTS AND MINUTES OF TOWN MEETINGS), March 7, 1831; March 5, 1832

3. TOWN RECORDS, 1876-1898, pp. 10, 101, 119, 478; 1899-1914, pp. 8, 383; 1913-1927, pp. 24, 359; 1927-1939, pp. 9, 243

- v. Receipts, 1884--: Total receipts. 1929-31 includes amount of receipts from local and state taxes, special funds, licenses, fees, other sources; date of transactions. 1932-- includes places of deposit of funds.
37. TREASURER'S CASH BOOKS (Receipts and Disbursements), 1876--. 9 vols. Prior records destroyed.
Receipts from taxes, bond issues, license fees, rental of Town Hall: Name of payer; amount, source, date of income. Disbursements for salaries, equipment, supplies, maintenance of town property, interest on loans: Name of payee; amount, purpose; date of payment; warrant number. Arr. by date of transaction. No index. Hdw. 1 vol., 1876-96 binding poor, 150 pp. 16 x 13 x 1. 6 vols., 1876-1932, town va.; second fl.; 3 vols., 1933--, safe.
For published report of expenditures 1884-99, 1929-31, see entry 36-ii; for published report of receipts 1884--, see entry 36-iv.
38. TOWN OF BUCKLAND TREASURY WARRANT, 1927--. 7 bdl. Prior records destroyed.
Warrants authorizing payment of bills: Name of payee, amount of payment, voucher number, date of warrant. Arr. by voucher number. No index. Hdw. 13 x 9 x $\frac{1}{2}$. 5 bdl., 1927-32, town va., second fl.; 2 bdl., 1933--, cabinet.
39. (RECORD OF TOWN NOTES ISSUED), 1909--. 9 vols.
Name, address of purchaser; amount, purpose, date of loan; rate of interest, method of payment, date of maturity; signatures of selectmen, treasurer, and clerk. Arr. by date of issue. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 20 pp. 20 x 12 x $\frac{1}{4}$. 8 vols., 1909-31, town va., second fl.; 1 vol., 1932--, safe.
40. TOWN BILLS, 1921--. 17 file boxes. Prior records destroyed.
Original bills approved by selectmen for payment: Name of payee; amount, purpose, date of payment; date of bill, signatures of selectmen. Arr. by date of payment. No index. Hdw. and typed on ptd. form. 12 x 11 x 3.
For selectmen's orders for payment 1876--, see entry 4.
41. TREASURER'S CHECK BOOKS IN ACCOUNT WITH SHELburne Falls NATIONAL BANK, 1904--. 12 vols.
Record of checks issued: Name of payee; amount, date of check. Includes record of deposits: Amount, date of deposit; bank balance. Arr. chron. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 200 pp. 16 x 10 x 1. 10 vols., 1904-33, town va., second fl.; 2 vols., 1933--, safe.
42. CHECK STUBS, 1911--. 122 vols.
Name of payee, purpose of payment; amount, number, date of check. Arr. by check no. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 100 pp. 10 x 5 x $\frac{1}{2}$. 94 vols., 1911-34, town va., second fl.; 28 vols., 1935--, cabinet.

43. (SETTLEMENT OF TOWN ACCOUNTS), Mar. 1814, Mar. 1815. 2 sheets. Annual statement of receipts and expenditures, certified by selectmen. Hdw. 4 pp. Buckland Pub. Lib., Buckland Center.

VII. AUDITOR¹

Isolated records show that in 1823, 1830 and 1832, a committee of three was elected for a one-year term in order to examine the town's accounts.² It is probable, however, that such committees were elected frequently during the early history of the town. From 1897 through 1920, two auditors were elected annually.³ One auditor was elected for a one-year term in 1921 and 1922, but two were again elected in 1923 and 1924.⁴ Since 1925 one auditor has been elected annually.⁵

In addition to the following records, see entry 2-vii a-f for state auditor's report 1921, 1927, 1930-32, 1935, 1937.

44. (ANNUAL REPORT OF TOWN AUDITOR), 1900--. In Annual Report of the Town Officers, entry 2. Certification of departmental accounts; total amount of receipts, expenditures, balance.

45. REPORT OF FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS (Schedule A), TOWN OF BUCKLAND, 1907--. 31 vols. (dated). Report to state department of corporations and taxations: Name of city or town, official furnishing information, person receiving schedule; period of fiscal year; receipts from taxes, licenses and permits, fines and forfeits, grants and gifts, special assessments, various departments, public service enterprises, cemeteries, trusts and funds; payments for departmental expenses, public service enterprises, cemeteries, trusts and funds; date schedule mailed from town or city, received by state departments; remarks. Also contains:

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

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

2. (WARRANTS AND MINUTES OF TOWN MEETINGS), Apr. 1, 1823; May 3, 1830; Mar. 5, 1832

3. TOWN RECORDS, 1876-98, pp. 445, 475; 1899-1914, pp. 8, 384; 1913-1927, pp. 25, 204

4. Ibid., 1913-1927, pp. 235, 252, 284, 302

5. Ibid., 1913-1927, pp. 340, 360; 1927-1939, pp. 10, 243

- ii. Schedule E - report of public trust fund: Name of fund, city or town; period of fiscal year; amount of cash, appraised value of real estate, savings bank deposits; par value of securities on hand at beginning, end of year; source of receipts, reason for payments, date of report, signature of official furnishing information.
 - iii. Schedule G - report of investment fund: For description, see ii.
 - iv. Schedule H - report of cemetery perpetual care trust fund: For description, see ii.
 - v. Schedule I - report of municipal properties and public improvements; Name of city or town, period of fiscal year; cost of improvements in various departments for land and buildings, furniture, and other property; total cost for each department, all departments; date of report, signature of official furnishing information.
- Arr. by date of audit. No index. Hdw. 31 pp. 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 10 x $\frac{1}{4}$. T.H.: 17 vols., 1907-23, town va.; 14 vols., 1924-- , cabinet, town off., second fl.

VIII. FINANCE COMMITTEE¹

In 1939, for the first time, a Finance committee was elected, consisting of five persons serving for one year. The committee elects one of its number chairman, and another, clerk.² The committee keeps no records.

IX. TRUSTEES OF THE MCKNIGHT FUND

The Clifton McKnight Trust Fund was established for the education of deserving boys and girls of Buckland. Since 1930 it has been governed by a board of trustees consisting of the selectmen, the school committee and the town treasurer, seven members in all. The town treasurer is ex officio the chairman of the board of trustees, who meet to act upon all applications for assistance on the first of July of each year.³ The trustees keep no records.

X. SCHOOL COMMITTEE¹

In 1829 the school committee consisted of four men elected for a one

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

2. TOWN RECORDS, 1927-1939, pp. 242, 245

3. Ibid., 1927-1939, pp. 67, 151

year term, and in 1832 the "superintending school committee" consisted of three persons, elected again for a one year term.¹ From 1877 to the present time, the school committee has consisted of three members elected, one annually, for three year terms.²

It is also known that, at least from 1813 through 1832, each school district contributed a representative to a "school district committee", which must not be confused with the "superintending" body mentioned above. In 1813 there were six school districts, in 1829 and 1831 there were nine, in 1832 there were eight. The district school committee consisted of the same number of members as there were districts in the town, each member elected annually for a one year term.³

In 1892 the town voted to accept the provisions of Chapter 431 of the Acts of 1888, concerning the employment of a superintendent of schools; it voted to unite for this purpose with Shelburne and Colraine, or Shelburne and Deerfield.⁴ Buckland is now a member of a union comprising Shelburne and Colraine.

Except where otherwise noted, all records are in the office of the superintendent of schools, second floor, Wood Block, Bridge Street, Shelburne Falls.

Minutes and Reports

46. MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF BUCKLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE, 1847--. 3 vols. Discussion and actions on appointment, salaries of teachers; recommendations concerning problem-children, health program; approval of bills, arrangement for pupils' transportation, selection of textbooks, recommendation of appropriations for ensuing year; date of meeting. Arr. by date of meeting. No index. Hdw. 200 pp. 16 x 10 x 2. 2 vols., 1847-1922, residence of Mrs. Fannie Shaw Kendrick (former secy.), State St.; 1 vol., 1923--, residence of Preston Warfield (secy.), Hawley Rd.

47. (ANNUAL REPORT OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE), 1884-86, 1888, 1903-14, 1918--.
In Annual Report of the Town Officers, entry 2.

Contains:

- i. Appropriations, amount of.
- ii. Budget, 1905-6, 1933--: Recommended budget, showing amount, purpose of each item; total budget.

1. (MINUTES OF TOWN MEETINGS), Mar. 2, 1829; (WARRANTS AND MINUTES OF TOWN MEETINGS), Mar. 5, 1832
2. TOWN RECORDS, 1876-1898, pp. 10, 184, 478; 1899-1914, pp. 8, 384; 1913-1927, pp. 25, 58, 359; 1927-1939, pp. 10, 243
3. (MINUTES OF TOWN MEETINGS), 1813; Mar. 2, 1829; (WARRANTS AND MINUTES OF TOWN MEETINGS), March 7, 1831; March 5, 1832
4. TOWN RECORDS, 1876-1898, p. 247

School Committee - Minutes and Reports

- iii. Chart of statistics, 1884-86, 1888: Number of schools, pupils under 5 years, over 15 years; total number of pupils; average membership, attendance; percentage of attendance; names, sex, average wage of teachers; grade taught by each teacher.
- iv. Expenditures: Name of payee; amount, itemization, purpose of payment. 1885-86 includes average cost per pupil. 1908-14, 1918-33, 1936-- includes summary of expenditures, list of outstanding bills.
- v. Narrative account of activity: Pupils' attendance, enrollment; findings and recommendations concerning studies, teachers, transportation, finances, school buildings. 1919, 1934-- includes recommendations concerning consolidation of schools; 1934 includes explanation of school signals.
- vi. Pupils' attendance statistics, 1885-86, 1888: Names of pupils neither absent nor tardy during year.
- vii. Receipts: Amount, source of receipts.
- viii. School calendar, 1903-14, 1918--.
- ix. School committee members, 1903-14, 1920--: Names, date of expiration of term of members.

48. (ANNUAL REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS), 1903-14, 1934--.
In Annual Report of the Town Officers, entry 2.

Contains:

- i. Agriculture club, 1911-12: Statement of activities, names of prize winners.
- ii. Appropriation, amount of recommended, 1934, 1937--.
- iii. Attendance records, 1934--: Average pupil membership for past five years. 1938-- includes average membership, percentage of attendance of each school.
- iv. Census statistics, 1938: School population for past 7 years.
- v. Chart of school statistics, 1903-14: Names of schools, teachers; amount of wages paid teachers; total enrollment; average attendance, membership; percentage of attendance; total days lost on account of absences, tardiness, dismissals.
- vi. Courses of study, 1914: Summary of subjects taught, classified by grade.
- vii. Narrative account of school activities: Findings and recommendations concerning pupils, teachers, studies, buildings, equipment, finances; 1934, 1937-- includes proposed improvements; 1934-- includes discussion on reports of music and art instructors.
- viii. Penny saving, 1912: Amount of total investment.
- ix. Pupils statistics, 1903-12, 1936--: Names of graduates of grammar school. Includes: 1903-14, names of pupils neither absent nor tardy during year; 1913-14, number of pupils in each grade; 1914, number of boys, girls between the ages of 5-15, 7-14, over 14, illiterates; results of tests on ears, eyes; 1936--, names of graduates of high school; 1937, number of pupils having defects, type of defects; 1938, average age of pupils in each grade, number taking courses in high school, number of pupils attending Arms Academy.

- x. School library, 1905: Titles, number of books.
- xi. Statistical table, 1935: Valuation of town, average pupil membership, valuation per pupil in net average membership, state valuation.
- xii. Teachers' statistics, 1934--: Names of new, resigned teachers; educational background, teaching experience.

49. SCHOOL REPORTS, 1911-32. 22 vols.

Annual reports of school committee and superintendent of schools (1903-14), showing same information as in (Annual Report of School Committee), entry 47; (Annual Report of Superintendent of Schools), entry 48. Arr. by subject. No index. Ptd. 50 pp. 9 x 6 x $\frac{1}{4}$. Strm.

50. (ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MUSIC INSTRUCTOR), 1903-14. In Annual Report of the Town Officers, entry 2.

Narrative report of accomplishments, methods, school concerts; recommendations.

51. (ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TRUANT OFFICER); 1903-7, 1914. In Annual Report of the Town Officers, entry 2.

Number of truant cards received from teachers; number of visits to schools, homes; cause of absence from school, number of arrests for truancy, number of truants. 1907, 1914 includes number of cases investigated.

52. (ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SUPERVISOR OF DRAWING), 1905-14. In Annual Report of the Town Officers, entry 2.

Narrative account of work done during year.

53. (ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SCHOOL PHYSICIAN), 1909-12, 1914. In Annual Report of the Town Officers, entry 2.

Narrative account of work done in prevention and treatment of defects and diseases; recommendations for general health improvement; number of pupils having defects, diseases.

Financial Records

(See also entries 46, 47-i,-ii,-iv, 48-ii,-viii)

54. LEDGER BOOK, 1912--. 2 bds., 1 vol. Title varies: Ledger Sheets, 1912-35, 2 bds.

Accounting of all expenditures of school department, with record of appropriations: Name of payee; amount, purpose, date of payment; total disbursements; amount, date of appropriation; amount of unexpended balance, voucher number. 2 bds., 1912-35, arr. by date of payment; 1 vol., 1936--, arr. by voucher no. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. Bds., 18 x 12 x 5; vol., 100 pp. 18 x 12 x 2.

55. (RECORD OF PAY ROLLS, ACCOUNT WITH TREASURER), 1919--. 14 bds. Prior records destroyed. Name of school, names of teachers; amount of salary, retirement deduction; net amount paid; total amount, date of pay roll; signatures of school committee, selectmen. Also contains:
- i. Account with treasurer relative to school expenditures: Name of payee; classification, amount, date of expenditure; signatures of school committee, selectmen.
- Arr. by date of pay roll or expenditure. No index. Typed. 11 x 9 x $\frac{1}{2}$. 10 bds., 1919-29, town va., second fl., T.H.; 4 bds., 1930--, supt. off.

Pupils' Records

(See also entries 47,-v, 48-ix, 51, 53)

56. SCHOOL REGISTER, 1908--. 269 vols. (dated). Summary of pupils, enrollment, and attendance: Name, address, age of pupil; date of enrollment, number of days in attendance, length of school term; name of homeroom teacher. Arr. alph. by name of pupil. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 6 pp. 12 x $9\frac{1}{2}$ x $1\frac{1}{8}$. 158 vols., 1908-26, strm.; 111 vols., 1927--, cabinet; supt. off.
57. PUPILS' REPORT (Cards), 1914--. 4 file boxes. Name, age, grade of pupil; names of teacher, school; names of subjects, marks in each subject, date of report, signature of teacher. Includes health report. Arr. alph. by name of pupil. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 6 x 8 x 16.
58. (Duplicate) WORKING CERTIFICATES, 1929--. 1 file drawer. Authorization for employment of minors: Name, address, age of minor; place, date of birth; school and grade last attended; name, address of employer; date of certificate, signatures of minor and school superintendent. Arr. alph. by name of minor. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 6 x 8 x 16.

XI. LIBRARY TRUSTEES¹

Since 1894, the town of Buckland has voted periodic contributions to the Arms Library in Shelburne Falls, in order to make it free to the citizens of Buckland.² In addition, since 1913 three trustees of the Buckland Public Library, located at Buckland Center, have been elected, one annually, for three year terms.

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

2. TOWN RECORDS, 1876-98, p. 342; 1899-1914, p. 5; 1913-27, p. 96

Except where otherwise noted, all records are in the librarian's desk, Buckland Public Library, Buckland Center.

59. (ANNUAL REPORT OF TREASURER OF THE LIBRARY), 1927-32. In Annual Report of the Town Officers, entry 2.
Name of bank holding funds, amount of fund, bank book number.
60. EXPENDITURES OF BUCKLAND LIBRARY, 1927--. 1 vol.
Expenditures for salaries, equipment, supplies, maintenance: Name of payee; amount, purpose, date of expenditure. Arr. by date of expenditure. No index. Hdw. 50 pp. 14 x 7 x $\frac{1}{2}$.
61. BOOK OF FINES, 1796-1821, 1927--. 2 vols. Title varies: Librarian's Records, 1796-1821.
Record of fines levied on borrowers: Name, card number of borrower; amount, date of fine. Arr. by date of fine. No index. Hdw. 1 vol., 1796-1821, 25 pp. 8 x 6 x $\frac{1}{8}$; 1 vol., 1927--., 100 pp. 6 x 3 x $\frac{1}{2}$.
62. (Book Circulation) RECORD OF BUCKLAND LIBRARY, 1883--. 1 vol., 6 file boxes. No title, 1916--., 6 file boxes.
Title, author, number of book; card number of borrower; date borrowed, returned. Arr. by date of loan. No index. Hdw. 1 vol., 1883-1915, 300 pp. 10 x 8 x 1; 6 file boxes, 1916--., 6 x 4 x 14.

XII. BOARD OF PUBLIC WELFARE¹

During Buckland's early history, paupers were "set up at auction to the lowest bidder", but by 1832 it had become established that the selectmen should oversee relief.² Since that time, the selectmen have always been elected as overseers of the poor, or, later, the board of public welfare, except in 1921 through 1924 when apparently the office was not filled by formal election.³ Old Age Relief and State Aid were separated from the board of public welfare in 1933,⁴ but the chairman of the selectmen still acts as chairman of the board of public welfare and is in charge of old age assistance.⁵

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

2. (MINUTES OF TOWN MEETINGS), March 2, 1829; (WARRANTS AND MINUTES OF TOWN MEETINGS), March 5, 1832

3. TOWN RECORDS, 1876-1898, pp. 10, 478; 1899-1914, pp. 8, 383; 1913-1927, pp. 122, 232, 280, 286, 298, 342, 361

4. Ibid., 1927-1939, p. 129

5. Ibid., 1927-1939, pp. 11, 67, 106, 243

63. (ANNUAL REPORT OF BOARD OF PUBLIC WELFARE), 1884-1924. In Annual Report of the Town Officers, entry 2.

Contains:

- i. Almshouse expenditures: Name of payee; amount, purpose of payment. 1910, 1916 includes itemization of expenditures for outside poor.
- ii. Almshouse receipts: Name of payer; amount, source of receipt. 1924 includes amount of income from sale of property.
- iii. Appropriation, amount of, 1924.
- iv. Employees', names of, 1884-1923.
- v. Inmate statistics, 1884-1923: Names of inmates. 1884-89, 1903-4 includes ages of inmates; 1901-23 includes number of weeks board furnished inmates.
- vi. Inventory of equipment, 1884-1923: Quantity of each item.

64. REGISTER OF PERSONS SUPPORTED BY TOWN OF BUCKLAND, 1899--. 3 vols. Name, address, age, birthplace, register number, social and settlement status, mental condition of recipient; birthplaces of parents; amount, type, date of aid; cause, date of discharge. Includes record of old age assistance rendered: Name, address, birthplace, date of birth of recipient; amount, date of aid. Arr. alph. by name of recipient. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 50 pp. 16 x 14 x 12. Town off., second fl., T.H., State St.

XIII. BOARD OF HEALTH¹

The selectmen have always performed the duties of a board of health. The formal distinction between the selectmen and the board of health occurred some time before 1882, for in that year the records indicate that the "board of health" appointed an inspector of slaughtering.² In 1903, 1911 and 1912, the selectmen, acting as the board of health, appointed an agent for a one year term.³ They appointed two agents annually in 1918, 1919 and 1920. From 1915 through 1917, and since 1921, the selectmen have appointed a physician as their agent, for a one year term, annually.⁴

All records are in the Town Hall; except where otherwise noted, they are in the town office, second floor.

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

2. TOWN RECORDS, 1876-1898, p. 68; 1899-1914, p. 116; 1913-27, p. 60

3. Ibid., 1899-1914, pp. 116, 321, 349

4. Ibid., 1913-1927, pp. 155, 205, 235, 361; 1927-1939, pp. 11, 107, 142, 245

65. BURIAL (or Removal) PERMIT STUBS, 1924--. 3 vols.
Name, age of deceased person; place, cause, date of death; place of interment; name of undertaker, physician; date, number of permit. Arr. by permit no. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 100 pp. 6 x 4 x 1.

66. LICENSE BOOK, 1927--. 1 vol.
Stubs of licenses issued to peddlers, slaughterers, dealers in oleomargarine, firearms: Name, address of licensee; type, number of license; date of issue, expiration. Arr. by date of issue. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form 150 pp. 6 x 6 x 1.

67. (Stub of) MILK PRODUCER'S PERMIT, 1927--. 1 vol.
Name, address of producer; location of dairy, number of cows; number of cans of milk produced, sold; number, date of permit. Arr. by permit no. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 100 pp. 6 x 3 x 1.

68. (Stubs of) MILK DEALERS' PERMITS, 1936--. 1 vol.
Name, address of dealer; name of milk producer; number, date of permit. Arr. by permit no. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 100 pp. 6 x 3 x 1.

69. RECORD OF CONTAGIOUS DISEASES, Apr. 8-16, no year given. 1 vol.
Name, address, age of patient; type of disease, name of attending physician, date case reported. Arr. by date of report. No index. Hdw. 75 pp. 15 x 10 x $\frac{1}{4}$. Town va., second fl.

XIV. BURIAL AGENT¹

In 1880 the selectmen appointed two town undertakers for one year terms, under the provisions of Chapter 275 of the Acts of 1872.² In 1894, the selectmen appointed two burial agents for a term of one year. A single agent was appointed by the selectmen for one year in 1898, 1907, 1908, 1912 and 1932; apparently no appointments were made in the other years.³ Since 1934 the selectmen have appointed a burial agent annually.⁴ This office keeps no records.

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

2. TOWN RECORDS, 1876-1898, p. 41

3. Ibid., 1876-1898, pp. 365, 479; 1899-1914, pp. 211, 246, 349; 1927-1939, p. 121

4. Ibid., 1927-1939, pp. 142, 245

Next entry, p. 54

Milk Inspector -- Cattle Inspector --
Meat Inspectors

XV. MILK INSPECTOR¹

Since 1938, when the office is first mentioned, the chief of police has been appointed annually by the selectmen as milk inspector.²

This office keeps no records, but see entries 67, 68 for stubs of milk permits 1927--.

XVI. CATTLE INSPECTOR¹

In 1893 and 1894 the selectmen appointed two inspectors of animals for a one year term, under the provisions of the Acts of 1892, Chapter 195.³ One inspector, under various titles, was appointed by the selectmen annually from 1895 through 1898.⁴ The records make no mention of this office in 1900 and 1901, but from 1902 through 1913, the selectmen appointed one inspector of cattle annually.⁵ The office is not mentioned in 1914 and 1915, but in 1916 and 1917, the selectmen appointed two cattle inspectors.⁶ Since 1918 one cattle inspector or inspector of animals has been appointed annually by the selectmen, with the possible exception of the years 1920, 1921 and 1933, where the records make no mention of such appointments. The inspector keeps no records.

XVII. MEAT INSPECTORS¹

The history of this office is brief, but difficult to summarize. It must be assumed that in the years not mentioned, no appointments to this

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

2. TOWN RECORDS, 1927-1939, pp. 216, 245

3. Ibid., 1876-1898, pp. 321, 356

4. Ibid., 1876-1898. pp. 418, 479; 1899-1914, p. 11

5. Ibid., 1899-1914, pp. 98, 188, 242, 385

6. Ibid., 1913-1927, pp. 97, 128

7. Ibid., 1913-1927, pp. 155, 180, 253; 1927-1939, pp. 11, 107, 142,

office were made. In 1908, the selectmen appointed an inspector of meat for a one-year term.¹ In 1911 and 1912 two inspectors were appointed by the selectmen, for one year terms.² In 1914, 1915 and 1917, only one meat inspector was appointed annually.³ In 1916 and from 1918 through 1924 three were appointed.⁴ From 1925 through 1938 the selectmen appointed two inspectors annually.⁵ In 1939 three meat inspectors were appointed by the selectmen for a one-year term.⁶ The inspectors keep no records.

XVIII. SUPERINTENDENT OF HIGHWAYS⁷

In 1829, 1831, and 1832, twelve highway surveyors were elected for a one year term, but it is probable that they were elected for many years prior and subsequent to this time.⁸ In 1877 three road commissioners were elected, one for a term of one-year, one for two years, and one for three years.⁹ This practice was not continued, however; and from 1879 through 1887 the selectmen were elected highway surveyors.¹⁰ From 1888 through 1890, the selectmen were elected road commissioners, and as such, under the provisions of Chapter 98 of the Acts of 1889, appointed in 1890 a superintendent of streets for a one-year term.¹¹ The selectmen have continued to exercise all functions in connection with the care of the highways, although not formally elected, to the present time. They appointed a "Highway surveyor" in 1897 for a one-year term and a road commissioner or superintendent of streets in 1900, 1904, 1908, 1910, and from 1913 through 1916, in each case for a one-year term.¹² Since 1929 they have appointed annually a superintendent of highways. The superintendent keeps no records.

1. TOWN RECORDS, 1876-1898, p. 242

2. Ibid., 1876-1898, pp. 321

3. Ibid., 1913-1927, pp. 27, 60, 128

4. Ibid., 1913-1927, pp. 96, 155, 286, 304

5. Ibid., 1913-1927, pp. 342, 343; 1927-39, p. 31

6. Ibid., 1927-1939, p. 245

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

8. (MINUTES OF TOWN MEETINGS), March 2, 1829 (see entry 11); (WARRANTS AND MINUTES OF TOWN MEETINGS), March 7, 1831; March 5, 1832 (see entry 12)

9. TOWN RECORDS, 1876-1898, pp. 10, 11

10. Ibid., 1876-1898, pp. 29, 63, 78, 120

11. Ibid., 1876-1898, pp. 163, 185, 218

12. Ibid., 1876-1898, p. 452; 1899-1914, pp. 40, 137, 242, 298, 385; 1913-1927, pp. 27, 97, 155

XIX. FOREST FIRE WARDEN¹

Although two forest firewards were appointed by the selectmen for a one-year term in 1886, under the provisions of Chapter 296 of the Acts of 1886, there were no further appointments until 1905, when the selectmen appointed one "fire warden" for a one-year term.² The records make no mention of this office the following year, but in 1907 the selectmen appointed two "forest fire wards" for a term of one year, and in 1908 and 1909 appointed one.³ In 1910 no appointment was made, but since 1911 the selectmen have appointed a forest warden or forest fire warden annually for a one-year term. In 1911 this officer was also chosen as superintendent for suppression of moths. Since 1914 the appointee has been approved each year by the state forester.⁴ The warden keeps no records.

XX. TREE WARDEN¹

Since 1900 a tree warden has been elected annually.⁵ The warden keeps no records.

XXI. GYPSY MOTH INSPECTOR¹

Although the forest warden chosen in 1911 was appointed superintendent for the suppression of moths by the selectmen for a one-year term, there were no further appointments to the latter office until 1923.⁶ Since that date, the selectmen have appointed one local moth superintendent or, as he is now called, gypsy moth inspector, annually.⁷

70. (ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF MOTHS), 1923--. In Annual Report of the Town Officers, entry 2. Narrative account of activity, number of egg clusters destroyed.

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

2. TOWN RECORDS, 1876-1898, p. 128; 1899-1914, p. 166

3. Ibid., 1899-1914, pp. 215, 244, 272

4. Ibid., 1899-1914, pp. 321, 385; 1913-1927, pp. 16, 172, 205, 243, 362; 1927-1939, pp. 11, 107, 142, 245

5. Ibid., 1899-1914, pp. 29, 384; 1913-1927, pp. 26, 360; 1927-1939, pp. 10, 243

6. Ibid., 1899-1914, p. 321

7. Ibid., 1913-1927, pp. 266, 342; 1927-1939, pp. 59, 107, 142, 245

XXII. POLICE¹

The selectmen have appointed regular police annually since 1877. Their numbers have varied from one to four; in 1939 the number was three.² The first special police were appointed in 1880. Until 1901 their numbers varied from one to four, and they served generally for any period less than a year.³ Since 1901, they have varied in number from one to six, and have been appointed for one year terms.⁴ In 1939 five special police were appointed by the selectmen to serve a one-year term.⁵ Since 1927 the selectmen have appointed a chief of police annually.⁶ No records have been found for this office.

XXIII. CONSTABLES¹

In 1815 three constables were elected annually; in 1829 and 1831 the office was sold to the highest bidder, the same officer in all probability acting as tax collector also.⁷ From 1877 through 1898, from one to four constables have been elected annually.⁸ Since 1899 two constables were elected annually for one-year terms. In addition, in 1911, 1926, 1928-1934 and in 1938 the selectmen appointed one additional constable; in 1921 and 1925 they appointed two additional constables; and in 1922 and 1935 they appointed three additional constables.⁹ The constables keep no records.

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

2. TOWN RECORDS, 1876-1898, pp. 13, 214, 479; 1899-1914, pp. 10, 321; 1913-1927, pp. 27, 180, 362; 1927-1939, pp. 11, 244

3. Ibid., 1876-1898, pp. 42, 440, 485; 1899-1914, pp. 34, 48

4. Ibid., 1899-1914, pp. 68, 385; 1913-1927, pp. 60, 363; 1927-1939, p. 11

5. Ibid., 1927-1939, p. 245

6. Ibid., 1927-1939, pp. 11, 107, 142, 245

7. (SETTLEMENT OF TOWN ACCOUNTS), Mar. 1815; (MINUTES OF TOWN MEETINGS), Mar. 2, 1829; (WARRANTS AND MINUTES OF TOWN MEETINGS), Mar. 7, 1831

8. TOWN RECORDS, 1876-1898, pp. 10, 28, 51, 78, 447, 448

9. Ibid., 1899-1914, pp. 8, 321; 1913-1927, pp. 25, 243, 284, 302, 342, 363; 1927-1939, pp. 31, 142, 166, 216

Dog Officer -- Sealer of Weights and Measures - Measurer of Bark and Lumber

XXIV. DOG OFFICER¹

Since 1938 the chief of police has been appointed annually by the selectmen as dog officer in Buckland.² The dog officer keeps no records.

XXV. SEALER OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES¹

The Town Records show that the selectmen appointed one sealer of weights and measures for a one year term in 1882, 1901, from 1923 through 1928 from 1928 through 1932, and from 1934 to the present.³ The 1882 appointment was made under Chapter 65, Section 8 of the Acts of 1882; it is likely, therefore, that it was the first appointment made in Buckland of a sealer of weights and measures.

71. (ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SEALER OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES), 1909. In Annual Report of the Town Officers, entry 2. .
Narrative account of department activity; number, type of scales, measures, weights sealed, condemned; number of visits, tests; list of receipts from fees, total receipts.

72. RECORD OF SEALER OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES, 1910--. 3 vols.
Inspection of weighing and measuring devices: Name, address of owner; type of business, description of device; results, date of inspection; amount of fee, date of payment, certificate number. Arr. by date of inspection. No index. Edw. on ptd. form. 100 pp. 12 x 10 x 1. Sealer's off., first fl., T.H., State St.

XXVI. MEASURER OF BARK AND LUMBER¹

In 1829, 1831, and 1832 a surveyor of lumber was elected for a one-year term.⁴ From 1877 through 1919, surveyors or measurers of lumber ranging from three to eight were elected annually, for one-year terms.⁵

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

2. TOWN RECORDS, 1927-1939, pp. 215, 245

3. Ibid., 1876-1898, p. 69; 1899-1914, pp. 69, 243, 335; 1913-1927, pp. 27, 97, 286; 1927-1939, pp. 31, 245

4. (MINUTES OF TOWN MEETINGS), Mar. 2, 1829; (WARRANTS AND MINUTES OF TOWN MEETINGS), Mar. 7, 1831; Mar. 5, 1832

5. TOWN RECORDS, 1876-1898, pp. 11, 444, 475; 1899-1914, pp. 237, 316, 381; 1913-1927, pp. 21, 176

From 1920 through 1923 the number of measurers of lumber elected annually, for one-year terms, was three or four, with the selectmen appointing each year one or two additional measurers.¹ Since 1924 all measurers of lumber have been appointed by the selectmen. They have varied in number from three to eight, with no appointments whatever being made from 1932 through 1938.² In 1939 the office was revived under the title of measurer of bark and lumber, and the selectmen appointed six officers for a one-year term.³ These officers keep no records.

XXVII. MEASURER OF WOOD AND BARK⁴

The first "measurers" of which we have any record were seven in number, and were elected in 1877 for a one-year term.⁵ The number elected annually thereafter has varied from two to eleven, with the selectmen appointing occasion an additional measurer for a one-year term.⁶ In 1939, a fairly typical year, eleven measurers of wood and bark were elected for a one-year term, and the selectmen appointed one additional measurer, also for a one-year term.⁷ The measurers of wood and bark keep no records.

XXVIII. PUBLIC WEIGHERS⁴

These officers have been appointed, at least since 1876, by the selectmen for one-year terms, under the provisions of Chapter 205 of the Acts of 1870. Until 1906, only one public weigher was appointed, although there were many years during which no appointment whatever was made.⁸ Since 1906

1. TOWN RECORDS, 1913-1927, pp. 200, 280, 286

2. Ibid., 1913-1927, pp. 298, 304, 336, 342, 355, 362; 1927-1939, pp. 11, 31, 59, 90

3. Ibid., 1927-1939, p. 244

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

5. TOWN RECORDS, 1876-1898, p. 11

6. Ibid., 1876-1898, pp. 10, 65, 78, 102, 462; 1899-1914, pp. 4, 10, 381; 1913-1927, pp. 123, 336, 342

7. Ibid., 1927-1939, pp. 239, 245

8. Ibid., 1876-1898, pp. 7, 31, 130, 417

the selectmen have appointed public weighers annually, in numbers varying from three to sixteen, with no appointments being made from 1907 through 1910.¹ In 1939, a typical year, the selectmen appointed eleven public weighers for a one-year term.² The weighers keep no records.

XXIX. MODERATOR³

A moderator has been elected at each town meeting, presumably since incorporation, and certainly since 1876.⁴ The custom of electing a moderator to serve an entire year has not been introduced in Buckland. The moderator keeps no records.

XXX. FENCE VIEWERS³

Two fence viewers were elected for one-year terms in 1829, 1831, 1832, and probably for several years prior and subsequent to these dates.⁵ From 1876 through 1898, from one to seven fence viewers were elected annually for one-year terms; however, in 1890 the selectmen appointed an additional fence viewer, and in 1895 appointed two additional viewers.⁶ From 1899 through 1913, two, three or four fence viewers were elected annually, for one-year terms.⁷ Since 1914 two have been elected annually for terms of one-year; an additional one was appointed by the selectmen in 1931, however.⁸ The fence viewers keep no records.

1. TOWN RECORDS, 1899-1914, pp. 188, 321, 328, 385; 1913-1927, pp. 25, 304; 1927-1939, pp. 11, 95, 214.

2. Ibid., 1927-39, pp. 244-246

3. For the statutory origin and development of these offices, see Town and City Government in Massachusetts.

4. (MINUTES OF TOWN MEETINGS), Mar. 2, 1829; (WARRANTS AND MINUTES OF TOWN MEETINGS), Mar. 5, 1832; TOWN RECORDS, 1876-1898, pp. 7, 474; 1927-1939, pp. 5, 239

5. (MINUTES OF TOWN MEETINGS), Mar. 2, 1829; (WARRANTS AND MINUTES OF TOWN MEETINGS), Mar. 7, 1831; Mar. 5, 1832

6. TOWN RECORDS, 1876-1898, pp. 10, 162, 246, 305, 342, 372, 379, 407, 444, 474

7. Ibid., 1913-1927, pp. 21, 255

8. Ibid., 1913-1927, pp. 21, 355; 1927-1939, pp. 5, 97, 103, 239

XXXI. FIELD DRIVERS¹

In 1829 and probably for many years prior, four field drivers were elected for a one-year term.² In 1831 five, and, in 1832, three were elected for a one-year term.³ From 1877 through 1899 the number of field drivers elected annually varied from three to nine.⁴ Since that time the number has varied from one to three, the present number being two, but all elected annually.⁵

MASSACHUSETTS STATE ARCHIVES PERTAINING TO BUCKLAND

All records are in folder marked "Acts of 1778, chap. 40" in the Massachusetts State Archives, room 438, State House, Boston.

73. (CERTIFICATION OF AGENT), Dec. 11, 1778. 1 sheet.
Certification by committee of inhabitants of the appointment of Colonel Jonathan Ward as agent to present a petition to the general court requesting that town be incorporated. Hdw. 1 p. $7\frac{1}{2}$ x 9.

74. (PETITION FOR INCORPORATION), Dec. 11, 1778. 1 sheet.
Petition by inhabitants of No-Town Plantation and south part of Charlemont setting forth difficulties and requesting that they be incorporated and set up as a township so that they may be able to have their own schools, meeting house, and preacher, and enjoy other town advantages. Hdw. 2 pp. $7\frac{1}{2}$ x $11\frac{1}{2}$.

75. (ORDER OF GENERAL COURT ON PETITION FOR INCORPORATION), Jan. 30, 1779. 1 sheet.
Order to inhabitant of No-Town and south part of Charlemont to serve a copy of petition for incorporation and this order with town clerk of Charlemont and one of nonresident proprietors of said lands so that cause may be shown at least 20 days before the first Wednesday of the next sitting of the court why petition should not be granted; approval by council January 30, 1779; also notation that this order was read in Council April 8, 1779 and Josiah Stone appointed as member of committee to hold hearing on petition; also that order was read in House of Representatives same day and Mr. Summer and Capt. Brooks added to committee. Hdw. 1 p. $9\frac{1}{2}$ x $12\frac{1}{2}$.

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

2. (MINUTES OF TOWN MEETINGS), Mar. 2, 1829

3. (WARRANTS AND MINUTES OF TOWN MEETINGS), Mar. 7, 1831, Mar. 5, 1832

4. TOWN RECORDS, 1876-1898, pp. 11, 102, 408, 475; 1899-1914, p. 4

5. Ibid., 1899-1914, pp. 29, 263, 382; 1913-1927, pp. 21, 355; 1927-1939; pp. 5, 239

76. (CERTIFICATION BY JONATHAN WARD), Mar. 9, 1779. 1 sheet.
Certification by Jonathan Ward that copies of petition for incorporation of No-Town were given to nonresident proprietors Robert Wyman and Isaac Kibbe and forwarded to town clerk of Charlemont; also that selectmen of Charlemont had inserted article in town-meeting warrant for such actions as town might deem proper. Hdw. 1 p. $7\frac{1}{2}$ x $12\frac{1}{2}$.
77. (REQUEST OF NONRESIDENT PROPRIETORS), undated. 1 sheet.
Request of nonresident proprietors of lands in No-Town and south part of Charlemont that the petition dated December 11, 1778 presented by the inhabitants and some of the nonresident proprietors asking incorporation be granted. Hdw. 1 p. $7\frac{1}{2}$ x 9.
78. (REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF GENERAL COURT ON PETITION FOR INCORPORATION), Apr. 9, 1779. 1 sheet.
Recommendation that petition be granted and that an act of incorporation be passed; report approved by Council and House of Representatives, April 9, 1779. Hdw. 1 p. $7\frac{1}{2}$ x $9\frac{1}{2}$.
79. (ACT OF INCORPORATION), Mar. 10, and April 14, 1779. 1 sheet.
Act of incorporating town of Buckland formerly known as No-Town Plantation, specifying its boundaries, requiring inhabitants to pay their proportion of town, county and state taxes already set authorizing issue of warrant by David Field to some principal inhabitant for town meeting for election of officers and requiring town clerks of towns in which inhabitants of the new town are now rated to prepare valuation lists for determination of qualifications of voters; passed by general court and ratified by council April 14, 1779. Hdw. 2 pp. $9\frac{1}{2}$ x $14\frac{1}{2}$.

Tythingmen - Sealer of Leather -
Hogreeves - Poundkeeper

PART C. DEFUNCT OFFICES

XXXII. TYTHINGMEN¹

Three tythingmen were elected for a one-year term in 1829 and in 1832, and one was elected in 1831.² It may be assumed that varying numbers of tythingmen were elected annually both prior and subsequent to these years. No records have been found for this office.

XXXIII. SEALER OF LEATHER¹

In 1829, 1831, and 1832, one sealer of leather was elected for a one-year term.³ Probably however, a sealer was elected annually for many years prior and subsequent to this period. No records have been found for this office.

XXXIV. HOGREEVES¹

In 1831 three hogreeves were elected for a one-year term. Five were elected in 1832, but it can be safely assumed that varying numbers of hogreeves were elected both prior and subsequent to these years.⁴ No records have been found for this office.

XXXV. POUNDKEEPER¹

The extant records show that in 1832 a poundkeeper was elected for a one-year term; that the selectmen appointed three poundkeepers for a one-year term in 1877, and four in 1878.⁵ The office was defunct thereafter. No records have been found for this office.

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

2. (MINUTES OF TOWN MEETINGS), Mar. 2, 1829; (WARRANTS AND MINUTES OF TOWN MEETINGS), Mar. 7, 1831; Mar. 5, 1832

3. Idem

4. TOWN (WARRANTS AND MINUTES OF TOWN MEETINGS), Mar. 7, 1831; Mar. 5, 1832

5. Ibid., Mar. 5, 1832; TOWN RECORDS, 1876-1898, pp. 13, 21

XXXVI. AUCTIONEER¹

In 1877, 1878, 1896, 1900, 1901, 1902, 1906, and 1911, the selectmen appointed and licensed an auctioneer for a one-year term.² There is no mention of this office subsequent to 1911. No records have been found for this office.

XXXVII. SINKING FUND COMMISSIONERS¹

This office was established in 1900 when bonds were issued for building a new school house. Three sinking fund commissioners were elected, one annually, for three-year terms. The obligations on this special debt were paid off in 1927, and the office became defunct at that time.³ The commissioners kept no records.

XXXVIII. TOWN ATTORNEYS¹

From 1915 through 1917 the selectmen appointed a town attorney annually.⁴ They appointed two annually from 1922 through 1927.⁵

XXXIX. ICE DEALERS

The selectmen appointed two ice dealers annually from 1917 through 1920.⁶ There were no prior or subsequent appointments. No records have been found for this office.

XL. INSPECTOR OF SLAUGHTERING¹

From 1918 through 1923, the meat inspector was also termed inspector of slaughtering. The offices became separate thereafter, but an inspector of slaughtering was appointed annually by the selectmen only in 1924 and 1925.⁷ The office has been defunct since that time. No records for this office have been found.

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

2. TOWN RECORDS, 1876-1898, pp. 12, 21, 413; 1899-1914, pp. 44, 100, 190, 328

3. Ibid., 1899-1914, pp. 38, 66, 384; 1913-1927, pp. 26, 360; Annual Report, 1927, p. 19

4. Ibid., 1913-1927, pp. 86, 128

5. Ibid., 1913-1927, pp. 253, 361; 1927-1939, p. 11

6. Ibid., 1913-1927, pp. 128, 205

7. Ibid., 1913-1927, pp. 155, 286, 304, 343

PART D. SHELBURNE FALLS FIRE DISTRICT

Even before the act incorporating the Shelburne Falls fire district was passed, it is clear that from 1845 through 1852 a fire district was in existence. The first volume of records¹ covering the period 1845-1852 is, unfortunately, incomplete in its description of the territorial bounds of the district and other relevant material. A clerk, treasurer, foreman, from one to three assistant foremen, and a steward were elected annually by the inhabitants of the district. The foreman was in direct charge of the men who manned the fire pumps, "four on each side", and the steward was entrusted with the care of the hose.²

On May 27, 1855, the general court passed an act allowing the inhabitants of Shelburne Falls, "situate in the towns of Buckland and Shelburne", including the territory comprised within the school district number three of Buckland, and school district number nine of Shelburne, qualified to vote in town affairs to establish a fire district.³ The officers were to be a clerk, prudential committee, assessors, treasurer, collector, chief engineer and assistant engineers, all elected annually for a one-year term.⁴ The general provisions of all acts relating to the same subject were to be binding upon the new fire district.⁵

Although numerous changes in equipment and numbers of firemen enrolled have occurred, the basic structure of the fire district has remained substantially unchanged. Three water commissioners have replaced the "prudential committee", and an auditor and superintendent of the water department have been added. The water commissioners appoint the chief engineer, a first and second assistant engineer, and the superintendent of the water department. The engineers themselves appoint a captain, lieutenant and driver. The water commissioners, clerk, treasurer, three assessors, tax collector and auditor are elected by the inhabitants of the district.⁶

The limits of the Shelburne Falls Fire District were altered in 1905,⁷ and it was authorized to make a water loan in 1913.⁸ In 1911 and 1930 the fire district was authorized to take water from additional sources in Colrain, Charlemont, Buckland and Shelburne.⁹ A gravity water system was established in 1911. The area of the water-shed is 620 acres. The capacity of the reservoir, which is located in Buckland, is 12,800,000 gallons.¹⁰

1. See entry 80

2. RECORD BOOK OF SHELBURNE FALLS FIRE DISTRICT, 4 vols., mss., 1845-1852, passim

3. Acts, 1855, ch. 262, sec. 1

4. Ibid., sec. 2

5. Ibid., sec. 6

6. Interview with Jacob Haigis, Superintendent of Water Department

7. Acts, 1905, ch. 402

8. Ibid., 1913, ch. 58

9. Ibid., 1911, ch. 644; 1930, ch. 69

10. Kendrick, op. cit., p. 289

Except where otherwise noted, all records are in the office of Shelburne Falls Fire District, State Street, Buckland.

80. RECORD BOOK OF SHELBURNE FALLS FIRE DISTRICT, 1845--. 4 vols. Warrants for and minutes of meetings of voters of fire district; Election of officers, appointment of employees, approval of bills and appropriations, reports of committees; date of meeting. Arr. by date of meeting. No index. Hdw. 1 vol., 1856-88, binding poor. 318 pp. 13 x 8 x 2.
81. RECORD (Minutes) OF MEETINGS OF WATER COMMISSIONERS, 1928--. 1 vol. Approval of bills, recommendations for appropriations, discussions and actions relative to repairs and construction; date of meeting. Arr. by date of meeting. No index. Hdw. 300 pp. 14 x 10 x 1.
82. TAX BOOK - SHELBURNE FALLS FIRE DISTRICT, 1880--. 38 vols. Missing: 1890-99. Assessments on polls, real and personal property: Name, address of taxpayer; location, description, valuation of property; amount, date of assessment. Arr. alph. by name of taxpayer. No index. Hdw. 100 pp. 11 x 9 x 1. 29 vols., 1880-1927, residence of Jacob M. Haigis (supt. of fire district), Conway St., 9 vols., 1928--, off.
83. SHELBURNE FALLS FIRE DISTRICT TREASURY WARRANT, 1888--. 4 vols., 8 file boxes. Title varies slightly. Water commissioners' authorizations to district treasurer to pay departmental bills: Name of creditor, department charged; amount, purpose, date, number of warrant; date, number of order. Arr. by date of warrant or order. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. Vols., 275 pp. 14 x 8 x 1; file boxes, $2\frac{1}{2}$ x 12 x 12. 4 vols., 1888-1926, residence of Jacob M. Haigis (supt. of fire district), Conway St.; 8 file boxes, 1927--, off.
84. DEPARTMENTAL BOOK (Receipts and Expenditures), 1915--. 2 vols. Receipts from water consumption and service charges, taxes: Name of payer; amount, source, date of income; order number. Expenditures for salaries, repairs, equipment, maintenance: Name of payee; amount, purpose, date of payment. Arr. by date of transaction. No index. Hdw. 600 pp. 11 x 11 x $1\frac{1}{2}$.
85. SHELBURNE FALLS AND BUCKLAND FIRE DISTRICT CASH (Receipt) BOOK, 1912--. 5 vols. Receipts from water consumers: Name of payer; amount, date of receipt. Arr. by date of receipt. No index. Hdw. 200 pp. 14 x 10 x 1. 1 vol., 1912-23, residence of Jacob M. Haigis (supt. of fire district), Conway St.; 4 vols., 1924--, off.
86. RECORD OF FIRES IN BUCKLAND, 1884-94, 1 vol. Name of property owner, occupant; location, cause, date, time of fire; description; valuation of property; amount of insurance, damage; amount of insurance paid. Arr. by date of fire. No index. Hdw. 75 pp. 12 x 12 x $\frac{1}{4}$. Town va., second fl., T.H., State St.

LIST OF SOURCES

Primary

Buckland, Town of

Selectmen, ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TOWN OFFICERS, 1884-1939, 56 pamphlets, printed annually by the town, bound at Massachusetts State Library in 5 volumes. See entry 2.

Town Clerk, (MINUTES OF TOWN MEETINGS), 1813; March 2, 1829; 2 sheets, mss. See entry 11.

Town Clerk, (WARRANTS AND MINUTES OF TOWN MEETINGS), April 1, May 5, 1823; April 22, 1829; May 3, 1830; March 7, 1831; March 5, 1832; 6 sheets, mss. See entry 12.

Town Clerk, TOWN RECORDS, 1876-1939, 4 vols., mss. See entry 10.

Treasurer, (SETTLEMENT OF TOWN ACCOUNTS), March, 1814; March, 1815; 2 sheets, mss. See entry 43.

Massachusetts Bay, Province of

General Court, Acts and Resolves Public and Private of the Province of Massachusetts Bay, 1692-1780, 21 vols., Boston, 1853-1922.

Massachusetts, Commonwealth of

"Constitution or Form of Government for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts" in General Laws, Tercentenary Edition, 3 vols., published by the Commonwealth, Boston, 1932, p. 50.

General Court, Acts and Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts (1780-1805), 13 vols., Boston, 1890-1898.

General Court, Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts May, 1805-1838, 11 vols., Boston, 1806-1838.

General Court, Acts and Resolves of the General Court of Massachusetts (1839-1939), 108 volumes, including two for special sessions, five for General Acts (1915-1919 incl.) and five for Special Acts and Resolves (1915-1919, incl.), published annually by the Commonwealth.

Secretary of the Commonwealth, Abstract of the Census of Massachusetts, 1855, 1860, 1865, published by the Commonwealth in 1857, 1863 and 1867, respectively.

Secretary of the Commonwealth, Decennial Census, 1925, 1935, published by the Commonwealth, 1925 and 1935.

Secretary of the Commonwealth, Massachusetts Archives, 417 vols., in 418, also various file drawers, Room 438, State House, Boston.

Shelburne Falls Fire District

RECORD BOOK OF SHELBURNE FALLS FIRE DISTRICT, 1845-1939, 4 vols., mss.
See entry 80.

United States

Bureau of the Census, Thirteenth Census of the United States Taken in the Year 1910, Washington, 1913.

Bureau of the Census, Fifteenth Census of the United States: 1930, Washington, 1932.

Department of the Interior, Statistics of the Population of the United States, Embracing the Tables of Race, Nationality, Sex, Selected Ages and Occupations, Washington, 1872.

Department of the Interior, Report on the Population of the United States at the Eleventh Census: 1890, Washington, 1895.

Secondary

Kendrick, Fannie Shaw, History of Buckland 1779-1935, Buckland, 1937; Stone, Orra L, History of Massachusetts Industries, 2 vols., Boston - Chicago, S.J. Clarke Publishing Co., 1930

Work Projects Administration, Historical Records Survey, Town and City Government in Massachusetts. To be published in 1940 by Historical Records Survey.

PUBLICATIONS OF THE HISTORICAL RECORDS SURVEY IN MASSACHUSETTS

Note: Except where noted, all volumes are published at the state headquarters of the Historical Records Survey, Sharp School, Pinckney & Anderson Streets, Boston, Mass.

- Abstract and Index of the Records of the Inferiour Court of Pleas (Suffolk County Court) Held at Boston, 1680-1698, (iii, 224 pp., mim., 1940).
- American Portraits, 1620-1825, Found in Massachusetts, 2 vols., (iv, 254 pp. and 318 pp., mult. dupl., May, 1939).
- Brief History of the Town of Braintree in Massachusetts, 1640-1940, compiled and written for the Tercentenary Committee, Marion Sophia Arnold, ed., (64 pp., Boston, Thomas Todd Co., 1940).
- Calendar of the General Henry Knox Papers in the Boston Public Library, (ii, 19 pp., mult. dupl., May, 1939).
- Calendar of the letters of Charles Robert Darwin to Asa Gray, (vii, 148 pp., mult. dupl., December 1939).
- Diary and Journal, 1755-1807, of Seth Metcalf, (iii, 31 pp., mult. dupl., October, 1939).
- Description of the Manuscript Collections of the Massachusetts Diocesan Library, (ii, 81 pp., mult. dupl., February, 1939).
- Guide to Manuscript Depositories in Massachusetts, (ii, 160 pp., mim., September, 1939).
- Index to the Hampshire Gazette, 1786-1937, 3 vols., (vii, 217, 213, and 295 pp., mim., May, 1939).
- Index to the Proclamations of Massachusetts, 1620-1936, 2 vols., (xvii, 200 and 153 pp., mim., April, 1937).
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