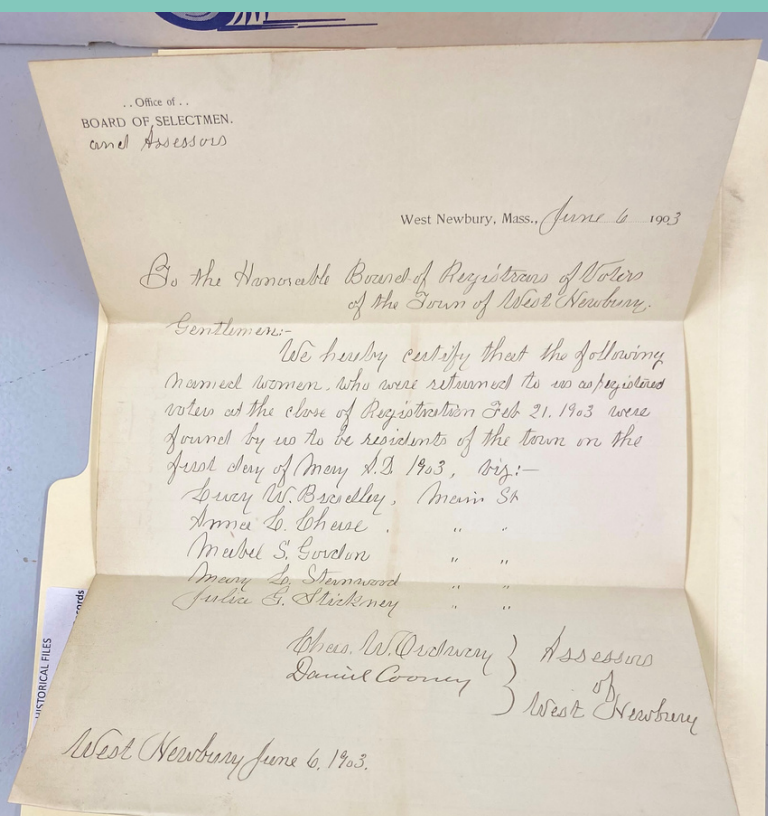
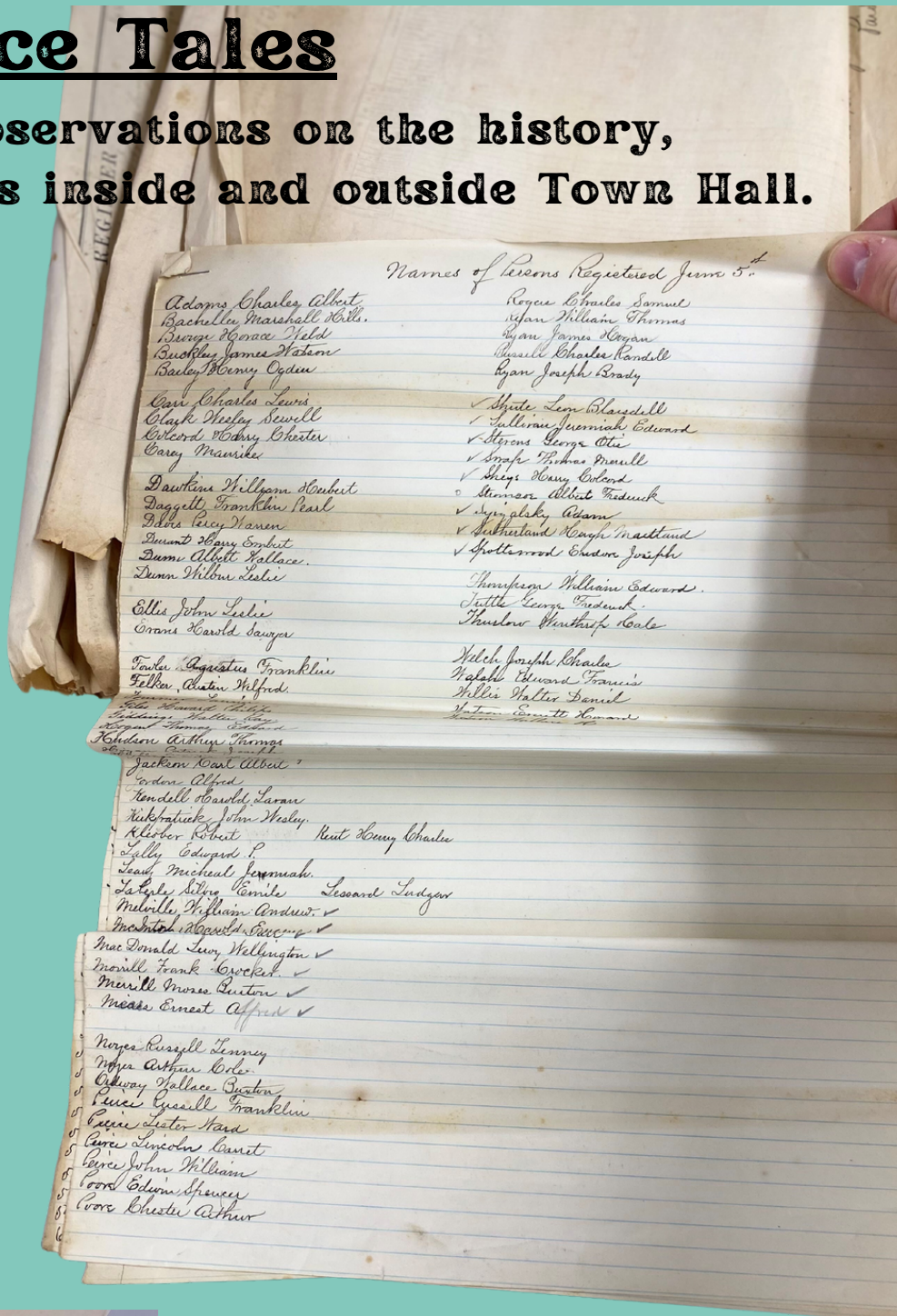


Town Office Tales

Curiosities and observations on the history, people, and objects inside and outside Town Hall.

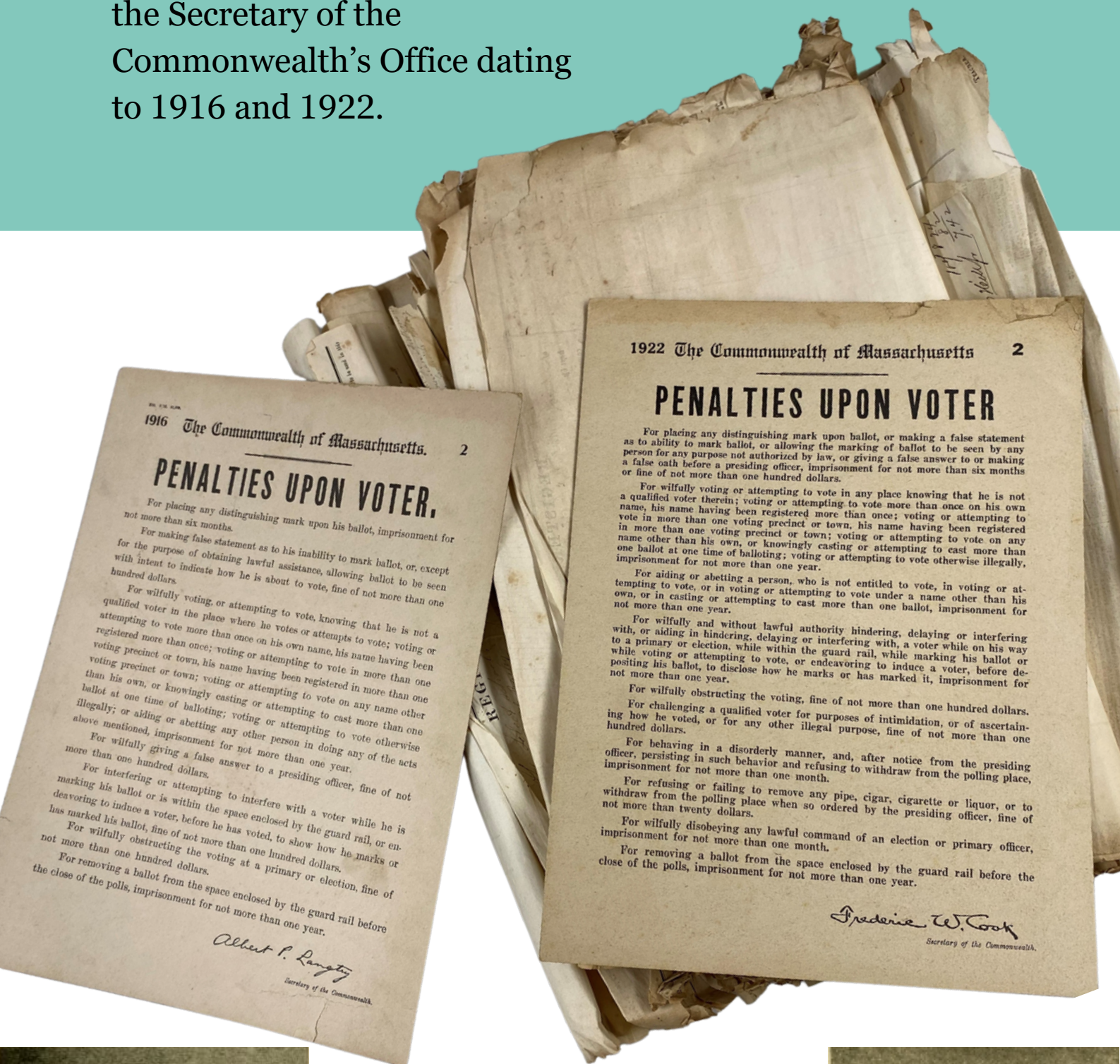
Local Elections and the Democratic Process

Evidence of centuries of vote counting and civic participation abound in the archives of Town Offices.



Two lists of registered voters, including a 1903 list (at left) of female voters! Women could vote locally, but not federally until the passage of the 19th Amendment.

Anti-fraud posters printed by the Secretary of the Commonwealth's Office dating to 1916 and 1922.



1916 The Commonwealth of Massachusetts. 2

PENALTIES UPON VOTER.

For placing any distinguishing mark upon his ballot, imprisonment for not more than six months.

For making false statement as to his inability to mark ballot, or, except for the purpose of obtaining lawful assistance, allowing ballot to be seen with intent to indicate how he is about to vote, fine of not more than one hundred dollars.

For wilfully voting, or attempting to vote, knowing that he is not a qualified voter in the place where he votes or attempts to vote; voting or attempting to vote more than once on his own name, his name having been registered more than once; voting or attempting to vote in more than one voting precinct or town, his name having been registered in more than one voting precinct or town; voting or attempting to vote on any name other than his own, or knowingly casting or attempting to cast more than one ballot at one time of balloting; voting or attempting to vote otherwise illegally; or aiding or abetting any other person in doing any of the acts above mentioned, imprisonment for not more than one year.

For wilfully giving a false answer to a presiding officer, fine of not more than one hundred dollars.

For interfering or attempting to interfere with a voter while he is marking his ballot or is within the space enclosed by the guard rail, or endeavoring to induce a voter, before he has voted, to show how he marks or has marked his ballot, fine of not more than one hundred dollars.

For wilfully obstructing the voting at a primary or election, fine of not more than one hundred dollars.

For removing a ballot from the space enclosed by the guard rail before the close of the polls, imprisonment for not more than one year.

Albert P. Langtry
Secretary of the Commonwealth.

1922 The Commonwealth of Massachusetts 2

PENALTIES UPON VOTER

For placing any distinguishing mark upon ballot, or making a false statement as to ability to mark ballot, or allowing the marking of ballot to be seen by any person for any purpose not authorized by law, or giving a false answer to or making a false oath before a presiding officer, imprisonment for not more than six months or fine of not more than one hundred dollars.

For wilfully voting or attempting to vote in any place knowing that he is not a qualified voter therein; voting or attempting to vote more than once on his own name, his name having been registered more than once; voting or attempting to vote in more than one voting precinct or town, his name having been registered in more than one voting precinct or town; voting or attempting to vote on any name other than his own, or knowingly casting or attempting to cast more than one ballot at one time of balloting; voting or attempting to vote otherwise illegally, imprisonment for not more than one year.

For aiding or abetting a person, who is not entitled to vote, in voting or attempting to vote, or in casting or attempting to vote under a name other than his own, or in casting or attempting to cast more than one ballot, imprisonment for not more than one year.

For wilfully and without lawful authority hindering, delaying or interfering with, or aiding in hindering, delaying or interfering with, a voter while on his way to a primary or election, while within the guard rail, while marking his ballot or posing his ballot, to disclose how he marks or has marked it, imprisonment for not more than one year.

For wilfully obstructing the voting, fine of not more than one hundred dollars.

For challenging a qualified voter for purposes of intimidation, or of ascertaining how he voted, or for any other illegal purpose, fine of not more than one hundred dollars.

For behaving in a disorderly manner, and, after notice from the presiding officer, persisting in such behavior and refusing to withdraw from the polling place, imprisonment for not more than one month.

For refusing or failing to remove any pipe, cigar, cigarette or liquor, or to withdraw from the polling place when so ordered by the presiding officer, fine of not more than twenty dollars.

For wilfully disobeying any lawful command of an election or primary officer, imprisonment for not more than one month.

For removing a ballot from the space enclosed by the guard rail before the close of the polls, imprisonment for not more than one year.

Frederick W. Cook
Secretary of the Commonwealth.



Sec. of the Commonwealth
Albert Langtry, 1916.



Sec. of the Commonwealth
Frederick Cook, 1922.

Ballot boxes from the 18th through 21st centuries used in West Newbury.



Details of the
“Perfection”
Ballot Box,
purchased
and used in
the early
1900s by the
Town.

