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Vol. 1

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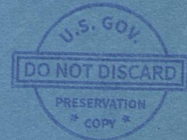
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**INVENTORY
OF
TOWN AND CITY ARCHIVES
OF
MASSACHUSETTS**

LIBRARY
UNIVERSITY of KENTUCKY

**NO. 7 HAMPDEN COUNTY
VOL. I AGAWAM**

**PREPARED BY
THE HISTORICAL RECORDS SURVEY
DIVISION OF PROFESSIONAL AND SERVICE PROJECTS
WORK PROJECTS ADMINISTRATION**



**THE HISTORICAL RECORDS SURVEY
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS
1941**

INVENTORY OF CITY AND TOWN ARCHIVES
OF MASSACHUSETTS

No. 7. Hampden County

Vol. I. Agawam

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

The Historical Records Survey
Boston, Massachusetts
1941

The Historical Records Survey Program

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Frederic W. Cook,	Secretary of the Commonwealth
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PREFACE

This inventory of the town records of Agawam is one volume in a series bearing the title Inventory of the Town, and City Archives of Massachusetts. It is anticipated that eventually in such series will be listed the records of every governmental unit in the State. Copies of this volume and of every publication of the Massachusetts Historical Records Survey are distributed to prominent libraries of the nation and to the larger and more centrally located libraries of Massachusetts.

The purpose of the project is to survey, preserve, and render accessible historical source materials of all kinds. The work is divided into the following main classifications: Public records, private manuscripts, church records, early American imprints, historical portraits and newspapers. In the development of this survey, certain techniques have been found practicable, depending on the nature of the subject matter, such as the methods of the inventory, the guide, the calendar, the check list, and the index.

The actual work of gathering information concerning historical materials at their place of storage or custody has in most cases been preceded by the necessary task of putting records in order, of cleaning, dusting, refiling, and treating them. This function of the project, often performed by its workers under very difficult conditions, 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 information must be subjected before publication. As a result of such editing, 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 been undertaken. The general historical background, statutory origin and functioning of county, city, or town offices have been studied with a view to providing satisfactory accounts of the development of county and municipal government generally. These latter undertakings are now happily nearing completion.

The inventory of the town archives of Agawam is the first in the series of such inventories covering the towns of Hampden County. The Survey is indebted to the town officials of Agawam for their cooperation and to the Secretary of the Commonwealth, Frederic W. Cook, without whose sponsorship this project would not be possible.

Mary Elizabeth Sanger
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 Agawam in Hampden County, is volume I of number 7 of the Massachusetts series.

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

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

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

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

Howard O. Hunter
Acting Commissioner of Work
Projects Administration

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Preface..... i
 Foreword..... iii

Part A. Agawam and Its Records System

Historical Sketch..... 5
 Chart of Town Government..... 12
 Governmental Organization and Records System..... 13
 Housing, Care, and Accessibility of the Records..... 17
 Abbreviations, Symbols, and Explanatory Notes..... 21

Part B. Town Offices and Their Records

I. Selectmen and Board of Health..... 23
 II. Town Clerk and Treasurer..... 24
 Minutes and Reports; Vital Statistics;
 Property Records; Miscellaneous
 III. Board of Registrars..... 29
 IV. Board of Assessors..... 29
 Valuations; Abatements; Transfer of Property;
 Motor Vehicle Excise
 V. Tax Collector..... 31
 VI. Treasurer..... 32
 VII. Town Accountant..... 33
 VIII. Auditor..... 34
 IX. Finance Committee..... 34
 X. Trustees of Whiting Street Fund..... 35
 XI. School Committee..... 35
 Minutes and Reports; Pupils' Records;
 Financial Records; Miscellaneous
 XII. Library Trustees..... 38
 XIII. Board of Public Welfare..... 39
 General Cases; Old Age Assistance
 XIV. District Nurse..... 41
 XV. Inspector of Animals..... 42
 XVI. Inspector of Meats..... 42
 XVII. Cemetery Commissioners..... 42
 XVIII. Burial Agent..... 43
 XIX. Foreman of Highways..... 43
 XX. Water Commission..... 44
 XXI. Tree Warden..... 44
 XXII. Gypsy Moth Superintendent..... 45
 XXIII. Surveyor of Lumber..... 45
 XXIV. Measurers of Wood..... 45
 XXV. Public Weighers..... 46

Contents

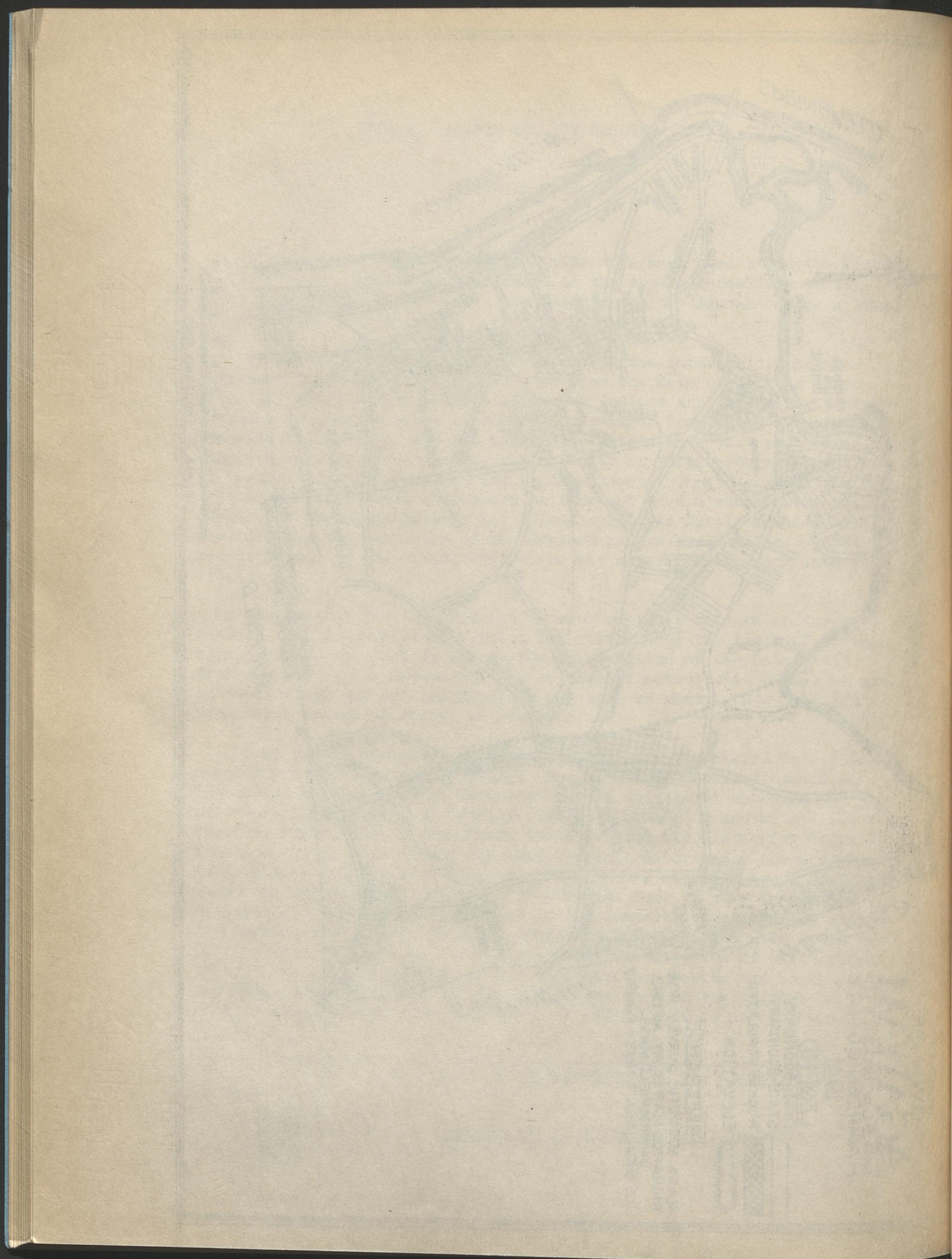
XXVI.	Field Drivers and Poundkeepers.....	46
XXVII.	Town Council.....	46
XXVIII.	Constables.....	47
XXIX.	Chief of Police.....	47
XXX.	Fire Engineer.....	48
	North Agawam Unit; Agawam Center Unit; Feeding Hills Unit	
XXXI.	Sealer of Weights and Measures.....	50
XXXII.	Dog Officer.....	51
XXXIII.	Zoning Committee.....	51
XXXIV.	Moderator.....	52
XXXV.	Fence Viewers.....	52

Part C. Defunct Offices

XXXVI.	Tythingmen.....	53
XXXVII.	Sealer of Leather.....	53
XXXVIII.	Surveyors of Highways.....	53
XXXIX.	Road Commissioners.....	54
XL.	Fish and Game Warden.....	54
XLI.	Park Commissioner.....	54
XLII.	Auctioneer.....	54

Appendix

Manuscripts.....	55
List of Sources.....	58
Index.....	61
List of Publications.....	73



Con

X
XX

X
XX
X

X
XX
XXX
X

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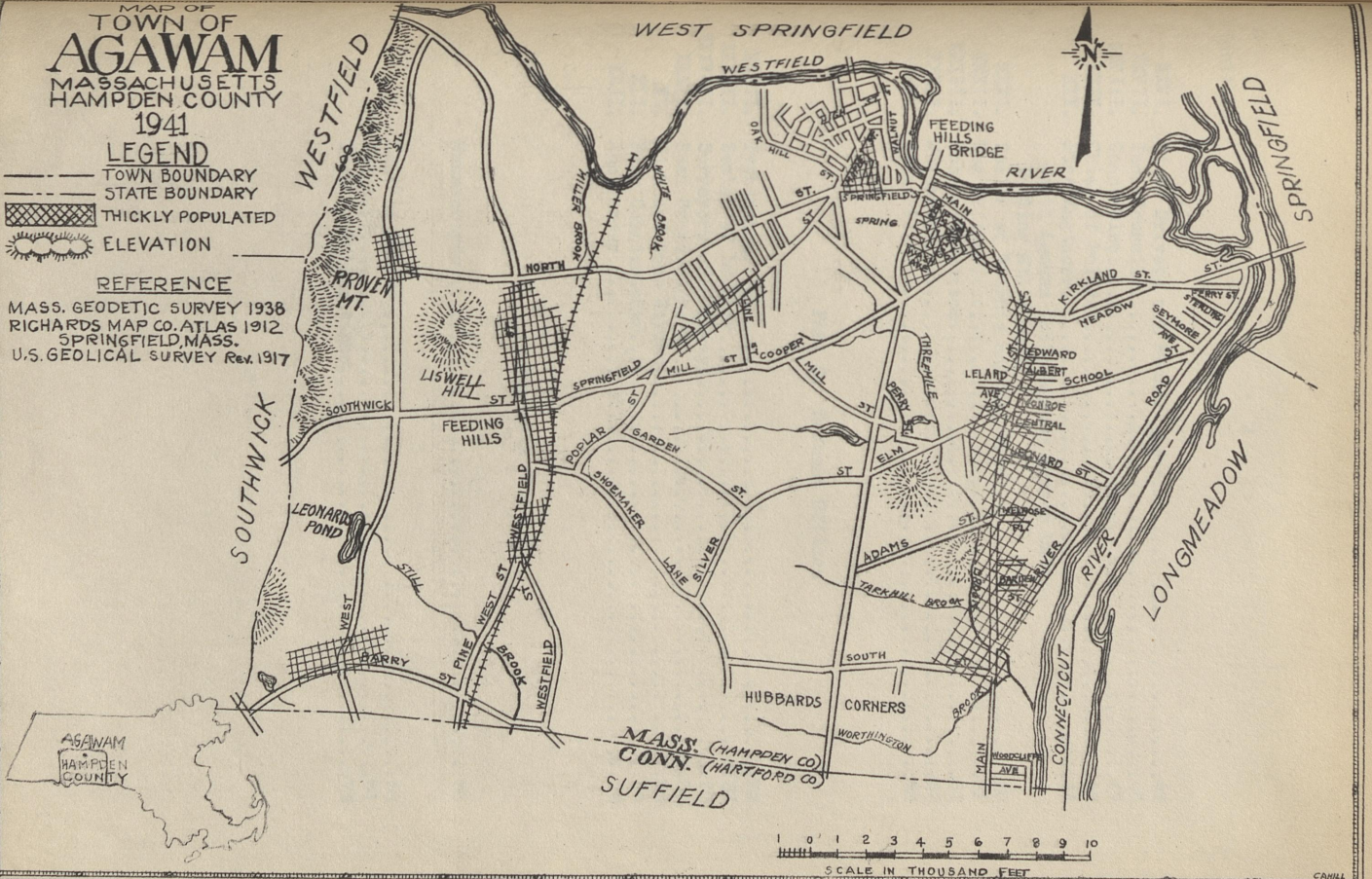
MAP OF
TOWN OF AGAWAM
 MASSACHUSETTS
 HAMPDEN COUNTY
 1941

LEGEND

- TOWN BOUNDARY
- - - STATE BOUNDARY
- [Cross-hatched box] THICKLY POPULATED
- [Sunburst symbol] ELEVATION

REFERENCE

MASS. GEODETIC SURVEY 1938
 RICHARDS MAP CO. ATLAS 1912
 SPRINGFIELD, MASS.
 U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY Rev. 1917



MASS. (HAMPDEN CO.)
 CONN. (HARTFORD CO.)
 SUFFIELD

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 SCALE IN THOUSAND FEET

CANILL

PART A. AGAWAM AND ITS RECORDS SYSTEM

Historical Sketch

Within the present corporate limits of Agawam once stood the first dwelling house erected by Englishmen in the upper Connecticut valley, yet two centuries passed after its erection before Agawam became a town separate from Springfield.

So little knowledge existed concerning the interior of the new continent that tradition, handed down from the days of Captain John Smith and given a hazy verisimilitude by Indians and explorers, pictured a number of immense lakes surrounded by swamps, from which issued the Connecticut, Potomac, and St. Lawrence. Within this vast region had been secured, it was believed, the majority of pelts brought by Indians to Quebec, Virginia, and the lower Connecticut. The idea so persisted that an expedition was dispatched to find and open a route between its riches and the Massachusetts Bay Colony. In this futile scheme, soon shattered by the realities of New England geography, William Pynchon had no faith. A more practical scheme was apparently forming in his mind.¹

The Indians had told William Pynchon of their village on the west bank of the "Quinnecticott", but a few miles above the limit of navigation for deep sea vessels and at the intersection of the main trail from the Bay to the Berkshires. A settlement established there, he saw at once, would cut off the Dutch at the site of what is now Hartford from their source of supply of beaver.²

Once on the ground of his new venture, Pynchon entered into final negotiations with the Agawam tribe. The resulting document, dated at "Agaam, alias Agawam, this fifteenth day of July 1636" embodied and agreement between certain "ancient Indians . . . to and with William Pynchon, Henry Smith & Jehu Burr, their heirs & associates for ever, to trucke & sel al that ground and mucke of quittas or medow accomsick" for eighteen fathoms of wampum, eighteen coats, eighteen hoes, eighteen hatchets, and eighteen knives. The purchase took in some twenty-five square miles of land on both sides of the Connecticut. That the extensive meadowlands along the river bottom on the west side were considered particularly valuable may be inferred from the division of the purchase price. Ten fathoms of wampum, ten hatchets, ten coats, ten hoes, and ten knives were paid for "al the ground and much of the quittas on the side of Agaam, except Cottinackeesh, or ground that is now planted."³

1. Arthur H. Buffington, in Publications of the Colonial Society of Massachusetts, XVIII, 161, 162.

2. Ibid., p. 166.

3. Hampden County, Transcribed Property Records, in Springfield registry of deeds, liber A-B, folio 19.

To this deed, entered on July 8, 1679 in the records of Hampshire county and confirmed by eye-witnesses to the transaction, was added the following notation:

"Memoranda - Agaam or Agawam. It is the medow on the South of Agawam River, where ye English did first build a house, w^{ch} mpw we cp,,pm,u cal, ye house medow, That piece of ground it is it w^{ch} ye Indians do cal Agawam & where ye English kept ye residents who first came to settle and plant at Springfield now so called . . . Quana is that middle medow, adjoining to Agawam or house medow."¹

A closer examination of Agawam, which had originally been selected as the site for houselots, disclosed great danger of inundation during the seasons of high water. This fact, confirmed by the natives, and the growing sentiment that the place was "so incumbered with Indians" that the settlers would "lose half the benefits", decided Pynchon to "plant on the opposite side to avoid trespassing." Thus, the homelots were laid out on higher ground, east of the Connecticut, and Agawam became part of the township of Springfield.²

No minister or church had been granted to the westside inhabitants when, in 1674, they petitioned the town of Springfield "that by reason of their great trouble in getting over the river to attend Publick worship and other meetings, a boat might be provided at the charge of the town for their accommodation."³ There is no evidence, however, that this ferry was established until after 1683, when the drowning of three Agawam inhabitants brought the matter forcibly to the attention of the Springfield fathers. Even then the trip seemed arduous and full of danger.⁴

The building of a church west of the Connecticut had made it necessary for the settlers of Agawam to cross only one river when they attended public worship. The growth of population encouraged them to petition the Second Parish that for at least four months of the year they be allowed a minister of their own.⁵ Repeated opposition fanned the flames of discontent, which culminated in a demand for a separate church and parish, finally convincing dissenters that a schism could not be long postponed. In 1756, the Society "voted if Agawam be set off as a separate parish, that proportion of money to minister shall be repaid."⁶ In 1757 the "land lying within bounds . . . from Agawam River on the northerly side to Suffield Bounds . . . on the

1. Ibid.

2. Mass. Hist. Soc. Proc., XLVIII, 38, Transcription of fragment of letter written by Pynchon.

3. Springfield Town Records, III, 84.

4. Ibid., p. 118-19.

5. West Springfield Parish Records, meeting of Dec. 1, 1731.

6. Ibid., meeting of July 15, 1756.

south . . . from the Great River on the east to Westfield Bounds on the West" became the Sixth Parish of Springfield.¹

It may have been a coincidence that his action placating the southern section of these lands over the river, so promptly followed a more radical request on the part of the Second Parish as a whole. In 1756 it had been "to chuse a Committee to prefer a Petition to the Great and General Court. . . that they would set off All the Inhabitants and the lands of the west side of the Great River in Springfield, to be a distinct town"; but that had been denied.² Five years later the mother-parish tried again, this time delaying action until Agawam was consulted and her cooperation assured.³

Not until 1774, however, did success crown the efforts of both areas. Then the "West Side of the Great River" was incorporated as the town of West Springfield, the Second and Sixth Parishes of Springfield becoming the First and Second Parishes respectively of the new town.⁴ In the first year of the next century the Second Parish was itself divided and the portion known as Feeding Hills established as the Fourth Parish of West Springfield.⁵

That residents in the Second Parish played a recognized part in the government of West Springfield may be deduced from the records. In 1784 it was decided "That the Town Meetings in future be held a Proportionable Part of the time (during the Bridge remaining unbuilt across Agawam River...) in the 2nd Parish".⁶ This bridge was to be financed by a public lottery, the town voting in 1783 to ask the manager "to speedily form the Scheme for the same, Publish the tickets and offer them for sale. . ."⁷

From the parochial standpoint, independence had been attained by the two precincts south of the Agawam; but the inhabitants were not long satisfied. A quiet and persistent movement for full rights of self-government first attracted public notice on April 14, 1807, when a meeting was held to consider combining the Second and Fourth Parishes and asking incorporation as a town. As the years went by the pressure for autonomy became increasingly hard to deny.⁸ On March 13, 1855 members of the First Parish met alone, Holyoke, the "Irish Parish", had been severed from West Springfield five years before. It was "Voted that the town (West Springfield) will remonstrate against the petition

1. Acts and Resolves of the Province of Massachusetts Bay, XVI, Resolves of 1757-8, ch. 212.

2. West Springfield Parish Records, meeting of July 15, 1756.

3. Ibid., meeting of Feb. 23, 1761.

4. Acts and Resolves of Province of Massachusetts Bay, V, Acts of 1773-4, ch. 26.

5. Laws and Resolves, 1798-99, ch. 55.

6. West Springfield Town Records, I, meeting of Jan. 20, 1784.

7. Ibid., I, meeting of Nov. 13, 1783.

8. Agawam Parish Records, meeting of April 14, 1807.

First entry p. 23

of General Flower and others for the division of the town by a unanimous vote (with one exceptions)".¹ Remonstrance proved of no avail; on the May 17 following, the Governor of Massachusetts signed an act declaring "All that part of the Town of West Springfield which lies southerly of the line commencing at the north mouth of Agawam river, so-called, and running westerly by the course and center of said river to the Town of Westfield is hereby incorporated into a separate town, by the name of Agawam."²

The first warrant for a town meeting was dated the 11th of June 1855, and signed by "Samuel Flower, Justice of the Peace, within and for the County of Hampden." It directed that an election be called for Wednesday, June 20th, in the Methodist Episcopal Church.³ At the meeting held accordingly, a moderator was elected and it was voted to adjourn to June 27th;⁴ thus, the second meeting marks the true beginning of town government. After the first officers were chosen, it was decided "that the Selectmen of the Town of Agawam be a Committee to Settle with the Town of West Springfield. In regard to a Division of Property, funds, Debts, Town Paupers, State, Town & County Taxes" ⁵ Unlike the long drawn-out controversy over monetary matters which occurred after the severance of Springfield and West Springfield, the new town disposed of financial problems very promptly. Under date of February 7, 1857, the clerk copied into the records the following acknowledgment: "Received of the Town of Agawam the sum of Eight Hundred and fourteen 39/100 (dollars) in full of all demands that the Town of West Springfield has against said Town of Agawam."⁶ The valuation as of May 1, 1856, used in arriving at the settlement, was \$602,627.06; the first annual assessment of taxes was \$4,327.63; and the number of polls, 390.⁷

For several years the inhabitants of West Springfield had sought without success to obtain the abrogation of that section of the act incorporating their town which read: "For any Rates, Duties, or Charges whatever, all Lots, Lands, and Estates whatever, lying within the Said Great and General Field, the owner and Proprietor thereof, shall, for the time being, and at any Time hereafter, be an Inhabitant of the Town of Springfield, shall stand chargeable and Taxable, and shall be Charged, Taxed, and Assessed for all Province, County, Town, and Parish Taxes, Rates, Charges, and Duties, only in and by the Said Town of Springfield . . . at all Times hereafter".⁸

-
1. West Springfield Town Records, VI, 309.
 2. Acts and Resolves, 1854-55, ch. 365.
 3. Records - Town of Agawam, I, 4, see entry 8.
 4. Ibid., p. 5.
 5. Ibid., p. 7.
 6. Ibid., following meeting of Feb. 7, 1857.
 7. Ibid., following militia roll of June 19, 1856.
 8. Acts and Resolves of the Province of Massachusetts Bay, V, Acts of 1773-4, ch. 26.

As the new town of Agawam embraced a large part of the "Said Great and General Field" a large revenue from taxation was lost. Not until 1866 was there secured legislation to provide that "All lands and estates lying in the Town of Agawam, which have heretofore been taxed in the City of Springfield, shall hereafter be taxed in the Town of Agawam . . ." ¹

Lying in a triangle formed by the Connecticut and Agawam Rivers and the Connecticut state line, bounded on the north by West Springfield, on the south by Suffield in Connecticut, on the east by Springfield and Longmeadow, from which it is separated by the "great river", and on the west by Southwick and Westfield, the 14,080 acres enclosed within the town lines of Agawam consist largely of a fertile plain which rises westward into a rugged range of trap-rock. The bottom lands are still subject to overflow although dykes have been erected to control the high water. ²

From the first, agriculture has been the principal industry. A saw mill to convert into building material the heavy growth of pine which originally covered most of the land; a cotton mill and one for wool, both of which furnished thread for the hand-looms of the pioneer women; a wall paper plant; a factory for high grade linen and ledger papers; and a distillery which in turn produced peppermint, potato whiskey, cider, and the well-known "Agawam Rye Gin" - all contributed to the development of the town at various stages. Those that remain can hardly be classified as major industries, most of the commodities being distributed locally. ³

Transportation by rail is no longer available. The single line railroad with a station in Feeding Hills offered facilities from 1901 to 1938, when it was discontinued by authority of the Interstate Commerce Commission. ⁴ The ferry which was established in 1683 to connect the west side with Springfield was in service until the completion of the South End bridge in 1879. The proposal to construct this bridge did not arouse enthusiasm in Agawam, the town directing the selectmen when it was first projected "to employ all honorable means within their power to save the town from the impending burden, which would be imposed upon the tax payers of our Town by the Construction and Maintenance of a Bridge at or near the Agawam Ferry". ⁵

The town provides the site for the Hampden County Training School, an institution educating boys convicted in the juvenile court for minor misdemeanors. This was moved from Springfield to Feeding Hills in 1916. Even more widely known, however, was the Agawam horse racing track, located in a picturesque spot on what was formerly the Bowles airport. ⁶

-
1. Acts and Resolves of 1866, ch. 173.
 2. Johnson, Clifton, Hampden County, 1636-1836, III, 783.
 3. A History of Hampden County, Alfred Minot Copeland, ed., III, 531.
 4. Springfield Union, May 27, 1938.
 5. Records - Town of Agawam, I, 5-7, see entry 8.
 6. Johnson, op. cit., II, 779.

Although in operation only a few years, the race track, which is said not to have been a great success financially, will have to be discontinued as the result of a referendum vote of the voters of Hampden County in the 1938 election rejecting the pari-mutuel system of betting on licensed horse races.¹

In 1855, the year of incorporation, the population was 1,543.² In 1875 the inhabitants numbered 2,254,³ increasing during the next twenty-five years to 2,352.⁴ Since 1900 the population has more than trebled, for in 1935 the state census listed 7,206 persons.⁵ On December 31, 1937 the total valuation of real estate, both improved and unimproved, amounted to \$8,116,885, that of personal property to \$1,220,700.⁶ A total tax of \$19,286.30 was levied for the year, \$383,457.62 of which balanced town appropriations.⁷ Contrary to trends in most agricultural communities, growth has been steady and consistent throughout the years; proximity to Springfield and the attractiveness of this quiet residential suburb have contributed largely to its development.

-
1. Mass. Secretary of State, Election Statistics, 1938, p. 409.
 2. Census of Massachusetts for 1905, I, 808.
 3. Ibid., 1875, I, 149.
 4. U. S. Census for 1900, II, 645.
 5. Decennial Census of 1935, p. 5.
 6. Annual Report, 1937, pp. 70-71, see entry 2.
 7. Ibid.

TOWN OF AGAWAM

Aggregates of Polls, Property, and Taxes as Assessed May 1st

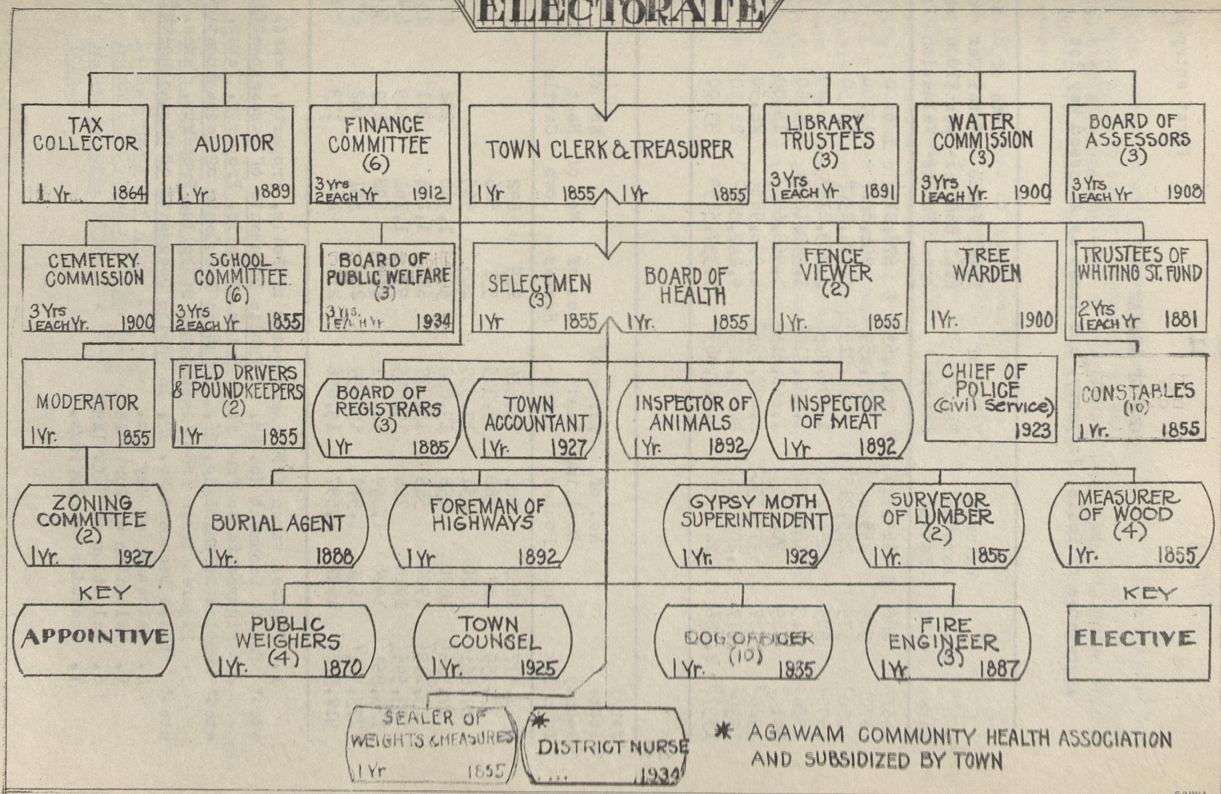
Date	No. of Polls	Value of Personal Estate	Value of Real Estate	Total Value Real and Personal Estate	Rate of Total Tax per \$1000 Valuation	No. of Persons Assessed on Property
1861 ¹	406	\$ 143,749 ⁴	\$ 534,465 ⁴	\$ 678,214 ⁴	\$ 6.00	
1870 ²	503	259,423 ⁴	675,459 ⁴	934,882 ⁴	13.00	
1880 ³	575	225,215 ⁴	969,015 ⁴	1,194,230 ⁴	15.50	
1890 ³	585	186,254 ⁴	1,036,965 ⁴	1,223,219 ⁴	13.20	584
1900 ³	713	188,672 ⁴	1,201,510 ⁴	1,390,182 ⁴	15.60	748
1910 ³	949	302,065 ⁵	1,666,615 ⁵	1,968,680 ⁵	16.00	872
1920 ³	1,287	919,730 ⁵	4,077,235 ⁵	4,996,985 ⁵	24.50	1,693
1930 ³	2,017	1,208,321 ⁵	8,233,725 ⁵	9,442,046 ⁵	28.30	2,131
1937 ³	2,186	1,220,700 ⁶	8,116,885 ⁶	9,337,585 ⁶	33.00	2,290

Total State County Town Tax	Date	No. of Dwelling Houses	Acres of Land Taxed	No. of Horses	No. of Cows	No. of Neat Cattle	No. of Swine
\$ 4,917	1861	304	13,316	265	692		
13,159	1870	360	13,305	331	826		
19,661	1880	451	13,539	405	965		
17,316 ⁷	1890	456	13,848	521	1,360	282	177
23,113 ⁷	1900	545	13,877	642	1,204	361	154
33,396 ⁷	1910	706	13,995	578	1,161	325	458
128,861 ⁷	1920	1,059	14,181	497	838	259	550
275,964 ⁷	1930	1,578	13,939	289	531	162	471
312,512 ⁷	1937	1,597	13,056	212	468	173	276

1. Figures taken from "Aggregates of Polls, Property, Taxes, etc." Public Document No. 42, in Public Documents of Massachusetts.
2. Figures taken from "Aggregates of Polls, Property, Taxes, etc." Public Document No. 36, in Public Documents of Massachusetts.
3. Figures taken from "Aggregates of Polls, Property, Taxes, etc." Public Document No. 19, in Public Documents of Massachusetts.
4. Valuation at May 1st.
5. Valuation at April 1st.
6. Valuation at Jan. 1st.
7. Includes overlays.

CHART OF TOWN GOVERNMENT-AGAWAM-1941

ELECTORATE



2. GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION AND RECORDS SYSTEM

Governmental Organization

From the first settlement to 1696, inhabitants of the area which is now Agawam enjoyed no rights of local self-government, although freemen among them might, of course, take as active a part in the civil a part in the civic affairs of Springfield as the two rivers severing their homes from the town would permit. From 1696 until 1757 Agawam constituted part of the Second Parish of Springfield which later became the town of West Springfield; from 1757 to 1800 it formed a separate parish; and from 1800 to 1855 the parishes of Agawam and Feeding Hills divided the territory.

In 1783 the General Court confirmed provincial regulations concerning the organization of parishes and precincts, at the same time recognizing those in existence, and granting inhabitants therein who paid a tax, exclusive of polls, equal to two-thirds of a single poll the right to assemble annually in March or April for the election of the following officers: a clerk under oath to record all votes passed, a treasurer, two or more assessors, and other "usual officers". It was the duty of the constable to warn meetings as well as to collect the parish tax, and unless the man chosen had served in some official capacity within the preceding seven years, was physically unable to perform the necessary functions, or did not belong to the same denomination as the majority of his fellow-inhabitants, refusal to accept this post entailed a three-pound fine.¹ There is evidence that residents of the Second Parish of West Springfield gathered together shortly after incorporation in 1757, but the transcript of the first minister's notes, which are the only records of this period still extant, fail to provide sufficient data to permit the listing of early officers.² The formation of a parish did not debar inhabitants from participating in town affairs and the town-meeting records of West Springfield testify to a lively interest on the part of residents of both the southern parishes in all matters pertaining to their government.³

The town of Agawam modeled its organization upon the municipalities from which it sprang, and the open town-meeting, so characteristic of early New England, is firmly entrenched today. Such changes as have taken place served to adapt the administrative functions of officers or the manner of their election to the needs of a growing population and the demands of a more complicated society.

1. Perpetual Laws of Massachusetts, 1780-89, Adams and Nourse, Boston, 1789, Part I, pp. 8-10.

2. Agawam Parish Records, passim.

3. West Springfield Town Records, 1774-1855, passim.

It was at the adjourned meeting on June 27, 1855 that the first election of town officers was held. The following were chosen by ballot: A clerk, who was "when chosen to be Treasurer also"; three selectmen who were "when chosen to be Assessors & Overseers of the Poor", a school committee of three, and two constables. Nine surveyors of highways, "one in each School District," five tythingmen, ten field-drivers, five fence-viewers, two surveyors of lumber, four measurers of wood and bark, one sealer of leather, and one sealer of weights and measures were "elected by nomination."¹

Three of these offices became defunct before the end of the century, tythingmen in 1859, surveyors of highways in 1878 and the sealer of leather in 1898.² A tax collector was elected beginning in 1864, and six years later public weighers were first appointed by the selectmen.³

The year 1878 was marked by the assumption of two new and important functions by the selectmen, those concerning highways and health. With the exception of a brief interval from 1889 to 1892 when there were three elected road commissioners, the selectmen have had general oversight of highway matters since 1878.⁴ Since 1892, however, they have appointed a foreman of highways to supervise the actual work.⁵ As a board of health their duty has been uninterrupted to date.⁶

The decade from 1885 to 1895 saw many new developments. Separate registrars of voters were appointed by the selectmen beginning with 1885 to perform the increasingly heavy duties which they had previously shared with the town clerk.⁷ Three fire wards, ancestors of the present-day engineers were appointed in 1887 and a burial agent in 1888.⁸ An auditor was elected annually beginning in 1889, three library trustees beginning in 1891. Two appointive health officers, inspectors of animals and of meats first appear in 1892.¹⁰ The following year the town clerk appointed an assistant clerk, and the selectmen appointed a park commissioner; the latter appointment was repeated intermittently down to 1905.¹¹ A superintendent of schools was first appointed by the school committee in 1898.¹²

1. Town Records, I, 5-7, see entry 8. This is the exact phrase used. It means, no doubt, elected by acclamation after being nominated from the floor or by slate.

2. See p. 53.

3. See pp. 31, 46.

4. See p. 53.

5. See p. 43.

6. See p. 23.

7. See p. 29.

8. See pp. 43, 49.

9. See pp. 34, 38.

10. See p. 42.

11. See pp. 25, 54.

12. See p. 36.

Governmental Organization

At the turn of the century in 1900 a cemetery committee and a tree warden were elected for the first time.¹

In the manner of electing town officers significant changes have taken place. The vote "that the Moderator appoint a Committee of Eleven persons to Nominate all Town officers not Chosen by ballot" occurred in 1874;² in 1891 "the provisions of Chapter 304 of the Acts of 1888 relating to the election of Town officers, the same being the Australian Ballot Law, so called", were adopted.³

Precinct voting for state and national elections went into effect in 1894 after the acceptance of section 10, chapter 417, Acts and Resolves of 1893⁴ and the town was divided into two precincts A and B,⁵ with a third precinct, C, added in 1909.⁶ Precinct voting for all town officers came into being in 1910 when section 381 of chapter 560 of the Acts and Resolves of 1907 was favorably voted upon. At the same time it was decided that elections be held on the first Monday in March and the annual town meeting for the transaction of business and appropriations on the next Wednesday following.⁷

Water commissioners were elected beginning in 1905, two assessors in 1908 and a finance committee to scrutinize and make recommendations for appropriations in 1912.⁸

There are no further changes thereafter until 1925. A town counsel was first appointed in that year while, two years later, the need of planning for orderly town growth was reflected in the creation of an elective zoning committee.⁹ A district nurse was first appointed by the Community Health Association in 1928.¹⁰ The next year the office of moth inspector was established.¹¹

Meanwhile the selectmen, in addition to their general supervisory duties, had served as overseers of the poor since the beginning of the town, and as a board of health since 1878, found the demands of the current depression too great. After appointing a welfare agent in 1933, it was deemed advisable the next year to set up a separate board of public welfare.¹² With the appointment of a dog officer in 1935 the list of offices as it is today was completed.¹³

-
1. See pp. 42, 44.
 2. Town Records, II, meeting of April 6, 1874, see entry 8.
 3. Ibid., meeting of April 6, 1891.
 4. Ibid., meeting of April 2, 1894.
 5. Ibid., meeting of May 17, 1894.
 6. Ibid., III, meeting of April 5, 1909.
 7. Ibid., meeting of October 25, 1910.
 8. See pp. 29, 34, 44.
 9. See pp. 46, 51.
 10. See p. 41.
 11. See p. 45.
 12. See p. 39.
 13. See p. 51.

First entry p. 23

Records System

Of the 40 town offices in Agawam 5 are now defunct and 18 keep no records. Since the board of registrars of voters and the water commissioners keep only one record each, the major record-keeping functions are distributed among the remaining 15 town offices. Of these the office of town clerk and treasurer with twenty-three records as shown by inventory entries is the most important.

The most serious gaps in existing records are due to the failure of the registrars of voters, the board of assessors, and the water commissioners to keep minutes of their meetings. It is to be regretted that minutes of selectmen's meetings do not exist for the period from 1855 to 1928; also that minutes of the school committee are not to be found for the period 1855 to 1896.

- 1. Town Records, II, meeting of April 6, 1871, page 5.
- 2. Town Records, I, meeting of April 6, 1871.
- 3. Town Records, I, meeting of April 6, 1871.
- 4. Town Records, I, meeting of April 6, 1871.
- 5. Town Records, I, meeting of April 6, 1871.
- 6. Town Records, I, meeting of April 6, 1871.
- 7. Town Records, I, meeting of April 6, 1871.
- 8. Town Records, I, meeting of April 6, 1871.
- 9. Town Records, I, meeting of April 6, 1871.
- 10. Town Records, I, meeting of April 6, 1871.
- 11. Town Records, I, meeting of April 6, 1871.
- 12. Town Records, I, meeting of April 6, 1871.
- 13. Town Records, I, meeting of April 6, 1871.

3. HOUSING, CARE, AND ACCESSIBILITY OF THE RECORDS

The greater part of the Agawam town records are housed in the Agawam High School building, a modern two-story brick structure measuring 300 ft. x 170 ft. x 50 ft. Although the second story is monopolized by the high school, the main floor affords sufficient space for offices and an auditorium. Considerable business is transacted in the town office; consequently but few records - those often consulted by the treasurer, selectmen and assessors - are kept here in a steel file, and it is the adjoining vault which provides the main depository for several departments. This is fireproof throughout, lined with approximately 100 ft. of steel shelving, and adequately ventilated through the door, which is left open during the day. Records are in excellent condition and the arrangement, although unorthodox, satisfies the custodian, who can always find desired volumes. Because of limited space no tables or chairs can be accommodated in the vault and users must take records into the main office, which is amply supplied with all necessary facilities. The vault is well-filled; however, the American Legion room nearby, now utilized by the district nurse, could be remodeled to provide convenient quarters for the clerk-treasurer and his records.

The accountant's office, which opens into the town office and is really a part of this suite, contains records of the assessors and selectmen, particularly those concerned with health matters. These are kept on wooden shelves along the south wall and in a steel file cabinet. There is enough room for immediate needs.

Three rooms on the first floor are occupied by the school superintendent and his staff. The greater part of the records are stored in steel files with the exception of the registers and minutes, which are kept in the supply room, where the shelves are of wood. Records of the school bank are in the school room devoted to bookkeeping. This is on the second floor. The welfare and highway offices are in a one-story red brick building on Maple St., which has been rented by the town. This structure is less than twenty years old, reasonably fireproof, and in good condition. The board of public welfare uses two rooms, an office for the agent and the general office. The former contains a steel safe, the latter a wood cabinet and steel filing cases. This and the highway office, which is furnished with wood and steel containers, are adequate for present needs.

Because the town of Agawam employs no full-time firemen, there is neither a central office nor a regular depository for records. These are scattered among the engineers, the fire-chiefs, and the fire stations of the three units - Agawam, North Agawam, and Feeding Hills. The town barn on South Westfield St. and the fire-station on Ottawa Street, both two-story wooden buildings, house fire-fighting equipment and contain large rooms on the second floor for general gatherings.

The minutes of meetings of these two units have been left on a shelf or in a desk drawer as a matter of convenience only; other records may be found in the homes of the following persons: Frank D. Goss, 121 Elm St.; E.J. Gosselin, 25 Church St.; David H. Trehey, Adams St.; John Schwartz, 639 River St.; R.S. Farnsworth, West St.; Alvin R. Kellogg, North Westfield St.; and John Parent, 39 King St.

The police chief, the sealer of weights and measures, and the cemetery commissioner keep records in their homes. The chief, Mr. P.J. Hewey, maintains an office at 468 Springfield St., where he has set up a convenient system of his own. The other officers, Edwin Leonard and Arthur Taylor, treasurer of the Feeding Hills Cemetery Association, keep the few records they have in their homes at South Westfield St., and 544 South Westfield St., respectively.

The town of Agawam is little more than eighty years old and the records have not deteriorated to any extent. In general they have been well-kept and carefully preserved. The system of storing records in private homes often results in the mislaying of interesting manuscripts; it is hoped, therefore, that the town will soon be able to provide central offices for the police and fire departments at least. Meanwhile, it is important that records no longer in use be returned to the town vault.

Agawam High School, Main St

Depository	Town Off.	Town Va.	Acct. Off.	American Legion Rm.
Location	1st fl.	1st fl.	1st fl.	1st fl.
*Dimensions	12x12x12	9x9x7	14x10x12	28x22x12
Fire-Resistant	No	Yes	No	No
Shelving	None	Steel	Wood	Wood & Steel
Container	Steel Cab't	None	Steel Files	Steel Files
Accessibility	Good	Good	Good	Good
Arrangement	Good	Poor	Good	Good
Future-Capacity	Filled	Crowded	Ample	Ample
Departments using for Storage of Records	Town Clerk and Treas- urer Assessors Selectmen	Town Clerk and Treas- urer Assessors Water Com- mission Tax Col- lector Board of Registrars	Selectmen Assessors Board of Health	District Nurse Assessors

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

Agawam High School, Main St.

Depository	Superintendent's Off.	Supply Rm.	Bookkeeping Rm.
Location	1st fl.	1st fl.	2nd fl.
*Dimensions	18x12x12	14x10x12	24x30x10
Fire-Resistant	No	No	No
Shelving	Metal	Wood	Wood
Container	Metal Files	None	Metal Files
Accessibility	Good	Good	Good
Arrangement	Good	Fair	Good
Future-Capacity	Ample	Ample	Ample
Departments using for Storage of Records	School Comm.	School Comm.	School Comm.

Welfare Building, Maple St., North Agawam

Depository	Welfare Off.	Welfare Agent's Off.	Highway Off.
Location	1st fl.	1st fl.	1st fl.
*Dimensions	30x30x12	6x6x12	15x15x12
Fire-Resistant	Yes	Yes	Yes
Shelving	Steel	Wood	Wood
Container	Wood	Metal Safe	Metal Cabinet
Accessibility	Good	Good	Good
Arrangement	Good	Good	Good
Future-Capacity	Ample	Ample	Ample
Departments using for Storage of Records	Public Welfare	Public Welfare	Foreman of Highways

Fire Station	Town Barn
Ottawa St., North Agawam	Westfield St., Feeding Hills

Depository	Off.	Firemen's Social Rm.
Location	2nd fl.	2nd fl.
*Dimensions	28x26x9	15x15x8
Fire-Resistant	No	No
Shelving	None	Wood
Container	Wooden Desk	None
Accessibility	Good	Good
Arrangement	Good	Good
Future-Capacity	Ample	Ample
Departments using for Storage of Records	Fire Engineers	Fire Engineers

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

Springfield Street School North Agawam School, Maple St.

Depository	Nurse's Rm.	Public Library
Location	1st fl.	1st fl.
*Dimensions	15x20x12	14x20x12
Fire-Resistant	No	No
Shelving	Wood	Wood
Container	File boxes	File box
Accessibility	Good	Good
Arrangement	Good	Good
Future-Capacity	Ample	Ample
Departments using for Storage Records	District Nurse	District Nurse

Town officers keeping records in their homes at the time of inventory were the following:

Name	Address	Office Held	Records of
R.S. Farnsworth	West St., Feeding Hills	Fire Eng.	Fire Records
Frank T. Goss	121 Elm St.	Fire Eng.	Fire Records
E.J. Gosselin	25 Church St.	Fire Eng.	Fire Records
P.J. Hewey	468 Springfield St.	Chief of Police	Police Records
Alvin R. Kellogg	North Westfield St., Feeding Hills	Fire Eng.	Fire Records
Edwin U. Leonard	South Westfield St., Feeding Hills	Sealer	Sealer's Records
John Parent	39 King St., North Agawam	Fire Eng.	Fire Records
John Schwartz	639 River Road	Fire Eng.	Fire Records
Dana Stedman	Central St.		Library Records
Arthur Taylor	544 South Westfield St., Feeding Hills	Cemetery Com.	Cemetery Records
David A. Trehey	Adams St.	Fire Eng.	Fire Records
Harold P. Worthington	Elm St.		Library Records

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

Abbreviations, Symbols, and Explanatory Notes

Abbreviations and Foreign Terms

acct.	accountant	f. b.	file box(es)
alph.	alphabetically	hdw.	handwritten
arr.	arranged, arrangement	<u>ibid.</u>	in the same place
assrs.	assessors	num.	numerically
bdl(s).	bundle(s)	no.	number
ch.	chapter	off.	office
chron.	chronologically	<u>op. cit.</u>	work cited
com.	commissioner	p. pp.	page, pages
comm.	committee	ptd.	printed
cond.	condition	rm.	room
ed.	editor	sel.	selectmen
eng.	engineer	St.	Street
estab.	established	va.	vault
		vol(s)✓	volume(s)

Symbols

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

Explanatory Notes

Inventory Arrangement

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

Titles

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

Dates

All dates used are inclusive. Missing records are indicated by broken dates.

Quantity

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

Labeling

Figures or letters in parentheses, following the number of volumes, file boxes, or other types of container, indicate the labeling. If no labeling is indicated, it may be assumed that there is none.

Cross References

Title-line cross references are used to show the continuity of a record series which has been kept separately for a period of time and with other records for different periods of time. An example is shown in entry 10: 1855-91, 1924--, in (Record of) Births, Marriages, Deaths, entry 9. Entry 9 will carry a corresponding body-of-entry reference to entry 10, showing the title and entry number of the record from which the cross reference is made: "(Record of) Births, 1855-91, 1924--, entry 10."

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

Condition of Records

Records are in good condition unless otherwise indicated.

Indexing

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

Dimensions

Dimensions are always given in inches, unless otherwise indicated, and, therefore, the symbol for inches ("") has been omitted.

Location

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

I. SELECTMEN AND BOARD OF HEALTH¹

Three selectmen were elected at the first adjourned meeting in 1855 and there charged to perform, in addition to their own duties, those of assessors and overseers of the poor.² In 1864 the responsibility for supplying aid to the families of soldiers³ was allocated to them and in 1878 they were assigned the functions of a board of health.⁴ Thus, for over half a century these three men with the clerk-treasurer and tax collector managed the primary governmental functions. By 1908, however, it seemed advisable to create a new department for the determining of assessments,⁵ and in 1934 the increasingly heavy responsibility of caring for the poor was turned over to a separate board of public welfare⁶ - a title adopted in 1928 at the request of the state to replace "overseers of the poor".⁷ The selectmen are still elected annually. In addition to the duties required of them by Massachusetts law, they now administer soldiers' relief concurrently, as well as all matters relating to the general health of the inhabitants.

All records are in the Agawam High School. In addition to the following records, see entry 8-xi for perambulation of town lines 1870-90.

1. (MINUTES OF MEETING), 1928--. 3 vols.

Discussions and decisions on administration of public welfare, public-works bids and contracts, health matters, applications for and issue of licenses and permits, appointment of town officers, drawing of jury lists, hearings on petitions of public-utility companies; names of members present; place, date of meeting. Arr. chron. by date of meeting. No index. Hdw. 300 pp. 10½ x 8½ x 1½. Sel. cabinet, town off.

2. ANNUAL REPORT OF TOWN OFFICERS, 1867--. 10 vols.

Reports of town officers showing activities and recommendations. Arr. by report. Indexed alph. by report or subject. Ptd. 250 pp. 9 x 6½ x 1½. Town off.

1. For the statutory origin and functions of these officers, see Town and City Government in Massachusetts.

2. Records - Town of Agawam, I, 4, see entry 8.

3. Ibid., p. 189.

4. Ibid., II, 89.

5. Ibid., III, 383.

6. Ibid., V, 137.

7. Ibid., p. 377.

(3-7)

3. (Duplicate) BUILDING PERMITS, 1930---. 1 f. b. Prior records destroyed.

Name, address of property owner; name of contractor; location, type, estimated cost of work; date of issue of permit. Arr. alph. by name of property owner. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 28 x 14 x 11. Sel. cabinet, acct. off.

4. RECORDS OF DANGEROUS DISEASES, 1915---. 2 vols. Prior records destroyed.

Name, address, age of patient; nature of disease, name of physician, date of physician's report, period of quarantine. Arr. chron. by date of report. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 80 pp. 14½ x 14 x 1. Shelf, acct. off.

5. SOLDIERS' RELIEF (Case Histories), 1922---. 1 f. b.

Name, address, financial status of applicant; number, names, ages, sexes of dependents; remarks. Arr. alph. by name of applicant. No index. Typed. 11 x 13½ x 28. Sel. cabinet, acct. off.

6. (CLASSIFICATION OF SOLDIERS' RELIEF EXPENDITURES), 1937---. 1 vol. Prior records destroyed.

Name, address of recipient; number of dependents; amount, purpose of weekly allotment; amount of cash, medical aid. Also contains: Record of merchandise orders issued to recipients: Name of recipient, vendor; amount, itemization, date of order. Arr. alph. by name of recipient. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 100 pp. 12 x 9 x 1. Sel. cabinet, acct. off.

7. (CORRESPONDENCE), 1930---. 2 f. b. Prior records destroyed.

Correspondence with federal, state, city, and town departments relative to administrative matters; communications with residents concerning applications for licenses, complaints. Arr. chron. by date of correspondence. No index. Hdw. or typed. 11 x 14 x 28. Sel. Cabinet, town off.

II. TOWN CLERK AND TREASURER¹

On June 27, 1855, at the second meeting of the inhabitants of Agawam after their secession from the mother-town of West Springfield and incorporation as a separate municipality, a town clerk was chosen who was also to be the treasurer. This office was a dual one, the holder being elected to both positions on one ballot,² and the precedent thus established has been followed annually to the present day. During the period from 1903³ to 1929⁴ this officer performed the additional functions

1. For the statutory origin and functions of the clerk and treasury, see Town and City Government in Massachusetts.

2. Records - Town of Agawam, I, 4, see entry 8.

3. Ibid., III, 217.

4. Ibid., V, 196.

of tax collector, but thereafter the collectorship was filled separately. Since 1893 the clerk-treasurer, in his capacity as clerk, has annually appointed an assistant town clerk,¹ who is also the accounting officer appointed by the selectmen. The treasurer, however, still retains full responsibility for town financial records.²

All records are in the Agawam High School; except where otherwise noted, they are in the town vault.

Minutes and Reports

8. RECORDS - TOWN OF AGAWAM (Minutes of Town Meetings), 1855--. 5 vols (1-5). Title varies: Records-Agawam, 1855-70, 1 vol. Discussion and action taken on articles in town-meeting warrant; nature of other business transacted; place, date of meeting. Also contains:
- i. Boundaries, record of: Survey of town lines, 1860.
 - ii. Bylaws: Amendment of bylaws dividing the town into residential and business districts, 1928.
 - iii. Election warrants, record of: Results of county, state, and federal elections; names of representatives chosen at town clerks' district meetings, 1858--; results of primaries, 1911--.
 - iv. Fence viewers' reports on boundary agreements, 1897, 1913.
 - v. Gas service, copy of act permitting installation of, 1904.
 - vi. Highways: Action taken on petitions for layout, repair, and relocation of highways.
 - vii. Incorporation of Agawam, copy of act of, May 17, 1855.
 - viii. Jury lists, 1855-1910.
 - ix. Militia lists, 1871-82. For record of servicemen in Civil War 1863-65, see entry 23.
 - x. New England Telephone and Telegraph Company, permission granted to install service to, 1881; copies of petitions from company to erect poles and wires, with action taken thereon 1891-1910. For petitions and reports of public hearings thereon, 1911--., see entry 21.
 - xi. Perambulations of town lines by selectmen, record of, 1870-90.
 - xii. Record of licenses issued to auctioneers, bowling alley and poolroom operators, for sale of fireworks, to slaughterers of animals, 1892-1910; for sale of liquor, 1881-1910.
 - xiii. Springfield Railway Company petitions (copies) to lay car tracks, erect poles, and string wires, with action taken thereon, 1896-1901. For reports of hearings on petitions, see entry 21.

1. Ibid., II, 510.

2. Interview with Mr. Bodurtha, town treasurer.

(8-13)

Town Clerk and Treasurer -
Minutes and Reports

- xiv. Town officers, oaths of office taken by, 1855-1913.
 - xv. Treasurer's statement acknowledging receipt of county and state taxes, 1856-62.
 - xvi. Warrants for town meetings, with constable's return.
 - xvii. Water system, copy of legislative act permitting establishment of, 1905.
 - xviii. West Springfield, valuation lists as received from, 1855.
- Arr. chron. by date of meeting or record. No index. Hdw. 317 to 600 pp. 14 x 9 x 1½ to 16½ x 11 x 3.

Vital Statistics

9. (Record of) BIRTHS, MARRIAGES; DEATHS, 1855-1892, 1924--.
3 vols.

Contains: (Record of) Births, 1855-91, 1924--, entry 10; (Record of) Marriages, 1855-92, 1925--, entry 14; (Record of) Deaths, 1855-90, 1925--, entry 17. Arr. chron. by date of entry. For indexes to births, marriages, and deaths, see entries 11, 15, and 18 respectively. Hdw. on ptd. form. 100 pp. 18 x 12 x 1½.

10. (Record of) BIRTHS, 1892-1923. 1 vol. 1855-91, 1924--, in
(Record of) Births, Marriages, Deaths, entry 9.

Name, color, sex of child; place, date of birth; names, addresses, birth-places of parents; name of attending physician; date of report, entry 4. Arr. chron. by date of entry. For index, see entry 11. Hdw. on ptd. form. 84 pp. 18 x 12 x 1½.

11. INDEX TO BIRTHS, 1855--. 1 vol.

Index to (Record of) Births, entry 10. Name of child, volume and page reference. Arr. alph. by name of child. Hdw. 200 pp. 11 x 8½ x 1½.

12. (BIRTH CERTIFICATES), 1900--. 25 bcls., 3 vols. (dated).

Original and copies of birth certificates: Place, registered number of birth; name, sex, color, date of birth of child; whether stillborn or multiple birth; name, address, age, color or race, birthplace, occupation of father, mother; signature, address of attendant at birth; date certificate received, signature of registrar or clerk. Also contains scattered supplemental and delayed birth returns. Arr. chron. by date of birth. No index. Hdw. or typed on ptd. form. Bcls. 75 pp. 7 x 9 x ½; vols. 400 pp. 8 x 9 x 2.

13. (NOTICES OF INTENTION OF MARRIAGE), 1900--. 40 bcls. (dated).

Number, date of notice; name, residence, age, color, birthplace, occupation, prior marital status of prospective bride, groom; name of father, maiden name of mother; date notice filed, signature of clerk receiving notice, date marriage certificate issued. Reverse side of notice shows consent of legal guardian to marriage of minor: Name, address, relationship of guardian to minor; age of minor; date consent given; signature of guardian, witness; nature of record submitted to substantiate age of minor, signature of clerk accepting record. Arr. chron. by date of filing notice. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 75 pp. 11½ x 8½ x ½.

14. (Record of) MARRIAGES, 1893-1924. 1 vol. 1855-92, 1925--,
in (Record of) Births, Marriages, Deaths, entry 9.
Names, ages, color, addresses, birthplaces, occupations of bride and
groom; place, date of marriage; address, birthplaces of parents;
name, title of officiant; date of report entry. Arr. chron. by date
of entry. For index, see entry 15. Hdw. on ptd. form. 84 pp. 18 x
12 x 1½.
15. INDEX TO MARRIAGES, 1855--. 1 vol.
Index to (Record of) Marriages, entry 14: Names of bride and groom;
volume and page reference. Arr. alph. by name of bride or groom.
Hdw. 200 pp. 11 x 8½ x 1½.
16. (MARRIAGE CERTIFICATES), 1900--. 25 bdls., 3 vols. (dated).
Original and copies of marriage certificates: Place, date of marriage;
certificate number; name, residence, age, color, birthplace, occupa-
tion, prior marital status of bride, groom; name of father, maiden
name of mother; place, date of recording marriage intention; date
marriage certificate issued, signature of official issuing certificate;
name, address, official station of person performing ceremony. Arr.
chron. by date of marriage. No index. Hdw. or typed on ptd. form.
Bdls. 75 pp. 7 x 9 x ½; vols. 400 pp. 8 x 9 x 2.
17. (Record of) DEATHS, 1891-1924. 1 vol. 1855-90, 1925--,
in (Record of) Births, Marriages, Deaths, entry 9.
Name, address, age, birthplace of decedent; date, cause of death;
place of interment; names, address, birthplaces of parents; name
of physician, date of report entry. Arr. chron. by date of entry.
For index, see entry 18. Hdw. on ptd. form. 84 pp. 18 x 12 x 1½.
18. INDEX TO DEATHS, 1855--. 1 vol.
Index to (Record of) Deaths, entry 17: Name of decedent, volume and
page reference. Arr. alph. by name of decedent. Hdw. 200 pp.
11 x 8½ x 1½.
19. (DEATH CERTIFICATES), 1900--. 25 bdls., 3 vols. (dated).
Original and copies of death certificates: Place, registered number
of death; name, address, age, color or race, marital status, birth-
place of decedent; whether deceased person was a veteran, name of
spouse; name, birthplace of father, mother; length of residence in
municipality where death occurred, in America (if foreign-born);
nature of occupation, period of employment, name of informant; signa-
ture, attest of agent of board of health; date burial permit issued.
Includes intermittently physicians' certificates of death: Date of
death, period of time decedent attended, date decedent last seen
alive, cause of death, whether autopsy was performed; name, date of
operation performed (if any); connection of death with occupation;
place, date of burial, cremation, or removal; name, address of under-
taker; date certificate received and filed; signature, attest of physi-
cian. Arr. chron. by date of death. No index. Hdw. or typed on
ptd. form. Bdls. 75 pp. 7 x 9 x ½; vols. 400 pp. 8 x 9 x 2.

Property Records

20. (Transcriptions of) MORTGAGES (on) PERSONAL PROPERTY, 1900--.
7 vols. (4-10). Missing: 3 vols., 1855-99.

Name of mortgagor, mortgagee; location, description, valuation of property amount, consideration, conditions, date of instrument; date of recording. Includes acknowledgment of instruments: Attestation, date of act; signature of notary public. Also contains transcriptions of:

- i. Assignments of personal property: Name of assignor, assignee; description of property; amount, period, date of assignment; due date of payment, signatures of parties, attestation of clerk, date of recording.
 - ii. Assignments of wages: Name, address of assignor, assignee; amount, conditions, date of instrument; place of payment, consent of spouse; date of recording, discharge.
 - iii. Discharges of personal property mortgages: Name of parties; amount, date of release; volume and page reference to mortgages described above, date of recording, attestation of clerk.
 - iv. Leases: Name of lessor, lessee; description of property, covenants, date of instrument; signatures of parties, attestation of clerk, date of recording.
 - v. Married women's business certificates: Name, type, location of business; name, address of husband; date of certificate, recording; attestation of clerk.
 - vi. Notices of conditional bills of sale: Names of contracting parties; description of property, name of record owner of property, signature of vendor or attorney, terms of payment, amount of unpaid purchase price; date of agreement, recording; signature, attestation of clerk.
 - vii. Notices of foreclosure: Name of mortgagor, mortgagee; description of property, nature of breach of conditions, names of witnesses; manner, date of foreclosure; date of recording; signature, attestation of clerk.
 - viii. Notices of sale: Place, date of sale; description of property, amount received in sale, volume and page reference to notices of foreclosure described in vii, process officer's return.
 - ix. Writs of attachment: Names of litigants; location, description of property; cause, date of action ad damnum, return date, signature, attestation of clerk of court; process officer's return.
- Arr. chron. by date of recording. Indexed alph. by names of parties.
Hdw. or typed on ptd. form. 500 pp. 17 x 12 x 4.

Miscellaneous

21. (COPIES OF PETITIONS AND REPORTS OF HEARINGS), 1911--
intermittently. 3 vols.

Copies of petitions and reports of public hearings of New England Telephone and Telegraph Company for extension of telephone service; contains reports public hearings on petitions of Springfield Street Railway Company to lay

tracks, erect poles, and string wires; orders of selectmen granting petitions; date of entry. Arr. chron. by date of entry. No index. Hdw. 150 to 300 pp. 14 x 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ x $\frac{1}{2}$. to 14 x 9 x 1.

For other petitions and reports of hearings, see entry 8-x, -xiii.

22. (STUBS OF SPORTING LICENSES), 1938--. 1 bdl. Records 1920-37 sent to state department of conservation, division of game and fisheries.

Stubs of licenses for hunting, fishing, and trapping: Name, address, age, sex, birthplace, physical description of licensee; type of license; place, time, date of issue; signature of clerk, licensee. Arr. chron. by date of issue. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 50 pp. 12 x 3 x 3.

23. REBELLION RECORD (of Service Men in Civil War), 1863-65. 1 vol.

Name, address, occupation, marital status of serviceman; names of parents; period, date of enlistment; name of regiment, company or naval unit; record of promotions, resignation, discharge; amount of bounty; cause, date of death. Arr. alph. by name of serviceman. No index. Hdw. 128 pp. 15 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ x $\frac{3}{4}$.

For militia lists 1871-82, see entry 8-ix.

III. BOARD OF REGISTRARS¹

In accordance with chapter 178 of the acts of 1884, the selectmen appointed a board of three registrars in 1885,² and every year since then a board has been chosen, with the town clerk ex officio as clerk.

24. (REGISTER OF VOTERS), 1884--. 10 vols. (marked by precinct letter, A, B, or C).

Name, address, birthplace, age, occupation, party affiliation, signature of voter; residence as of April first, date of registration. Arr. chron. by date of registration. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 96 pp. 16 x 11 x 1. Town va., Agawam High School.

IV. BOARD OF ASSESSORS¹

From 1855 to 1908 the duties of assessors were performed by the selectmen, but on the latter date a separate board was created. It

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

2. Records - Town of Agawam, II, 347, see entry 8

consisted of three assessors, one elected each year for a three-year term,¹ and this precedent has been followed ever since.

All records are in the Agawam High School; except where otherwise noted, they are in the town office. In addition to the following records, see entry 8-xviii for valuation lists of West Springfield 1855.

Valuations

25. VALUATION LISTS FOR THE TOWN OF AGAWAM, 1859--. 34 vols. (dated).
Missing: 1855-58.

Real and personal property tax list: Name, address of taxpayer; location, description, valuation of property, amount, date of assessment; other special assessments; cause, amount of abatement. List of ratable polls: Name of poll, amount of tax, number of polls in family. Arr. alph. by name of taxpayer. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 250 pp. 18 x 16 x 2. Town va.

26. OFFICE CARDS, 1929--. 3 f. b. (marked by precinct letter, A, B, or C). System estab. 1929.

Card record of real estate valuations: Name of property owner; location, description, lot number, valuation of property; total valuation. Arr. alph. by name of st. and thereunder by lot no. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 28 x 8½ x 6.

Abatements

27. (APPLICATIONS FOR REAL AND PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX ABATEMENTS), 1934--. 4 bdls. Prior records destroyed.

Name, address of applicant; date of application; description, valuation of property; amount of assessment; reason for abatement, amount of abatement requested; amount, date of abatement granted; signatures of applicant and assessors. Also contains applications for motor vehicle excise abatements: Name, address of applicant; date of application; amount, period, year of assessment; make, type, model, year of vehicle; engine, manufacturer's number; number, date of registration; reason for abatement, amount of abatement requested; amount, date of abatement granted; signatures of applicant and assessors. Arr. chron. by date of application. No index. Hdw. or typed on ptd. form. 12 x 8 x 3. Assessors' desk, American Legion Rm.

Transfers of Property

28. TOWN OF AGAWAM (Record of Property) TRANSFERS, 1927--. 12 vols. Prior records destroyed.

Name of transferor, transferee; date of transfer, lot number. Arr. alph. by name of transferee. No index. Hdw. 250 pp. 9 x 5½ x 1. Town va.

1. Ibid., III, 383.

Motor Vehicle Excise

29. (Record of) MOTOR VEHICLE EXCISE (Valuations) OF THE TOWN OF AGAWAM 1929--. 10 vols.

Name, address of owner; make, type, model, year of vehicle; year of registration; amount of valuation, excise. Arr. alph. by name of owner. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 50 pp. 18½ x 15½ x ½. Town va.

30. (Record of) EXCISE (Assessments), 1932--. 4 wooden boxes, 8 f. b. System estab. 1932.

Name, address of owner; type, make, year of vehicle; registration, engine number; name of insurance company; amount, date of assessment. Arr. by year and thereunder alph. by name of owner. No index. Typed on ptd. form. Wooden boxes, 1932-34, 4 x 6 x 15; f. b., 1935--, 5 x 4 x 18.

V. TAX COLLECTOR¹

The establishment of the office of tax collector took place in 1864, when one incumbent was elected for one year.² With the exception of the year 1874 when two collectors were named,³ the original method was followed annually until 1903. In that year, the duties of collector were added to those of the town clerk-treasurer⁴ and were retained by him until 1929, when tax collector again became a separate elective office.⁵

All records are in the town vault, Agawam High School.

31. (RECORD OF REAL AND PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX COMMITMENTS AND RECEIPTS), 1907--. 96 vols. (dated and marked by precinct letter A, B, or C). Prior records destroyed.

Name, address of taxpayer; year, amounts of assessments; total assessments; amount of abatement; amount, date of payment, amount due. Includes transfer of receipts to treasurer: Amount, date of transfer. Also contains: Record of poll-tax commitments, 1907-26, 1928-29, entry 32. Arr. alph. by name of taxpayer. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 200 pp. 8 x 6 x 1¼.

32. (RECORD OF POLL TAX COMMITMENTS), 1927, 1930--. 30 vols. 1907-26, 1928-29 in (Record of Real and Personal Property Tax Commitments and Receipts), entry 31.

Name, address, age of poll; number of polls; year, amount of assessment;

1. For the statutory origin and functions of tax collector, see Town and City Government in Massachusetts.

2. Records - Town of Agawam, I, 189, see entry 8.

3. Ibid., II, 99.

4. Ibid., III, 217.

5. Ibid., V, 197.

[32-37.]

Tax Collector

amount of abatement, interest, costs; total tax; amount, date of payment; balance due. Arr. by precinct and thereunder alph. by name of taxpayer. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 200 pp. 8 x 6 x 1 $\frac{1}{4}$.

33. (RECORD OF MOTOR VEHICLE EXCISE TAX COMMITMENTS), 1929--. 8 vols. Name, address of owner; amount assessment, abatement; amount, date of payment; balance due. Arr. alph. by name of owner. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 80 pp. 16 x 14 x $\frac{1}{2}$.

34. TOWN OF AGAWAM - WATER (Rate) COMMITMENTS - WATER DEPARTMENT, 1927--. 5 bdl's., 1 vol. No title, 1927-35, 5 bdl's. Name, address of water consumer; period of consumption; amount, date of payment, commitment; balance due. Arr. by precinct, thereunder by name of st., and thereunder by house no. No index. Hdw. Bdl's., 1927-35, 18 x 15 x 2; vol., 1936--., 250 pp. 18 x 15 x 2 $\frac{1}{2}$.

35. (CASH BOOK OF RECEIPTS FROM WATER RATES), 1906--. 6 vols. Name of consumer; date of payment; page reference to Town of Agawam - Water (Rate) Commitments - Water Department, entry 34. Includes record of weekly transfer of receipts to treasurer: Amount, date of transfer. Arr. chron. by date of payment. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 350 pp. 15 x 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 2.

VI. TREASURER

For a description of the combined office of clerk and treasurer, see page 24.

36. CASH (Book of Receipts and Expenditures), 1900--. 8 vols. Prior records missing. Title varies: Payments, 1900-1926, 5 vols. Receipts: Name of payer; amount, source, date of income. Expenditures: Name of payee; amount, accounting, date of warrant; warrant and check numbers. Arr. chron. by date of transaction. No index. Hdw. 250-pp. 15 x 11 x 2.

37. TREASURER'S (Weekly) WARRANTS, 1930--. 385 bdl's. (dated). Prior records destroyed. Schedule of departmental bills payable: Name of creditor, department charged; amount, due date of bill; number, date of warrant; approval of selectmen. Also contains record of bills rendered and approved: Name of creditor, department charged; amount, number, date of bill; signature of approving officer. No arr. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 14 x 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 3. Desk, town off.

38. (RECORD OF OUTSTANDING BONDS), 1912--. 1 vol.
System estab. 1912.

Amount, name, interest rate of bond; date of issue, maturity; amount, due dates of principal and interest payments; authority for issue, name of purchaser. Arr. alph. by name of bond. No index. Hdw. 175 pp. 18 x 13 x 1 $\frac{1}{2}$.

39. TOWN OF AGAWAM - TAX TITLES - ACCOUNTING DEPARTMENT, 1933--. 1 vol. Prior records destroyed.

Record of property taken for nonpayment of taxes: Name, address of taxpayer; location, valuation of property; amount, date of tax; amount of interest accrued, collection costs; date of foreclosure, recording in county registry of deeds; volume and page reference to recording in registry of deeds. Includes newspaper clippings advertising sale of property. Arr. chron. by date of foreclosure. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 100 pp. 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 10 x 1 $\frac{1}{2}$.

40. (MONTHLY BANK STATEMENTS, CANCELED CHECKS), 1930--. 100 bds. Prior records destroyed.

Contains:

- i. Canceled checks: Name of payee; amount, number, date of check; date of cancellation.
- ii. Monthly bank statements: Name of bank; amount, date of deposit, withdrawal; bank balance.

Checks arr. num. by check no.; statements arr. chron. by month. No index. Checks hdw. on ptd. form; statements typed on ptd. form. 8 x 3 x 3.

VII. TOWN ACCOUNTANT

During the year 1926 the state auditors made a thorough audit of town accounts, introducing an up-to-date system of bookkeeping, as recommended by the state.¹ In the following May the selectmen chose the current auditor, Mrs. Leafie N. Maynard, to be the first bookkeeper or accountant, an office which she retained until March 1934, when Miss Eileen Otto replaced her.² Since that date the selectmen have annually appointed Miss Otto to the post.³

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1. Annual Reports, 1926, p. 57, see entry 2.
 2. Miss Eileen Otto, town accountant, in interview with Edward C. Grandy on March 14, 1941.
 3. Minutes of Selectmen, II, 74, see entry 1.

41. JOURNAL, 1926--. 3 vols. System estab. 1926. Departmental transfers, adjusting and closing entries not affecting cash: Name of account debited, credited; amount, explanation, date of entry. Arr. chron. by date of entry. No index. Hdw. 200 pp. 15 x 11½ x 1.

42. TOWN OF AGAWAM - LEDGER - ACCOUNTING DEPARTMENT, 1927--. 9 bds., 1 vol. System estab. 1927. No title, 1927-36, 9 bds. Summary of accounts as posted from Cash (Book of Receipts and Expenditures), entry 36; Journal, entry 41: Name, of account; amount, date of debit, credit, posting. Arr. by name of account. No index. Hdw. Bds. 13½ x 14½ x ¾; vol. 300 pp. 13½ x 14½ x 2.

43. CLASSIFICATION OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES, 1927--. 9 bds., 1 vol. System estab. 1927. No title, 1927-36, 9 bds. Analysis of departmental receipts and expenditures by accounts: Name of department; amount, itemization, date of receipt or expenditure; date of entry; totals. Arr. by receipts and expenditures and chron. thereunder by date of entry. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. Bds. 13½ x 14½ x ¾; vol. 250 pp. 16 x 12 x 2.

VIII. AUDITOR¹

This office was established in 1889, when one auditor was elected for one year.² This procedure has been followed to the present time.

No records were found for this office.

IX. FINANCE COMMITTEE¹

The duties of the committee -- "to investigate the cost of maintenance and the expenditure of the different departments of town service" -- were also clearly defined in the minutes of the appointment of the original committee of five in 1914.

The first finance committee was organized in 1912, when a committee of three, to act with the chairman of the selectmen and the treasurer, was chosen by acclamation.³ In 1914-1932, the committee, increased to five

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

2. Records - Town of Agawam, II, 403, see entry 8.

3. Annual Reports, 1912, p. 18, see entry 2.

members, was appointed by the moderator, with the proviso that "no one of them shall be a town officer."¹ Increased to six members in 1933, the committee has been elected annually since that year; two are elected each year for a three-year term.²

No records were found for this office.

X. TRUSTEES OF WHITING STREET FUND

The trustees of the Whiting Street fund have been elected annually since 1881, one being chosen each year for a two-year term.³ By the terms of the will which created the fund, the annual income is administered by the trustees and the town treasurer to needy persons not aided by the town.

No records were found for this office.

XI. SCHOOL COMMITTEE⁴

At the time of incorporation as a town, Agawam was divided into nine school districts, each supporting a school.⁵ One June 27, 1855 a school committee of three members was chosen for terms of one year⁶ and at a later town meeting, October 13, 1855, an appropriation of \$1025, was made for schools.⁷ Each succeeding year a committee was elected, but its powers were apparently somewhat limited; for in 1861 it was "Voted the prudential Committee in the several school districts be authorized to hire the Teachers".⁸ During the next decade, there occurred among the townspeople a distinct division of opinion on the question of retaining the school district system, resulting in numerous actions, for and against, in town meeting.⁹ The controversy was not definitely settled until 1872 when it was "Voted to abolish the School District System",¹⁰ thus leaving the town schools entirely under the

1. Records - Town of Agawam, IV, 155-156, see entry 8.

2. Ibid., V, 351-358.

3. Ibid., II, 263-264.

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

5. Records - Town of Agawam, I, 6, see entry 8.

6. Ibid., p. 4.

7. Ibid., meeting of Oct. 13, 1855.

8. Ibid., meeting of April 1, 1861.

9. Ibid., passim.

10. Ibid., II, meeting of April 1, 1872.

[44-47]

control of the school committee. In 1890 the town voted to accept the provisions of Chapter 431 of the Acts of 1888 and to unite with the towns of Granville, Southwick and Longmeadow in a school union, with a school superintendent in charge of the scholastic affairs.¹ This arrangement continued until 1898, when Agawam withdrew, deciding to employ its own superintendent of schools.² The custom of electing three members of the school committee was maintained until 1922, at which time the committee was increased to six members, two being elected each year for three-year terms.³

All records are in the Agawam High School; except where otherwise noted, they are in the superintendent's office.

Minutes and Reports

44. (MINUTES OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETINGS), 1896--. 2 vols. Discussion and decisions on matters of school policy, appointment of teachers; financial statement, recommendations; names of members present, date of meeting. Arr. chron. by date of meeting. No index. Hdw. 250 pp. 12 x 8 x 1½. Safe, supply rm.

45. ATTENDANCE REPORT, 1932--. 1 f. b. Prior records destroyed. Monthly statistical attendance report submitted by each school: Name, grade of school; aggregate and average daily attendance per grade, number of pupils; percentage of attendance, tardiness. Arr. by grade. No index. Hdw. 3 x 6 x 18.

46. REPORT OF ABSENCE, 1937--. 1 f. b. Prior records destroyed. Copies of reports to attendance officer of pupils' absences: Name, address, age of pupil absent; name of school, teacher, parent; date of absence, report. Also contains report of attendance officer upon investigation of pupil's absence: Name, address of pupil; date of receipt of absence report; date, period, result of investigation; date of report. Arr. chron. by date of report. No index. Hdw. 3 x 6 x 18.

Pupils' Records (See also entry 46)

47. PERMANENT (Scholarship and Attendance) RECORDS, 1903--. 16 f. b. (labeled by contained letters of alphabet). Name, address, place and date of birth, physical condition of pupil; name, grade of school; name of teacher; names of subjects, marks received, dates of promotions; number of days present, absent; number

1. Ibid., p. 427.
2. Ibid., III, 88.
3. Ibid., IV, 409.

of times tardy, dismissed; name, occupation of parent or guardian; cause, date of discharge. 1922-36 includes date of vaccination; 1922-- includes sex of pupil, nationality of parents; 1936-- includes record of psychological tests, extra-curricular activities, vocational intention, personality traits; number of brothers and sisters, native language of parents; name, grade of last school attended; yearly marks by grade and subject, Arr. alph. by name of pupil. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 1903-22, 1936--; hdw. 1922-36. 13 x 11½ x 26.

48. MASSACHUSETTS SCHOOL REGISTER (of Enrollment and Attendance), 1922--. 540 vols. (labeled by dates and grade nos.).
Prior records destroyed. Subtitled by name of school and teacher.

Name, grade of school; name, period of service, education of teacher; name, address, place and date of birth, date of enrollment, age of pupil; name of parent or guardian; attendance record by day, week, and month; opening and closing dates of school year; number of days in session, pupils enrolled; aggregate and average attendance by month and year, monthly and annual percentage of attendance, total and average monthly and annual membership. Arr. by year, thereunder by grade no., and thereunder alph. by name of pupil. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 24 pp. 12 x 9½ x ¼. 500 vols., 1922-37, school supply rm.; 40 vols., 1937--, in custody of teachers.

49. CENSUS (of Children of School Age), 1922--. 1 f. b. Prior records destroyed.

Name, address, age, sex, place and date of birth of child; name, birthplace of parent or guardian; name of school last attended, total days of attendance, date of census. Arr. alph. by name of child. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 5½ x 13½ x 26.

50. STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS, 1933--. 2 f. b. System estab. 1933. 1 f. b., 1933-36, subtitled Deposit - Payment - Vouchers, Past Years; 1 f. b., 1937--, subtitled Current School Year. Record of class bank deposits and withdrawals: Name of class; amount, date of deposit, withdrawal; amount of balance, signature of class treasurer. Arr. by class. No index. Hdw. 1933-37; typed 1938--. 5 x 6½ x 18. Bookkeeping rm.

Financial Records

51. RECORD OF EXPENDITURES), 1925--. 1 bdl., 1 vol. Prior records destroyed.

Expenditures for salaries, textbooks, supplies, maintenance, repairs, school libraries, health, transportation, agricultural departments; Name of payee, account charged; amount, purpose, date of expenditures; annual total. Arr. chron. by date of expenditure. No index. Hdw. Bdl., 1925-27, 12 x 24 x 1; vol., 1927--, 300 pp. 12 x 24 x 2.

52. PAY ROLLS, 1922--. 12 folders. Prior records destroyed. Name, position, salary of employee; amount, date of pay roll. Arr. chron. by date of pay roll and thereunder alph. by name of employee. No index. Hdw. 9 x 12 x 1. School supply rm.

Miscellaneous

53. (TEACHERS' CASE HISTORIES), 1922--. 1 f. b. Prior records destroyed. Name, address, age, sex, education, prior teaching experience of teacher; record of service in Agawam; remarks of superintendent; cause; date of resignation (if any). Arr. alph. by name of teacher. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 13 x 11½ x 26.

54. CORRESPONDENCE, 1922--. 2 f. b. Prior records destroyed. Title varies: Miscellaneous, 1922--. Correspondence with state board of education, parents, applicants for employment, business concerns. Arr. chron. by date of correspondence. No index. Hdw. or typed. 15 x 15 x 30.

XII. LIBRARY TRUSTEES¹

Library trustees have been elected continuously since 1891 when a board of three members was created.² one being elected each year for a three-year term.

55. (MINUTES OF LIBRARY ASSOCIATION MEETINGS), 1925--. 1 vol. Place, date of meeting; names, titles of elected officers; discussion of and decisions on matters pertaining to library improvements, salaries of employees, budget, accessions, circulation; signature of clerk of association. Arr. chron. by date of meeting. No index. Hdw. 150 pp. 8 x 10 x ½. Residence of Dana Stedman, Central St.

56. (TREASURER'S CASH BOOK OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES), 1925--. 1 vol. Receipts: Name of payer; source, amount, date of receipt; date of entry, total annual receipts. Expenditures: Name of payee; purpose, amount, date of expenditure; date of entry, total annual payments. Arr. chron. by date of entry. No index. Hdw. 250 pp. 8 x 13 x 1. Residence of Harold P. Worthington, Elm St.

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

2. Ibid., II, 452-453.

XIII. BOARD OF PUBLIC WELFARE¹

From 1855 to 1934 the dispensing of public charity was placed in the hands of the selectmen, who in 1933 delegated this work to a welfare agent.² At the annual election of officers on February 5, 1934, a separate board of public welfare was established, composed of three members, one elected each year for a three-year term.³ At a subsequent meeting on February 10, 1934, the town authorized the board to appoint the agent,⁴ who was given jurisdiction over old age assistance and mother's aid (now aid to dependent children), as well as over general welfare.

All records are in the Welfare Building; except where otherwise noted, they are in the welfare office. In addition to the following records, see entries 5, 6 for soldiers' relief records.

General Cases

57. REGISTER OF PERSONS AIDED, 1902--. 3 vols. Title varies: Partial and Full Support, 1902-12; Pauper Register, 1913-35.

Name, address, age, sex, birthplace, marital status, employability, mental condition, register number of recipient; place of settlement, amount of earnings, date of first grant; amount, nature, date of aid; nativity of parents; remarks. 1913-- includes color, physical condition, drinking habits of recipient; place of aid; manner, date of discharge; cause, date of death; age at death. 2 vols., 1902-12, 1936-- , arr. alph. by name of recipient; 1 vol., 1913-35, arr. by register no. Hdw. on ptd. form. No index. 80 pp. 17 x 12 x $\frac{1}{2}$. Safe, welfare agent's off.

58. WELFARE CASES, 1922--. 4 f. b. (labeled by inclusive case nos., 1-676). System estab. 1922.

Contains recipients' case records including application and first interview, reports, questionnaires, case history card, record of aid rendered, correspondence, etc. Arr. by case no. For index, see entry 59. Hdw. 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 11 x 28 $\frac{1}{2}$.

59. TEMPORARY AID, 1922--. 1 f. b.

Index to Welfare Cases, entry 58; Old Age Assistance Cases, 1931-- , entry 63; Name, relief status of recipient; case number. Arr. alph. by name of recipient. Typed on ptd. form. 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 5 x 28 $\frac{1}{2}$. Cabinet.

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

2. Annual Reports, 1933, p. 9, see entry 2.

3. Records - Town of Agawam, V, 381-2, see entry 8.

4. Ibid., p. 392.

60. (CASE HISTORY AND EXPENDITURE CARD), 1934--. 9 kardex files.
System estab. 1934.

Card showing recipient's case history and record of aid rendered, transferred to Welfare Cases, entry 58, when case is closed or card filled: Name, address of recipient; number, names, ages, sex of dependents; cause of dependency; amount, type, date, place of aid; case number. Arr. alph. by name of recipient. No index. Typed. 24 x 12 x 1.

61. WELFARE - GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE, 1922--. 1 f. b. Prior records destroyed.

Correspondence with welfare departments of other municipalities, state department of public welfare, recipients, hospitals, etc., relative to recipients of aid and administration of department. Also contains notices of meetings of welfare associations and price lists from vendors of supplies and materials. Correspondence arr. alph. by name of correspondent; other records, no arr. No index. Hdw. or typed. 13½ x 11 x 28½.

Old Age Assistance

62. (REGISTER OF PERSONS AIDED), 1931--. 1 vol.

Name, address, sex, color, marital status, place and date of birth, mental condition of recipient; place of settlement; places, dates of prior aid; names, birthplaces of parents; manner, date of discharge; age at death, cause of death. Arr. alph. by name of recipient. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form, 100 pp. 11½ x 17 x ½. Safe, welfare agent's off.

63. OLD AGE ASSISTANCE CASES, 1931--. 2 f. b.

Contains recipients' case records, including application for aid, intertown notices, reopening notices, denial of settlement, billings, questionnaires, reports, case history cards, record of aid rendered, correspondence, etc. Arr. by case no. For index see entry 59. Hdw. or typed on ptd. form. 11 x 13 x 25. Cabinet.

64. OLD AGE ASSISTANCE, 1931--. 9 kardex files (labeled by contained letters of alphabet).

Recipients' card case histories and record of aid rendered, transferred to Old Age Assistance Cases, entry 63, when case is closed or card filled: Name, address of recipient; names of parents; number, names, ages of children; cause of dependency; place, date of aid; case number. Arr. alph. by name of recipient. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 24 x 12 x 1. Cabinet.

XIV. DISTRICT NURSE¹

The district nurse is under the control of the Agawam Community Health Association, the office having been created in 1928. Since 1934, the community has subsidized the association by paying monthly the difference between the amount of fees collected by the nurse, and her stated salary.² The town administration also provides an office, where the records are kept, and facilities in the schools for the clinics operated by her.

Except where otherwise noted, all records are in the American Legion room, Agawam High School.

65. (PATIENTS' CASE HISTORIES), 1928--. 3 f. b.

Contains:

- i. Conference and home-visit notes: Name, weight, condition of patient; date of visit, recording; remarks.
- ii. Family history: Date of recording; names, ages, occupations, birthplaces, financial condition, religious affiliations of parents; period of residence in United States; names, birthplaces, color, dates of birth, occupations or school of children; housing conditions, number of visits; cause, date of discharge; disposition of case.
- iii. Medical history: Name, address, age, color, occupation, physical condition, date of birth, case number of patient; name of informant, nurse; name, address of physician; results of diagnosis, date of recording.

Arr. chron. by date of recording. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 13½ x 11 x 28.

66. (RECORDS OF BABY CLINICS), 1935--. 3 wooden boxes.
System estab. 1935.

Records of baby clinics held at the Springfield Street School, Agawam Baptist Church, and North Agawam School: Name, age, weight, height, general progress of baby; weight and date of last weighing, treatment prescribed, name of clinic attendant; location, date of clinic. Arr. alph. by name of baby. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 13 x 10 x 8. 2 boxes, 1935--, Springfield Street School; 1 box, 1935--, North Agawam School.

67. (RECORD OF FEES COLLECTED), 1928--. 1 f. b.

Name, address of patient; amount of fee, date of payment. Arr. chron. by date of payment. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 13½ x 11 x 28.

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

2. Annual Reports, 1934, pp. 13-14, see entry 2.

68. (RECORD OF FREE CALLS), 1928--. 1 f. b.

Record of medical assistance rendered to patients unable to pay fee: Name, address of patient; date, length of call; nature of aid rendered. Arr. chron. by date of call. No index. Hdw. 13½ x 11 x 28.

XV. INSPECTOR OF ANIMALS¹

The inception date of this office was 1892, when the selectmen appointed one inspector to serve for one year.² The office has continued on this basis to the present time.

No records were found for this office.

XVI. INSPECTOR OF MEATS¹

The inspector of meats has been appointed annually by the selectmen since 1892.³ The inspector of meats keeps no records.

XVII. CEMETERY COMMISSIONERS¹

Agawam cemeteries are not the property of the town. Since 1900, however, contributions have been made to the Feeding Hills Cemetery Association,⁴ which was incorporated in 1858 and a cemetery commission of three members, one elected each year for a three-year term,⁵ has been recognized as representing town interests. The records of the association are in the custody of the treasurer, who is also a commissioner.

All records are in the residence of Arthur Taylor (ommissioner), 544 South Westfield Street, Feeding Hills.

69. (MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETINGS OF FEEDING HILLS CEMETERY ASSOCIATION), 1858--. 1 vol.

Place, date of meeting; business discussed, actions taken. Arr. chron. by date of meeting. No index. Hdw. 100 pp. 7 x 10 x ¾.

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

2. Records - Town of Agawam, II, 482, see entry 8.

3. Ibid., II, 482.

4. Annual Reports, 1900-37, see entry 2.

5. Records - Town of Agawam, III, 146, see entry 8.

70. (RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES OF FEEDING HILLS CEMETERY ASSOCIATION), 1860--. 1 vol. Prior records lost.
Receipts: Date, source, amount of receipt. Expenditures: Date, purpose, amount of expenditure; annual balance. Arr. chron. by date of transaction. No index. Hdw. 100 pp. 8 x 7 x $\frac{3}{4}$.
71. (RECORD OF SALE OF CEMETERY LOTS), 1876--. 2 vols. System estab. 1876.
Location of lot, date of sale, name of purchaser. Arr. chron. by date of sale. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 200 pp. 10 x 11 x $1\frac{1}{2}$.
72. (BANK DEPOSIT BOOKS), 1904--. 50 vols. Prior records destroyed.
Record of deposits of funds by lot owners or relatives of deceased persons for perpetual care of lots in Feeding Hills Cemetery: Name of bank; amounts, itemization, dates of deposits. Arr. chron. by date of deposit. No index. Hdw. 20 pp. 6 x 4 x $\frac{1}{2}$.
73. (FORMATION AND BYLAWS OF FEEDING HILLS CEMETERY ASSOCIATION), July 6, 1858.
Narrative account of the formation of Feeding Hills Cemetery Association; includes bylaws of the association. No arr. No index. Typed. 5 pp. 9 x 6 x $1\frac{1}{8}$.

XVIII. BURIAL AGENT¹

The inception date of this office was 1888, when the selectmen appointed an agent to serve for one year.² This procedure has been followed annually since that year. The burial agent keeps no records.

XIX. FOREMAN OF HIGHWAYS¹

In 1892, the selectmen appointed a "superintendent of streets."³ Annual appointments continued, under the title of "highway superintendent" or "superintendent of roads and bridges." The office was given its current title, "foreman of highways" in 1927.⁴

All records are in the highway office, Welfare Building. In addition to the following records, see entry 8-vi for action taken on petitions for lay-out, repair, and relocation of highways.

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

2. Records - Town of Agawam, II, meeting of June 4, 1888, see entry 8.

3. Ibid., II, 483.

4. Ibid., V, 126.

(74-77)

Foreman of Highways

74. (EXCERPTS FROM HIGHWAY REPORTS), 1892-1935. 2 vols. 1867-91, 1936--., yet to be compiled.

Excerpts from annual reports of highway officer showing amount of appropriation, expenditures, balances or overdrafts; names, wages of laborers; period of work; cost of materials, equipment; record of streets accepted. Arr. chron. by year. No index. Typed. 150 pp. 7 x 9 x 1. Safe.

75. (MISCELLANEOUS PLANS), 1930--. Approx. 420 plans.

Blueprints of water mains, sewers, drains, road lay-outs, and telegraph and telephone pole locations. Draftsman, John E. Malley; Springfield, publisher unknown. Blueprint. 1":50'. Sizes vary. Cabinet.

76. (ZONING MAP), 1928. 1 map.

Map showing business, residential "A", and residential "B" zones. Draftsman, Joseph Woodruff; Springfield, Edward H. Perkins. Ptd., black-and-white. 1":1600'. 19 x 24.

XX. WATER COMMISSION¹

Since its origin in 1905² the water commission has been composed of three members, one of whom is elected each year for a three-year term.³ This board does not handle any funds. Water rates are committed annually to the tax collector; expenditures are made and recorded by the treasurer. In addition to the following records, see entry 8-xvii for legislative act establishing water system 1905; entries 34, 35 respectively for commitment and collection of water rates.

77. (METER READINGS), 1906--. 25 vols. (marked by precinct letter), A, B, or C).

Name of property owner, location of property, quarterly reading, last quarterly reading previous year. Arr. by name of st. and thereunder by house no. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 60 pp. 8½ x 4½ x ½. Town va., Agawam High School.

XXI. TREE WARDEN¹

This office has been subject to annual election since its inception in 1900.⁴

The tree warden keeps no records.

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1. For the statutory origin and duties of this office, see Town and City Government in Massachusetts.
 2. Records - Town of Agawam, III, 294, see entry 8.
 3. Ibid. passim.
 4. Records - Town of Agawam, III, 138, see entry 8.

XXII. GYPSY MOTH SUPERINTENDENT¹

Authentic records of the establishment of the office of gypsy moth superintendent are not available, though it was presumably created in 1929, for a report, specified as the first report of the office, appeared in the annual town reports for that year.² The first recorded appointment was that by the selectmen in 1935.³ The appointee is required to work under the direction of the state forester in the elimination and destruction of brown tail or gypsy moths, their eggs, caterpillars, pupae and nests. The appointments by the selectmen are subject to the approval of the state department of conservation.

The gypsy moth superintendent keeps no records.

XXIII. SURVEYORS OF LUMBER¹

The office was established in 1855, when two surveyors of lumber were elected for one year.⁴ In succeeding years the number varied, though usually two were elected.⁵ Since 1900, they have been appointed by the selectmen⁶ with the number of incumbents established at two.

The surveyors keep no records.

XXIV. MEASURERS OF WOOD¹

At the first election of town officers in 1855 three measurers of wood were chosen for a one-year term.⁷ This procedure was followed in succeeding years, but the number chosen varied frequently. Since 1900, four have been appointed by the selectmen.⁸ Their duties, defined in

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

2. Annual Reports, 1929, p. 68, see entry 2.

3. Minutes of Selectmen's Meetings, III, 75, see entry 1.

4. Records - Town of Agawan, I, 6, see entry 8.

5. Ibid., passim.

6. Ibid., III, 140.

7. Ibid., I, 6, see entry 8.

8. Ibid., III, 140.

Chap. 41, Secs. 85-86, Mass. Gen. Laws, consist of measuring, checking and marking all wood (presumably cord wood for use as fuel) produced for sale in the town.

No records of this office have been found.

XXV. PUBLIC WEIGHERS¹

This office was established in 1870, when three public weighers were elected for one year.² The number varied in subsequent years. In 1904, when the office became appointive by the selectmen, six men were named for the office.³ In recent years it has been customary to appoint four public weighers.⁴

The public weighers keep no records.

XXVI. FIELD DRIVERS AND POUNDKEEPERS¹

Field drivers have been elected annually since 1855, when ten men were chosen for the year.⁵ The following year it was voted that the field drivers should also serve as poundkeepers.⁶ The number of incumbents diminished with the importance of the office, so that in recent years two only have been elected.

These officers keep no records.

XXVII. TOWN COUNSEL¹

The town counsel has been appointed annually by the selectmen since 1925, the year of inception of the office.⁷

He keeps no records.

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

2. Records - Town of Agawam, I, 297.

3. Ibid., III, 251.

4. Ibid., passim.

5. Ibid., 5-6.

6. Ibid., I, 20.

7. Annual Reports, 1912, 54, see entry 2.

XXVIII. CONSTABLES¹

At the first election of town officers in 1855 two constables were elected for one year.² The number has varied, with a tendency to increase, and ten is now the customary number, all elected annually for terms of one year. On April 12, 1875, the town voted that the constables be made truant and police officers,³ which is their present status. As police officers, they are under the control of the chief of police.

The constables keep no records, but see entry 8-xvi for constables' returns on town-meeting warrants.

XXIX. CHIEF OF POLICE¹

On April 12, 1875 it was voted by the town that the constables be made truant and police officers.⁴ They have continued as such to the present day.

A chief of police was appointed in 1923 by the selectmen to hold office during good behavior.⁵ In 1937 he was placed under civil service.⁶

All records are in the police office, residence of P.J. Hewey (chief), 468 Springfield Street.

78. POLICE BLOTTER (Record of Arrests), 1926---. 2 vols.
Prior records destroyed.

Name, address, age, sex of offender; nature, date of offense, name of arresting officer, judicial disposition, date of entry. Also contains: Record of cars stolen: Name, address of owner; make, type, year of car; motor, serial, registration number; place last seen; date of theft, report; date of entry. Arr. chron. by date of entry. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 100 pp. 12 x 8 x 1.

79. (RECORD OF CRIMES COMMITTED), 1926---. 1 f. b. Prior records destroyed.

Name, address, age, sex, color, physical description of criminal; previous criminal record; place, nature, date, time of crime. Arr. alph. by name of criminal. No index. Hdw. 5 x 4 x 18.

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

2. Records - Town of Agawam, I, 4, see entry 8.

3. Ibid., II, 126.

4. Ibid., p. 126.

5. Ibid., IV, 449.

6. Annual Reports, 1937, p. 13, see entry 2.

(80-83)

Chief of Police

80. (RECORD OF STOLEN PROPERTY OTHER THAN CARS), 1926--. 1 f. b.

Prior records destroyed.

Name, address of owner, complainant; description, value of property; amount of insurance; place, date of theft; results of police investigation. Arr. alph. by name of complainant. No index. Hdw. 5 x 4 x 18.

81. (NOTICES OF MEN WANTED), 1923--. 2 bulletin boards. Prior records destroyed.

Notices sent by federal bureau of investigation and state commissioner of correction: Name, aliases, home address, physical description, habits, marks of identification, photograph, fingerprints of man wanted; place last seen, nature of crime, date of notice. Arr. chron. by date of notice. No index. Ptd. 9 x 12.

82. (CORRESPONDENCE), 1937--. 1 f. b. Prior records destroyed.

Correspondence with federal, state, city and town law enforcement agencies relative to police activities; letters from the judiciary requesting information on offenders. Arr. chron. by date of correspondence. No index. Hdw. or typed. 13 x 11 x 25.

XXX. FIRE ENGINEERS¹

The first official action taken in Agawam on the problem of fighting fires occurred in 1887,² when three fire-wards were appointed by the selectmen to serve one year.³ In 1914 the title of "fire engineers" was given to these appointees,³ but in the annual town reports for 1914-1922 they are called "fire commissioners". The fire department force, which is now divided into three units, has always been composed of volunteer companies. The oldest unit, in North Agawam, organized in 1907 (see entry 101); those in Agawam and Feeding Hills were formed in 1914 and 1917 respectively (see entries 105 and 108). The following records are kept by these three units.

North Agawam Unit

83. (MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETINGS), 1907--. 3 vols.

Discussions and decisions on personnel, equipment, complaints, social affairs; names of members present, date of meeting. Arr. chron. by date of meeting. No index. Hdw. 150 pp. 12 x 10 x 1. Off., Fire Station.

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

2. Records - Town of Agawam, II, 315, see entry 8.

3. Ibid., IV, 159.

84. FIRE REPORTS OF FIRE CLERK, 1935--. 1 vol. Prior records destroyed. Subtitled North Agawam, A.F.D. No. 1. Record of fires: Location, cause, date, time of fire; amount of damage; total annual number of fires, method of report. Arr. chron. by date of fire. No index. Hdw. 100 pp. 9 x 6 x $\frac{1}{2}$. Residence of John Parent, 39 King St.

85. APPLICATION FOR PERMITS, 1933--. 1 desk drawer. Prior records destroyed. Applications for permits to install oil-heating apparatus and to keep, store, and use oil or gasoline: Name, address of applicant; kind of fuel; capacity; location of tank; name of heating apparatus; date of application, signature of applicant. Arr. chron. by date of application. No index. Hdw. or typed. 6 x 12 x 24. Residence of E.J. Gosselin, 25 Church St.

86. PERMITS, 1933--. 1 desk drawer. Prior records destroyed. Copies of permits to install oil-heating apparatus and to store and use oil or gasoline: Name, address of licensee; kind of fuel; capacity, location of tank; name of heating apparatus, date of installation; signature, address of person making installation; name, approval of inspector; date of issue. Arr. chron. by date of issue. No index. Hdw. or typed. 6 x 12 x 24. Residence of E.J. Gosselin, 25 Church St.

Agawam Center Unit

87. (MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETINGS), 1914--. 2 vols. For description, see entry 83. Arr. chron. by date of meeting. No index. Hdw. 150 pp. 12 x 10 x 1. Residence of John Schwartz, 639 River Road.

88. RECORD OF FIRES, 1931--. 1 vol. Prior records destroyed. Location, type, date of fire; extent of damage; record of false alarms, alarms outside of district. Arr. chron. by date of fire. No index. Hdw. 50 pp. 3 x 6 x $\frac{1}{4}$. Residence of David A. Trehey, Adams St.

89. APPLICATION FOR PERMITS, 1925--. 1 desk drawer. System estab. 1925. Applications for permits to install oil-heating apparatus and to keep, store, and use oil or gasoline: For description, see entry 85. Arr. by date of application. No index. Hdw. and typed. 6 x 12 x 24. Residence of Frank T. Goss, 121 Elm St.

90. PERMITS, 1925--. 1 desk drawer. System estab. 1925. Copies of permits to install oil-heating apparatus and to store and use oil or gasoline: For description, see entry 86. Arr. chron. by date of issue. No index. Hdw. or typed. 6 x 12 x 24. Residence of Frank T. Goss, 121 Elm St.

Feeding Hills Unit

91. (MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETINGS), 1917--. 2 vols.

For description, see entry 83. Arr. chron. by date of meeting. No index. Hdw. 100 pp. 10 x 8 x 1. Firemen's social rm., Town Barn, Westfield St., Feeding Hills.

92. RECORD OF FIRES, 1925--. 1 vol. Prior records destroyed.

For description, see entry 88. Arr. chron. by date of fire. No index. Hdw. 50 pp. 4 x 8 x $\frac{1}{2}$. Residence of Alvin R. Kellogg, No. Westfield St., Feeding Hills.

93. APPLICATION FOR PERMITS, 1936--. 1 desk drawer. Prior records destroyed.

Applications for permits to install oil-heating apparatus and to keep, store, and use oil or gasoline: For description, see entry 85. Arr. chron. by date of application. No index. Hdw. or typed. 6 x 12 x 24. Residence of R.S. Farnsworth, West St., Feeding Hills.

94. PERMITS, 1936--. 1 desk drawer. Prior records destroyed.

Copies of permits to install oil-heating apparatus and to keep, store, and use oil or gasoline: For description, see entry 86. Arr. chron. by date of issue. No index. Hdw. or typed. 6 x 12 x 24. Residence of R.S. Farnsworth, West St., Feeding Hills.

XXXI. SEALER OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES¹

The office of sealer of weights and measures was originally an elective one, the first sealer having been chosen for one year on June 27, 1855.² Annual elections to this office continued until 1900,³ after which the selectmen appointed the sealer annually.

All records are in the residence of Edwin U. Leonard (sealer), South Westfield Street, Feeding Hills.

95. (OFFICE RECORD OF INSPECTIONS), 1918--. 1 vol. Prior records destroyed.

Inspection of weighing and measuring devices: Name, address, occupation of owner; type, description of equipment; results, date of inspection; amount of adjustment fee, date of entry; remarks. Arr. chron. by date of entry. No index. Hdw. 100 pp. 11 x 19 x 1.

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

2. Records - Town of Agawam, I, 4, see entry 8.

3. Ibid., III, 388.

96. (FIELD BOOK OF INSPECTIONS), 1930--. 12 vols.

Prior records destroyed.

Inspection of weighing and measuring devices and commodities: Name, home address, business address of owner; type of equipment, commodity; results, date of inspection; amount of adjustment fee. Arr. alph. by name of owner. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 100 pp. 3 x 5 x $\frac{1}{2}$.

97. (COAL REWEIGHING RECORD), 1918--. 1 vol. Prior records destroyed.

Name of dealer, driver, weigher; gross, tare weight of coal; results, date of test. Arr. chron. by date of test. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 100 pp. 11 x 19 x 1.

XXXII. DOG OFFICER¹

The dog officer has been appointed annually by the selectmen since 1935.²

He keeps no records.

XXXIII. ZONING COMMITTEE¹

The present zoning committee had its origin in a temporary committee which was created by the following vote at the town meeting of March 12, 1927: "Voted - that the moderator appoint a committee of three, one member from each precinct of the town, to consider the need of and method of a zoning law for the town of Agawam, this committee to report at a special town meeting not later than September 1, 1927."³ The committee reported at a meeting held August 16, 1927, at which time an appropriation of \$1000 was voted to them "to be expended in the preparing of zoning laws and the necessary maps of the Town of Agawam."⁴ The zoning laws were accepted by the town, April 6, 1928.⁵ On June 30, 1930, provision for the permanent zoning committee was made in the following amendment of Section 1 of the zoning laws: "The Moderator of the town shall appoint a committee consisting of two voters from each precinct of the town, which committee shall be known as a Zoning Committee. The term of office of two members to terminate on the date of the annual town meeting in 1932

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

2. Records - Town of Agawam, III, 25, see entry 8.

3. Ibid., V, 124.

4. Ibid., p. 131.

5. Ibid., pp. 150-153.

Zoning Committee

and the term of office of two members to terminate on the date of the annual town meeting in 1933. Each year thereafter the Moderator shall within one week after the annual town meeting, appoint two persons to the said committee to replace the members whose term expires."¹

The committee keeps no records, but see entry 8-ii for zoning bylaws 1928.

XXXIV. MODERATOR²

The moderator was the only officer elected at the first meeting in 1855.³ He has always been chosen annually. He was nominated from the floor until 1929;⁴ in 1930 the office was placed on the ballot;⁵ and in 1934 a yearly remuneration of \$25 was voted by the town.⁶ The moderator presides at all meetings of the town, regulates the proceedings, decides all questions of order, and makes public declaration of all votes. His powers are specified in chap. 39, Mass. Gen. Laws, but additional authority may be delegated to him by vote of the town.

The moderator keeps no records.

XXXV. FENCE VIEWERS²

This has been an elective office since its inception in 1855, when five fence viewers were elected.⁷ The number has varied in succeeding years, two being the usual number.

The fence viewers keep no records, but see entry 8-iv for reports on boundary agreements 1897, 1913.

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1. Ibid., V, 241.
 2. For the statutory origin and duties of this office, see Town and City Government in Massachusetts.
 3. Records - Town of Agawam, I, 4, see entry 8.
 4. Ibid., passim.
 5. Ibid., V, 213, 230.
 6. Ibid., p. 393.
 7. Ibid., I, 5-6, see entry 8.

Part C. DEFUNCT OFFICES

XXXVI. TYTHINGMEN¹

Five tythingmen were elected to serve for one year at the first election of officers in 1855. This office was one of a group whose members were nominated from the floor.² Once important custodians of public morals and seemly behavior on the Sabbath, by 1855, the tythingmen had become little more than honorary survivals of Puritan days. In 1859, therefore, it was "voted not to chose tythingmen".³

XXXVII. SEALER OF LEATHER¹

In 1885 one sealer of leather was elected "by nomination", and⁴ until 1898 this office was filled annually.⁵

XXXVIII. SURVEYORS OF HIGHWAY¹

The first highway surveyors were elected in 1855, when nine were chosen, "one for each school district".⁶ Elections of these officers continued annually, with slight variations in the number chosen, until the selectmen appointed ten surveyors in 1872⁷ and for the five years thereafter. In 1878 the town voted that "the care of the highways be left in the hands of the selectmen".⁸ Later three elected road commissioners functioned briefly from 1889 to 1892.

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

2. Records - Town of Agawam, I, 6, see entry 8.

3. Ibid., p. 74.

4. Ibid., p. 7.

5. Ibid., III, 3, 86.

6. Ibid., I, 4.

7. Ibid., II, 39.

8. Ibid., p. 191.

XXXIX. ROAD COMMISSIONERS¹

In 1889 a board of three road commissioners was elected at the town meeting, the members to serve one, two, and three-year terms respectively.² One commissioner was chosen each year thereafter for a three-year term until 1892 when the selectmen again resumed general charge of highway matters, appointing a superintendent or foreman to manage the details.³

XL. FISH AND GAME WARDENS¹

Occasional appointments to this office are recorded in the town meeting records, the first mention of a fish warden appearing in the minutes of a meeting held on April 20, 1879.⁴ On April 3, 1894, two men were given this duty⁵ and on April 3, 1903 three "fish and game wardens" were appointed by the selectmen.⁶ These isolated entries indicate that the selectmen appointed these officials; in 1912, however, all fish and game wardens came under the jurisdiction of the state Board of Fisheries and Game.⁷

XLI. PARK COMMISSIONER¹

On May 1, 1893, a park commissioner was chosen for one year by the selectmen,⁸ who during the next decade repeated this appointment intermittently. In 1905 the town-meeting warrant included an article representing the question of whether or not a board of three members should be elected, who would serve for three-year terms. The majority of the voters were opposed to the creation of such a board⁹ and to the present time no further action has been taken by the town.

XLII. AUCTIONEER¹

Two isolated entries in the town-meeting records tell of the appointment by the selectmen of an auctioneer, the first appearing on Nov. 3, 1893¹⁰, the second on April 10, 1908.¹¹

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1. For the statutory origin and duties of this office, see Town and City Government in Massachusetts.
 2. Records - Town of Agawam, II, 411, see entry 8.
 3. Ibid., p. 474.
 4. Ibid., p. 218.
 5. Ibid., p. 531.
 6. Ibid., III, 224.
 7. Acts 1912, chap. 465.
 8. Records - Town of Agawam, II, 512, see entry 2.
 9. Ibid., 294.
 10. Ibid., II, 72, see entry 8.
 11. Ibid., III, 390.

APPENDIX

Manuscripts

The following manuscripts are found in room 438, State Archives, State House, Boston.

1. (PETITION OF SUNDRY INHABITANTS OF THE WEST SIDE OF SPRINGFIELD FOR A MORE CONVENIENT PLACE OF WORSHIP), May 29, 1695. 1 sheet.

Sundry inhabitants of the west side of the Connecticut river in Springfield stated they experienced great difficulties in passing said river, not only on their business interests but also in going to their worship on Sundays; that on account of said difficulties and the great distance, their children were unable to receive religious instruction; that since the petitioners had helped to build the meeting house on the east side of the river, and since inhabitants on the east side of the river had failed to keep their promise to give relief, the petitioners, numbering thirty-five families, prayed to be granted leave to procure a minister, and that the lands on the west side be taxed only for support of the new minister or that both ministers be supported by a proportionate tax on all inhabitants; the House of Representatives voted that a committee be appointed to consider the petition, concurred to by council, the House of Representatives read petition and voted that inhabitants on each side of river appear at next session, June 13, 1695; of the General Assembly to show cause why petition should not be granted; concurred to by the Council, June 17, 1695. Hdw. 2 pp. 8 x 13. In "Ecclesiastical, 1679-1739", vol. 11, pp. 109-109A.

2. (REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON PETITION OF SUNDRY INHABITANTS OF THE WEST SIDE OF SPRINGFIELD FOR A MORE CONVENIENT PLACE OF WORSHIP), Sept 12, 1696. 1 sheet.

The committee appointed by the General Court to consider said petition reported that they judged the petition reasonable, and the settlement of a minister in the West part of the town would be of advantage to the petitioners and also to the whole town; the majority of the committee recommended that the new minister be maintained by the inhabitants of the west side and others such as from time to time join them; read and accepted by the Council and ordered that an agreeable order be drawn up; concurred to by the House of Representatives, Sept. 28, 1696; the House of Representatives voted to defer action until Oct. 1, adjournment of court; on Nov. 25, 1696, the House of Representatives and Council passed the order. In "Ecclesiastical, 1679-1739", vol. 11, p. 107.

3. (AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE DIVISION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF SPRINGFIELD), Feb. 22, 1775. 3 sheets.

Because of the great extent of the township of Springfield and the remote settlements of different interests therein, it is difficult for the inhabitants to attend activities at the meeting house; and since the Connecticut river almost equally divides the town, be it enacted that the part of the township of Springfield lying on the west side of said river, and the inhabitants therein be erected into a distinct town by the name of West Springfield and invested with all powers to which towns are entitled; read in the House of Representatives, Feb. 18, 1775 and Feb. 19, 1775; passed to be engrossed on Feb. 21, 1775; read and passed by the Council on Feb. 22, 1775. Hdw. 5 pp. 8 x 12. In "Towns, 1763-1774", vol. 18., pp. 808-812.

4. (PETITION OF SUNDRY INHABITANTS OF WEST SPRINGFIELD FOR A SEPARATE TOWN TO BE CALLED AGAWAM), Feb. 24, 1855. 1 sheet.

Petition to the Senate and House of Representatives in which petitioners stated that the town of West Springfield was ten miles from north to south, and was divided near the center by the Agawam River, running east to west; that the portion of the town south of the river contained about twenty-four square miles, and had a population of sixteen hundred; that said section of town contained the parishes of Agawam and Feeding Hills, and to all intents and purposes was one town; that the inhabitants were obliged to travel a great distance to town meetings; therefore petitioners asked that said section be set off as a separate town to be called Agawam. Samuel Flower, Lyman Whitman, Henry Worthington, L. R. Button, L. W. Hubbard, Thomas W. Chapman, Thadus Griswold, Thaddeus B. Gooch, and William Pierce were a few of the one hundred and forty-eight signers of the petition. Hdw. 1 p. 8 x 39½. In folder titled "Acts, Chapter 365, 1855."

5. (ORDER ON PETITION OF SUNDRY INHABITANTS OF WEST SPRINGFIELD FOR A SEPARATE TOWN), Feb. 28, 1855. 1 sheet.

Order of the Senate that petitioners cause an attached copy of their petition with this order to be served on the town clerk of West Springfield and also to be published in the Springfield Republican and Independent American for two weeks each, the first publication to be ten days at least before the nineteenth of March to enable all persons interested to appear and show cause why petition should not be granted. The House of Representatives, on March 1, 1855, concurred; signature of constable, Wm. H. Miller, attesting to serving of order on clerk of West Springfield, Mar. 19, 1855. Hdw. 1 p. 8½ x 4. In folder titled "Acts, Chapter 365, 1855."

6. (PETITION OF SUNDAY INHABITANTS OF WEST SPRINGFIELD AGAINST DIVISION OF TOWN), Mar. 1, 1855. 1 sheet.

Petition to the Senate and House of Representatives in which petitioners stated that the separation of the parishes of Feeding Hills and Agawam into a separate township would not promote the interests of the inhabitants, and therefore asked that the petition of Samuel Flower and others be not granted. Samuel Palmer, H. E. Roberts, Henry Hedges, James Aldrich, William Loomis, C. C. Wright, Lyman Chandler, and Daniel A. Moffatt were among the fifty-eight signers of the petition presented by C. H. Hawkes. The Senate on March 8, 1855, referred petition to committee on towns in the House of Representatives; on March 9, 1855, the House of Representatives concurred. Hdw. 1 p. 8 x 20½. In folder titled "Acts, Chapter 365, 1855."

7. (AMENDMENT TO THE ORDER ON PETITION OF SUNDRY INHABITANTS OF WEST SPRINGFIELD FOR A SEPARATE TOWN), Mar. 13, 1855.
1 sheet.

Order of the House of Representatives that said order be changed to read ten days at least before the thirteenth day of March, instead of two weeks before the nineteenth of March; concurred to by the Senate, March 13, 1855. Hdw. 1 p. 8 x 9½. In folder titled "Acts, Chapter 365, 1855."

8. (VOTE OF REMONSTRANCE BY INHABITANTS OF WEST SPRINGFIELD AGAINST DIVISION OF TOWN), Mar. 13, 1855. 1 sheet.

At a meeting on March 13, 1855, a large majority of the two hundred inhabitants voted against the division of the town, also voting that a copy of said vote be sent to the committee of the legislature on the division of towns; vote presented by S. D. Warriner to the House of Representatives on Mar. 16, 1855, and referred to the committee on towns; the Senate concurred on Mar. 17, 1855. Hdw. 1 p. 8 x 9½. In folder titled "Acts, Chapter 365, 1855."

9. (REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON TOWNS ON PETITION OF SUNDRY INHABITANTS OF WEST SPRINGFIELD FOR A SEPARATE TOWN), April 19, 1855. 2 sheets.

Committee on towns reported to the House of Representatives that West Springfield had 3,300 inhabitants, was 47 square miles in area, and that the taxable property had a valuation of \$1,500,000; that the proposed new town had 1600 inhabitants, was 24 square miles in area, and that the taxable property was valued at \$600,000, that West Springfield was divided near the center from east to west by the Agawam river, making a most perfect boundary between West Springfield and the proposed new town; that since the northern part of said town was largely manufacturing, and the southern part agricultural, the petitioners feel a division would promote their respective interests; therefore the committee recommended, since no opposition to said petition was presented to the committee, that the petitioners' bill be passed; signed by George Fisher, chairman of the committee on towns. Hdw. 4 pp. 8 x 9½. In folder titled "Acts, Chapter 365, 1855."

10. (AN ACT TO INCORPORATE THE TOWN OF AGAWAM), May 17, 1855.
4 sheets.

Be it enacted that the part of the town of West Springfield, which lies southerly of the line commencing at the north mouth of the Agawam river and running westerly by the course and center of said river to the town of Westfield is hereby incorporated into a separate town by the name of Agawam; that said town is vested with all the powers and subject to all the duties of a town; that inhabitants shall be liable for taxes assessed, including state and county taxes, and a just proportion of debts due from the town of West Springfield before the passage of this act; that said new town shall be liable for support of their poor, and shall remain a part of West Springfield for the purpose of electing a representative to the General Court until the next apportionment of representatives; passed to be engrossed by the House of Representatives, April 26, 1855; passed by the Senate to be engrossed, May 9, 1855; approved May 17, 1855. Hdw. 4 pp. 8½ x 13½. In folder titled "Acts, Chapter 365, 1855."

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Index

(Underlined numerals refer to pages, others to entry numbers)

- Abatement, see Tax
- Abbreviations, 21
- Accessions, library, 55
- Accountant, see Town
- Accounting officer, appointed
by selectmen, 25
- Acres of land taxed, 11
- Act of General Court
authorizing water system,
8-xvii
division of Springfield, app.
3
election, 15
precinct voting, 15
separation from West
Springfield, app. 4
town incorporation, 8-vii,
app. 10
- "Agaam", 5
- Agawan, 8
Baptist Church, 41
Center fire unit, see Fire
Community Health Association,
41
fire force unit, 48
high school, 23
parish, app. 4, app. 6
river, 2, app. 4, app. 10
bridges, 7
Rye Gin, 9
tribe, 5
- Agent
burial, 43
welfare, 39
- Aggregates of
polls, 11
property, 11
taxes, 11
- Agriculture, 9
- Aid
See also Old age assistance;
Overseers; Relief; Select-
men; Welfare
dependent children, 39
mothers, 39
temporary, 59
- Airport, Bowles, 9
- Aldrich, James, app. 6
- Amendment
of bylaws, 8-ii
to petition for separate town,
app. 7
- American Legion, 17
- Animals, inspector of, 14, 42
- Annual
assessment, first, 8
report, see Report
- Appendix, 55
- Applications
for permits, 93
gasoline, 85, 98, 93
oil, 85, 98, 93
burner, 93
for property tax abatement
personal, 27
real, 27
- Appointment of
teachers, 44
town officers, 1
- Appropriations
highway, 74
school, 35
for zoning committee, 51
- Area of
land
purchased, 5
taxed, 11
town, 9
- Assessments, see Tax
- Assessors, 23
board of
history of, 15, 29, 30
records of, 25, 35
location of, 18
selectmen as, 14, 23, 29
- Assignment
of personal property, 20-i
of wages, 20-ii
- Association
Community Health, 15
Feeding Hills Cemetery, 42
library, 55
- Attachment, writs of, 20-ix
- Attendance
officer, 46
school, 45
- Auctioneer
history of, 54
license, 8-xii
- Auditor
elected, 14

Index

Auditor (Cont'd.)

- history of, 34
- state, 33
- town, 33
- Australian ballot law adopted, 15

B

- Baby clinics
 - Agawam Baptist Church, 66
 - North Agawam School, 66
 - Springfield Street School, 66
- Bank
 - deposit books, 72
 - statement, 40
- Beaver, 5
- Berkshire, 5
- Bills
 - payable, departmental, 37
 - of sale, 20-viii
- Births
 - See also Vital Statistics
 - records of, 9, 10, 12
 - index to, 11
- Blueprints of
 - See also Map
 - pole locations, 75
 - roads, 75
 - sewers, 75
 - water mains, 75
- Board of, see Assessors; Health; Registrars; Selectmen; Welfare
- Bonds, town, 38
- Bookkeeper, town, 33
- Boundaries
 - See also Town
 - agreement, 8-iv
 - records of, 8-i
 - Sixth Parish of Springfield, 7
 - of town, 2, app. 10
 - perambulation of, 8-xi
- Bowles airport, 2
- Bowling license, 8-xii
- Bridge
 - Agawam River, 7
 - finance lottery, 7
- Building
 - high school, 17
 - materials, 2
 - permits, 3

- Burial agent, 14, 43
- Burr, Jehu, 5
- Button, L. R., app. 4
- Bylaw amendment, 8-ii

C

- Canceled checks, 40
- Captain John Smith, 5
- Case histories
 - old age assistance, 59
 - soldiers' relief, 5
- Cash book of
 - treasurer, 56
 - water department, 35
- Cemetery
 - Association, Feeding Hills, 18
 - by laws, 73
 - expenditures, 70
 - lots
 - perpetual care fund, 72
 - sale of, 71
 - receipts, 70
 - committee, election of, 15
 - commissioners
 - history of, 42
 - minutes of, 69
 - records of, 69-73
 - location of, 20
- Census
 - school, 49
 - state, 10
- Certificates
 - birth, 12
 - death, 19
 - marriage, 16
 - married women's business, 20-v
- Chandler, Lyman, app. 6
- Chapman, Thomas W., app. 4
- Chart of town government, 12
- Chief of police, 18, 47
 - correspondence, 82
- Church
 - Agawam Baptist, 41
 - Methodist Episcopal, 8
- Cider, 9
- Civil War service men, record of, 25
- Clerk
 - fire, 84

- Clerk
town (Cont'd)
 appoints assistant, 14, 25
 as clerk of registrar, 29
 as treasurer, 14
 records of, 8-23
 location of, 18
- Clinics
 baby, 66
 school, 66
Coal reweighing record, 97
- Collector
 tax, 25
 treasurer as, 24
- Commissioners
 cemetery, 18, 42
 fire, 48
 park, 14
 road, 53
 water, 44
- Commitments, *see* Tax
- Committee
 finance, 15
 first, 34
 nominating, 15
 on petitions, app. 2
 school, 14
 prudential, 35
 on towns, app. 9
 zoning, 15, 51
- Community Health Association
 appoints district nurse, 15
- Connecticut
 River, 5, 9, app. 3
 valley, 5
- Constables
 elected, 14
 history of, 47
 as police officers, 47
 as truant officers, 47
- Contracts, 1
- Contributions to Feeding Hills
 Cemetery Association, 42
- Corporate limits of town, 5
- Correspondence
 board of health, 7
 chief of police, 82
 school committee, 54
 welfare, 61
- Cotton mill, 9
- Cottinackeesh, 5
- Counsel, town, 15, 46
- County
 Hampden, 8
 Hampshire, 6
 taxes, 8
- Court, General, 7
- Cows, number of, 11
- D
- Dangerous diseases, 4
- Deaths
 See also Vital Statistics
 records of, 9, 17, 19
 index to, 18
- Debts, 8
- Defunct offices-
 auctioneer, 54
 fish and game wardens, 54
 park commissioners, 54
 road commissioners, 54
 sealer of leather, 53
 surveyors of highway, 53
 tythingmen, 53
- Denominations, *see* Church
- Departmental bills payable, 37
- Dependent children aid, 39
- Development of town, 9
- Diseases, dangerous, 4
- Distillery, 9
- District nurse, *see* Nurse
- Districts, school, 35
- Dog
 officer, 15, 51
 racing referendum, 10
- Dutch, 5
- Dwelling houses, number of, 11
- Dykes, 9
- E
- Education, *see* School
- Elective offices, 23
- Election
 act, 15
 of auditor, 14, 33, 34
 of board of assessors, 23
 of cemetery committee, 15
 of constables, 14, 47
 of fence viewers, 14, 52
 of field drivers, 14, 46
 of finance committee, 15, 35

Index

- Election (Cont'd)
 of library trustees, 38
 of moderator, 8, 52
 of school committee, 14, 35
 of tax collector, 14, 31
 of tree warden, 15, 44
 of trustees, Whiting Fund, 35
 warrants, 8-iii
 of water commissioners, 15
- Electorate, 12
- Engineers, fire, 48
- English, 6
- Enrollment, school, see School
- Equipment, highway, 74
- Excise
 abatement, see Tax
 assessment, 30
 commitment, motor vehicle, 33
- Expenditures
 Feeding Hills Cemetery Association, 70
 highway, 74
 library, 56
 school, 51
 soldiers' relief, 6
 treasurer, 36, 43
 water, 44
 welfare, 60
- Explanatory notes, 21
- Explorers, 5
- F
- Feeding Hills, 7, 9
 Cemetery Association, 18, 42
 contributions, 42
 minutes of, 69
 records, 69-73
 locations of, 18
 fire force unit, see Fire
 parish, app. 4, 6
- Fence viewers
 history of, 14, 52
 report of, 8-iv
- Ferry, 6
 establishment of, 9
- Field drivers, history of,
14, 46
- Finance committee,
 appointed by moderator, 35
 history of, 15, 34, 35
- Financial records of
See also Appropriations; Bank; Bills;
 Bonds; Cash book; Expenditures
 Fund; Journal; Ledger; Payroll;
 Receipts; Tax; Valuation; Warrants
 accountant, 41-43
 cemetery commissioners, 70-72
 collectors, 31-35
 district nurse, 67
 library trustees, 55, 56
 school, 51, 52
 treasurer, 36-40
- Fire
 commissioners, 48
 engineers, 48
 history of, 50
 force, volunteer, 48
 Agawam Center unit
 minutes of, 87
 permits, 90
 applications, 89
 record of fires, 88
 Feeding Hills unit
 minutes of, 91
 permits, 94
 applications for, 93
 record of fires, 92
 North Agawam unit
 clerk's report, 84
 minutes of, 85
 permits, 86
 application for, 85
 records, 83-94
 location of, 19, 20
 station, 19
 wards appointed by selectmen, 14,
48
- Fireworks license, 8-xii
- First
 annual assessment, 8
 finance committee, 34
 house, 5
 town government, 8
 warrant for town meeting, 8
- Fishing license, 22
- Fish
 and game warden, 54
 history of, 54
 warden, 54
- Flower,
 General, 8

- Flower (Cont'd)
 Samuel, 8, app. 4
 Force, volunteer fire, 48
 Foreclosure notice, 20-vii
 Foreman of highways, 14, 43
 Fourth Parish, 7
 Fund
 care of cemetery lots, 72
 Whiting Street, 35
 Fur trade, 5
- G
- Gas installation, 8-v
 Gasoline permit, 86, 90, 94
 General
 Court, petition to, 7
 Flower, 8
 Gooch, Thaddeus B., app. 4
 Government
 first town, 8
 West Springfield, 7
 Governmental organization, 15
 Governor of Massachusetts, 8
 "Great and General Field", 9
 Great River, 7
 Griswold, Thadus, app. 4
 Gypsy moth superintendent, history
 of, 45
- H
- Hampden County, 8
 Training School, 9
 Hampshire County, 6
 Hand-loom, 9
 Hartford, 5
 Hatchets, 5
 Hawkes, C. H., app. 6
 Health, board of
 history of, 23
 records of, 4
 location of, 18
 Hedges, Henry, app. 6
 High school, 18, 19, 23, 41
 Highway
 See also Road; Streets
 appropriations, 74
 equipment, 74
 expenditures, 74
 petition, 8-vi
 records, 74-76
 location of, 19
 superintendent, 43, 54
 surveyors, 53
 wages, 74
 Historical sketch, 5-10
 Hoes, 5
 Holyoke, 7
 severed from West Springfield,
 7
 Horse racing track, 9
 Horses, number of, 11
 Housing of records, 17
 Hubbard, L. W., app. 4
 Hunting licenses, 22
- I
- Incorporation of
 town, 8, app. 10
 act of, 8-vii
 West Springfield, 7
Independent American, app. 5
 Index to
 births, 11
 deaths, 18
 marriages, 15
 Indian land purchase, 5
 Industries, 9
 Inspection of
 measuring devices, 95
 weighing, 95
 Inspector of
 animals, history of, 14, 42
 meats, history of, 14, 42
 Interstate Commerce Commission,
 9
 "Irish Parish", 7
- J
- Journal, treasury department, 41
 Jury list, 1, 8-viii
- K
- Knives, 5
- L
- Land

Index

- Land (Cont'd)
See also Property
 area taxed, 11
 purchased from Indians
 area of, 5
 terms of, 5
 Law, zoning, 51
 Leases, 20-iv
 Leather, sealer of, 14, 53
 Ledger
 accounting department, 42
 paper, 9
 Library
 accessions, 55
 association, minutes of, 55
 circulation, 55
 expenditures, 56
 history of, 38
 receipts, 56
 records, 55-56
 location of, 20
 trustees, 38
 elected, 14
 Licenses, 1
See also Permits
 auctioneer, 8-xii
 bowling alley, 8-xii
 fireworks, 8-xii
 fishing, 22
 hunting, 22
 liquor, 8-xii
 poolroom, 8-xii
 slaughtering, 8-xii
 sporting, 22
 trapping, 22
 Linen paper, 9
 Lines, town, 8-i, 8-xi
See also Boundaries
 Liquor license, 8-xii
 List
 jury, 8-viii
 militia, 8-ix
 tax, 25
 Longmeadow, 9
 Loomis, William, app. 6
 Lots, Feeding Hills Cemetery, 71
 Lottery, bridge finance, 7
 Lumber, surveyor of, 14, 45
- M
- Manuscripts, 55-57
- Map
See also Blueprints
 of town, 4
 zoning, 76
 Marriages
See also Vital Statistics
 records of, 9, 13, 14, 16
 index to, 15
 Massachusetts
See also State
 Bay Colony, 5
 governor of, 8
 school register, 48
 Measurer of wood and bark, 14
 history of, 45, 46
 Meats, inspector of, 14, 42
 Meeting house, app. 1
 Methodist Episcopal Church, 8
 Militia list, 8-ix
 Mill
 cotton, 9
 paper, 9
 saw, 9
 woolen, 9
 Minutes of
 Agawam Center fire unit, 87
 Feeding Hills
 Cemetery Association, 69
 fire unit, 91
 library association, 55
 North Agawam fire unit, 83
 school committee, 16, 44
 selectmen, 16, 1
 town meeting, 8
 Moderator
 appoints
 committee
 nominating, 15
 zoning, 51
 history of, 8, 52
 Moffatt, Daniel, A., app. 6
 Mortgages, personal property, 20-iii
 Moth inspector, 15
 Mothers' aid, 39
See also Aid; Welfare
 Motor vehicle excise, 29
 abatement application, 27
 commitment, 33
- N
- Name of town, 5

Neat cattle, number of, 11
 New England Telephone and Telegraph
 Company
 permits, 8-x
 petitions, 8-x
 report of hearing, 21
 Nominating committee, 15
 North Agawam fire force unit,
 see Fire
 school, 20
 Notices
 of conditional bills of sale,
 20-vi
 of foreclosure, 20-viii
 of sale, 20-viii
 of wanted men, 81
 Number of
 dwelling houses, 11
 polls, 11
 Nurse, district, 15
 case histories of, 65
 fees collected by, 67
 history of, 15, 41
 records of, 65-68
 location of, 20
 salary of, 41

O

Officer, dog, 15, 51
 Officers, see Town; Police
 Oil permit
 burner, 86, 90
 storage, 86, 90
 Old age assistance cases, 39, 59,
 61-64
 Order on petition for separate
 town, app. 5
 Overseers of the poor, selectmen
 as, 14, 15, 23
 See also Aid; Old age assistance;
 Welfare

P

Palmer, Samuel, app. 6
 Paper manufacture
 ledger, 9
 linen, 9
 mill, 9

Parish
 Agawam, app. 4, app. 6
 Feeding Hills, app. 4, app. 6
 Second, 7
 Park commissioner
 appointed by selectmen, 14
 history of, 54
 Paupers, town, 8
 Pay rolls, school committee, 52
 Pelts, 5
 Peppermint, 9
 Perambulation of town lines,
 8-xi
 Permits, 1
 See also Licenses
 applications for, 85, 89, 93
 building, 3
 gasoline, 86, 90, 94
 New England Telephone and
 Telegraph Company, 8-x
 oil, 86, 90, 94
 Personal, property, see
 Property
 Persons assessed, number of, 11
 Petition
 against division of town,
 app. 6
 highway, 8-vi
 of the New England Telephone
 and Telegraph Company, 21
 for place of worship, app. 1
 public-utility, 1
 to Second Parish, 6
 for separate town, 7, app. 4
 of Springfield
 Railway Company, 8-xiii
 Street Railway Company, 21
 Pierce, William, app. 4
 Pole, blueprints of location
 of, 75
 Police
 chief, 18
 history of, 47
 officers, constables as, 47
 records, 78-82
 location of, 20
 Poll tax commitments, 32
 Polls
 aggregates of, 11
 number of, 8, 11

Index

- Poolroom license, 8-xii
 Poor, overseers of, 23
 Population of town, 10
 Potomac River, 5, 9
 Potato whiskey, 9
 Poundkeeper
 field driver as, 46
 history of, 46
 Precinct voting adopted, 15
 Property
 See also Land
 aggregates of, 11
 division, 8
 personal
 assignment of, 20-i
 discharge of mortgages on,
 20-iii
 tax
 commitments, 31
 list, 25
 receipts, 31
 valuation of, 10, 11
 real
 tax receipts, 31
 valuation of, 8, 10, 11
 records, 28
 stolen, 80
 transfer, 28
 Prudential school committee, 35
 Public
 lottery, 7
 utility petitions, 1
 weighers
 appointed by selectmen, 14
 history of, 46
 welfare board, see Welfare,
 board of
 works bids, 1
 Publick worship, 6
 Pupils' records, school, 47
 Pyncheon, 6
 William, 5
- Q
- Quana, 6
 Quebec, 5
 "Quinnecticott", 5
- R
- Race track, 9, 10
 Rates, water, 44
 Real estate, see Property
 Receipts
 Feeding Hills Cemetery Association,
 70
 library, 56
 property tax, 31
 treasury, 36, 43
 water rates, 35
 Records
 accessibility of, 17
 care of, 17
 condition of, 22
 housing of, 17
 labeling of, 22
 location of, 20, 22
 Referendum, Hampden County voters,
 10
 Register
 Massachusetts school, 48
 of persons aided, 57, 62
 of voters, 24
 Registrars, board of,
 history of, 29
 records, 24
 location of, 18
 Report of
 committee on towns on petition
 for a separate town, app. 9
 committee on petition for place
 of worship, app. 2
 fence viewers, 8-iv
 fire clerk, 84
 hearing, 21
 town officers, 2
 Residential suburb, 10
 River
 Agawam, 9
 Connecticut, 5, 9
 Potomac, 5, 9
 Saint Lawrence, 5
 Road
 See also Highway; Streets
 blueprints, 75
 and bridge superintendent, 43
 commissioners
 election of, 14
 history of, 54
 selectmen as, 54
 superintendent, 43
 Roberts, H. E., app. 6

S

- Saint Lawrence River, 5
 Saw mill, 9
 School
 appropriation, 35
 attendance, 45
 officer report, 46
 bank, 17
 census, 49
 clinic, 66
 committee
 appoints
 superintendent, 14, 36
 teachers, 44
 correspondence, 54
 elected, 14
 history of, 35, 36
 minutes of, 16, 44
 pay rolls, 52
 prudential, 35
 records, 44-54
 financial, 51
 location of, 19
 districts, 35
 abolished, 35
 enrollment, 48
 expenditures, 51
 Hampden county training, 9
 high, 19, 23, 41
 building, 17
 North Agawam, 20
 pupil
 organizations, 50
 records, 47
 scholarship, 47
 register, 48
 Springfield Street, 41
 superintendency union; Agawam,
 Granville, Southwick, Long-
 meadow, 36
 superintendent, 14, 36
 teachers, 35
 appointment of, 44
 case histories of, 53
 Sealer of
 leather
 elected, 14
 history of, 53
 weights and measures, 18
 coal reweighing record, 97
 elected, 14
 history of, 50
 records of, 95-97
 location of, 20
 Second Parish, 7
 petition to, 6
 Selectmen, 8
 as administrators of soldiers'
 relief, 23
 appoint
 board of registrars, 29
 burial agent, 14, 43
 dog officer, 15, 51
 fire wards, 14, 48
 foreman of highways, 14, 43
 gypsy moth superintendent,
 45
 inspector of
 animals, 14
 meat, 14
 measurer of wood, 14, 45
 public weighers, 14
 sealer of weights and meas-
 ures, 18, 50
 surveyor of lumber, 45
 town
 accountant, 25
 counsel, 15
 as assessors, 14, 23, 29
 as board of health, 14, 15, 23
 correspondence of, 7
 election of, 14
 history of, 23
 minutes of, 16, 1
 as overseers of the poor,
 14, 15, 23
 records, 1-7
 location of, 18
 as road commissioners, 54
 as welfare board, 39
 Self-government, movement for,
 7
 Sewers, blueprints of, 75
 Sixth Parish of Springfield, 7
 Slaughtering license, 8-xii
 Smith
 Captain John, 5
 Henry, 5
 Soldiers' relief, 23

Index

Soldiers' relief (Cont'd)

- case histories, 5
- expenditures, 6
- South End Bridge, 9
- Southwick, 9
- Sporting licenses, 22
- Springfield, 5, 6, 8, 9
 - division act, app. 3
- Railway Company petitions, 8-xiii
- Republican, app. 5
- Street
 - Railway Company petition, 21
 - report of hearing, 21
 - School, 41
- State
 - See also Massachusetts
 - auditor, 33
 - census, 10
 - department of conservation, 45
 - taxes, 8
- Stolen property, 80
- Streets
 - See also Highway; Road
 - accepted, 74
 - superintendent of, 43
- Suffield, 9
 - bounds, 6
- Superintendent
 - highway, 43, 54
 - road and bridge, 43
 - school, 36
 - appointed by school committee, 14
 - union, 36
 - street, 43
- Survey of town lines, 8-i
- Surveyor of
 - highway
 - history of, 14, 53
 - selectmen as, 53
 - lumber
 - history of, 14, 45
- Swine, number of, 11
- Symbols, 21

T

Tax

See also Licenses

- abatement
 - motor vehicle excise, 27
 - applications for, 27
 - poll, 32
 - property
 - personal, 27
 - real, 27
- aggregates, 11
- assessments
 - excise, 30
 - poll, 32
 - property, 31
- collector, 25
 - history of, 14, 31
 - records of, 31-35
 - location of, 18
- commitments
 - motor vehicle excise, 33
 - poll, 32
 - property
 - personal, 31
 - real, 31
 - water, 34
- county, 8
- list, property
 - personal, 25
 - real, 25
- settlement with Springfield, 9
- state, 8
- titles, 39
- town, 8
 - treasurers' receipt of, 8-xv
- Teachers, see School
- Titles, 39
- Town
 - accountant
 - history of, 33
 - records of, 41-43
 - location of, 18
 - age of, 18
 - area of, 9
 - auditor, 33
 - barn, 19
 - bonds, 38
 - bookkeeper, 33
 - boundaries, 9, app. 10
 - clerk, see Clerk
 - counsel
 - appointment of, 15
 - history of, 46
 - development, 9

Town (Cont'd)

- division by precincts, 15
- government, first, 8
- incorporation, 8, app. 10
- lines
 - perambulation of, 8-xi
 - survey of, 8-i
- map of, 4
- meeting, 7, 15
 - warrant for, 8-xvi
 - first, 8
- naming of, 5
- officers
 - appointed, see Moderator; School committee; Selectmen
 - elected
 - assessors, 15
 - auditor, 14
 - clerk, 14
 - constables, 14
 - fence viewers, 14, 52
 - field drivers, 14
 - library trustees, 14
 - measurers of wood and bark, 14
 - moderator, 8, 52
 - school committee, 14
 - tree warden, 15, 44
 - sealer of
 - weights and measures, 14
 - selectmen, 14
 - surveyor of lumber, 14
 - tax collector, 14
 - report of, 2
 - paupers, 8
 - separation, app. 7
 - taxes, 8
 - treasurer, see Treasurer
 - valuation, 8, 10, 11
- Training School, Hampden County, 9
- Transfers, property, 28
- Transportation, 9
- Trapping license, 22
- Treasurer
 - cash book of, 56
 - expenditures of, 36, 43
 - history of, 24, 32
 - journal of, 41
 - ledger of, 42
 - receipts of, 36, 43
 - of taxes, 8-xv

- records of, 36-40
 - location of, 18
 - as town clerk, 14
 - warrants, 37
- Tree warden, history of, 15, 44
- Truant officers, constables as, 47
- Trustees
 - library, 38
 - history of, 38
 - Whiting Street Fund, 35
 - Tythingmen, history of, 14, 53

U

- Union, school superintendency, 36

V

Valuation

- See also Tax
- list, 8-xviii, 25, 26
- of town, 8, 10, 11
- Virginia, 5
- Vital statistics, 26, 27
 - See also Birth; Death; Marriage
- Volunteer fire force, 48
- Vote of remonstrance against division of town, app. 8
- Voters
 - register of, 24
 - registrar of, see Registrar

W

Wages

- assignments of, 20-ii
- highway department, 74
- Wall paper plant, 9
- Wampum, 5
- Warden
 - fish, 54
 - and game, 54
- Warrants
 - election, 8-iii
 - for town meetings, 8-xvi
 - of treasurer, 37
- Warriner, S. D. app. 8

Index

Water

- act permitting system, 8-xvii
- blueprints of mains, 75
- cash book, 35
- commitments, 34
- commissioners, 15, 16, 44
- expenditures, 44
- meter readings, 77
- rates, 44
- receipts from, 35
- records of, 77
 - location of, 18

Weights and measures, sealer of,
see Sealer of

Welfare

- See also, Aid; Old Age Assistance; Overseers
- agent appointed, 15, 39
- board of public, 23
 - building, 19
 - case history, 39, 58, 60
 - correspondence, 61
 - expenditure cards, 60
 - history of, 15, 23, 39
 - records, 57-68
 - location of, 19
 - selectmen as, 39

Westfield, 9, app. 10

- Bounds, 7
- street, 19

"West Side of Great River", 7

- West Springfield, 7, 8, app. 4
 - attempt to abrogate charter, 8
 - claims settled, 8
 - committee to settle with, 8
 - government of, 7
 - Holyoke severed from, 7
 - incorporation of, 7
 - valuation lists, 8-xviii

Whiting Street Fund

- administration of, 35
- history of, 35
- trustees of, 35

Whitman, Lyman, app. 4

Wire petition, 8-x, 8-xiii

Woolen mill, 9

Worthington, Henry, app. 4

Wright, C. C., app. 6

Writs of attachment, 20-ix

Z

Zoning

- committee
 - appointed by Moderator, 51
 - appropriation for, 51
 - history of, 15, 51
- laws, 51
- maps, 51, 76

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Abstract and Index of the Records of the Inferiour Court of Pleas, (Suffolk County Court) Held at Boston, 1680-1698, (iii, 224 pp., min., 1940).

American Portraits, 1620-1825, Found in Massachusetts, 2 vols., (iv, 254 pp. and 318 pp., mult. dupl., May, 1939).

Brief History of the Town of Braintree in Massachusetts, 1640-1940, compiled and written for the Tercentenary Committee, Marion Sophia Arnold, ed., (64 pp., Boston, Thomas Todd Co., 1940).

Calendar of the General Henry Knox Papers in the Boston Public Library, (ii, 19 pp., mult. dupl., May, 1939).

Calendar of the Letters of Charles Robert Darwin to Asa Gray, (vii, 148 pp., mult. dupl., December, 1939).

Calendar of the Ryder Collection of Confederate Archives at Tufts College, (v, 165 pp., min., 1940).

Diary and Journal, 1755-1807, of Seth Metcalf, (iii, 31 pp., mult. dupl., October, 1939).

Description of the Manuscript Collections of the Massachusetts Diocesan Library, (ii, 81 pp., mult. dupl., February, 1939).

Guide to Manuscript Depositories in Massachusetts, (ii, 160 pp., min., September, 1939).

Index to the Hampshire Gazette, 1786-1937, 3 vols., (vii, 213, 217, and 295 pp., min., May, 1939).

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Vol. I Ashfield, (ii, 108 pp., min., 1940).

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