

Historical Records of the Town of Westborough: Finance, 1730-1869

Finding Aid

Last Revised: October 26, 2023

Collection Summary

- Collection number:** OD.002 (2016.02)
Collection title: Historical Records of the Town of Westborough: Finance, 1730-1869
Dates: 1730-1869
Size: 2.5 linear feet (2 boxes + one oversize box)
Creator/Collector: The Town of Westborough
Acquisitions info.: Transferred to the Westborough Public Library from the Town Clerk's Office, which retains official custody of the collection.
Custodial history: This artificial collection was among a group of historical records that were transferred from the Town Clerk's Office vault to the Westborough Public Library during the renovation of Town Hall starting in 2013. The documents had been minimally organized by Charles H. Reed sometime around 1928. There is no record of ownership or stewardship of the documents before or after this time.
Language(s): English
Repository: The Westborough Public Library
Processed by: Anthony T. Vaver (with assistance by Audrey Vaver), 2016

Rights and Access

Access restrictions: Collection is open for research

Physical access restrictions: None, although researchers are encouraged to use any available digital images from the collection

Publication rights: All records are in the public domain.

Organizational History

The Town of Westborough was incorporated as the hundredth town in Massachusetts on November 8, 1717, with twenty-seven families living within its borders. Before the official founding of the town, several families had settled around Lake Chauncy, and this area had become known as the "west borough" of Marlborough. In 1775, the "north borough" of Westborough split off from the town to become Northborough.

The first town meeting was held on January 15, 1718, when the new town voted to build a meetinghouse, employ a minister, and elect a town clerk, three selectmen, and a constable. At this time, every town in Massachusetts was required to hire a minister, and church membership was a requisite for participation in town politics. Today,

Westborough continues to operate under the New England open town meeting system and is headed by an elected five-member Board of Selectmen.

Scope and Content Note

The collection includes town treasurer reports, assessors returns, finance books, bills, receipts, orders drawn, and a few records relating to taxes. Individual bills, receipts, and orders drawn have all been lumped together under one series, because bills often became receipts, etc., so it was too difficult and time-consuming to sort out one from the other or to classify them under distinct designations. Charles H. Reed had separated out some of the more notable bills, receipts, and orders drawn, and so this themed grouping has been retained in these few instances.

Note: Town finance records also appear in the following collections:

- 2014.01, *Records of Westborough's Involvement in the American Revolution, the Massachusetts Militia, and the Continental Army, 1774-1792*
- 2014.02, *Records of the Westborough Light Infantry, 1805-1829*
- 2014.03, *Records of the Westborough Rifle Company, 1861-1870*
- 2015.02, *Historical Records of the Town of Westborough: Schools, 1730-1932*
- LH.082, *Historical Records of the Evangelical Congregational Church* (folder OS.13).

Also of note is the following collection:

- 2014.04, *Historical Records of the Town of Westborough: Census and Tax Lists, 1756-1879*

Collection Inventory

Series 1: Town Treasurer Reports

Oversize Box

Folder

- OS.01 Town Treasurer Reports, 1784-1799
- OS.02 Town Treasurer Reports, 1800-1809
- OS.03 Town Treasurer Reports, 1810-1816
- OS.04 Town Treasurer Reports, 1821-1829
- OS.05 Town Treasurer Reports, 1830-1839
- OS.06 Town Treasurer Reports, 1840-1846
- OS.07 Town Treasurer Reports, 1861, 1866-1867

Series 2: Assessors Returns

Box 1

Folder

- 1.01 Assessors Returns, 1734-1786
- 1.02 Assessors Returns, 1790-1799
- 1.03 Assessors Returns, 1800-1809
- 1.04 Assessors Returns, 1811-1823

Series 3: Finance Books

Box 1

Folder

- 1.05 [Select Men's Book], 1785-1787
- 1.06 [Select Men's Book], 1788-1792
- 1.07 Select Men's Book, 1793-1804
- 1.08 [Select Men's Book], 1804-1824
- 1.09 Select Men's Book, 1816-1828
- 1.10 "Seth Morse's Records," 1791-1793
- 1.10B Treasury Book, 1806-1848

Series 4: Bills, Receipts, and Orders Drawn

Box 1

Folder

- 1.11 Labor Receipts for Building Roads, 1730-1765
- 1.12 Payments for Legal Work, 1743-1744
- 1.13 Payments for Indentures and Services, 1772-1806
- 1.14 Order to Compensate Jonathan Bond for a Counterfeit Bill, 1778
- 1.15 Order for Rev. Ebenezer Parkman's and Samuel Johns's Coffin, 1783
- 1.16 Sale of Liquors: Receipts and Disbursements, 1855-1856
- 1.17 Bills, Receipts, and Orders Drawn, 1731-1738
- 1.18 Bills, Receipts, and Orders Drawn, 1740-1749
- 1.19 Bills, Receipts, and Orders Drawn, 1750-1759
- 1.20 Bills, Receipts, and Orders Drawn, 1760-1769
- 1.21 Bills, Receipts, and Orders Drawn, 1770-1779
- 1.22 Bills, Receipts, and Orders Drawn, 1780-1786
- 1.23 Bills, Receipts, and Orders Drawn, 1790-1793
- 1.24 Bills, Receipts, and Orders Drawn, 1794-1795

Box 2

Folder

- 2.25 Bills, Receipts, and Orders Drawn, 1796
- 2.26 Bills, Receipts, and Orders Drawn, 1797
- 2.27 Bills, Receipts, and Orders Drawn, 1798
- 2.28 Bills, Receipts, and Orders Drawn, 1799
- 2.29 Bills, Receipts, and Orders Drawn, 1800-1801
- 2.30 Bills, Receipts, and Orders Drawn, 1802-1803
- 2.31 Bills, Receipts, and Orders Drawn, 1804
- 2.32 Bills, Receipts, and Orders Drawn, 1805-1806
- 2.33 Bills, Receipts, and Orders Drawn, 1807-1809
- 2.34 Bills, Receipts, and Orders Drawn, 1814-1819
- 2.35 Bills, Receipts, and Orders Drawn, 1820-1823
- 2.36 Bills, Receipts, and Orders Drawn, 1824
- 2.37 Bills, Receipts, and Orders Drawn, 1825-1829
- 2.38 Bills, Receipts, and Orders Drawn, 1830-1831
- 2.39 Bills, Receipts, and Orders Drawn, 1868-1869, n. d.

Series 5: Tax-Related Documents

Box 2

Folder

- 2.40 Tax Certification, 1759
- 2.41 Abated Taxes, 1785, 1833, 1849
- 2.42 County Tax Bill for Westborough, 1810

Series 6: Original Enclosures

Box 2

Folder

- 2.43 Original Enclosures