

# Town Office Tales

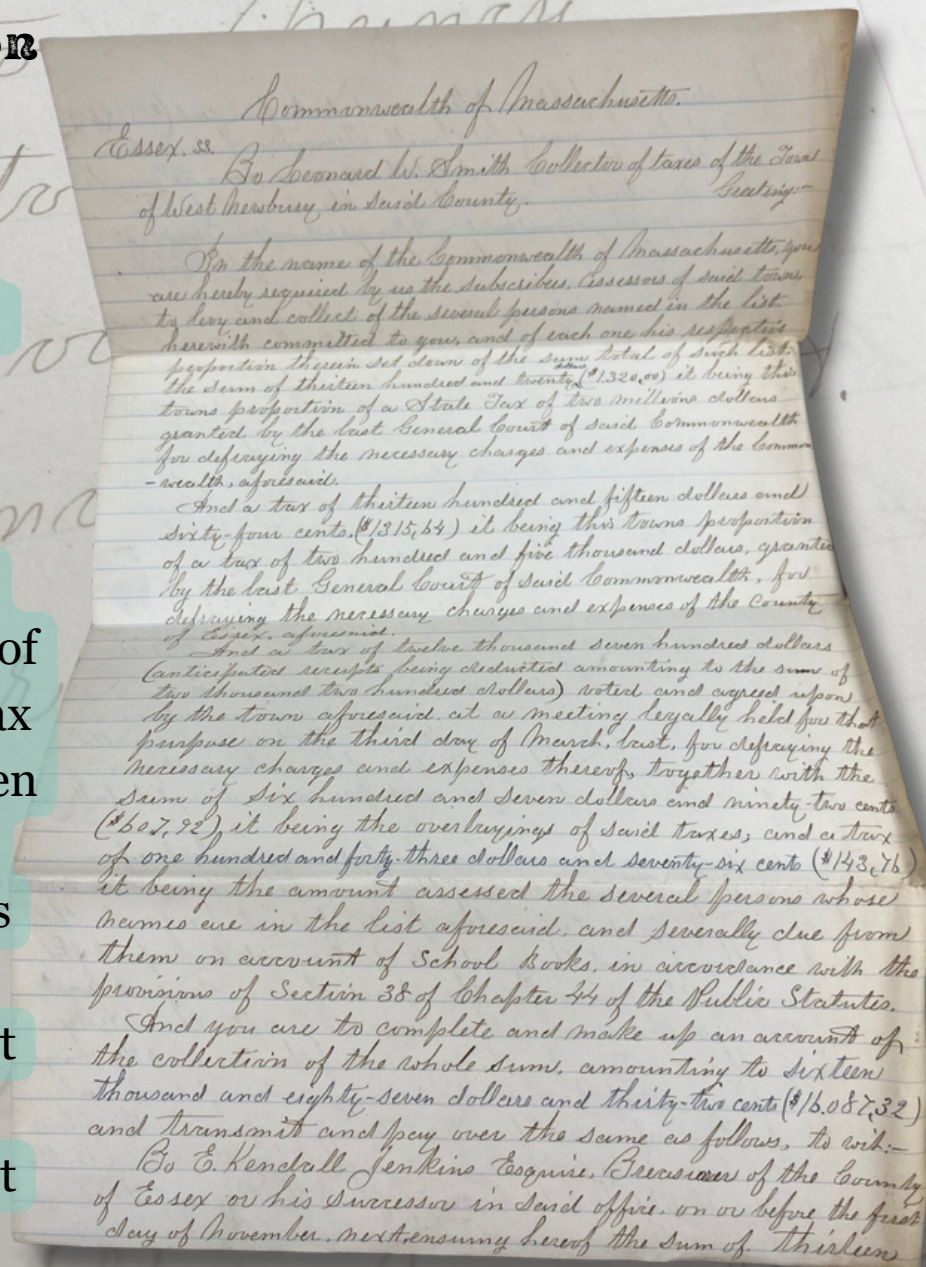
Curiosities and observations on the history, people, and objects inside and outside Town Hall.

## Rules and Regulations Part 1

Since West Newbury's incorporation in 1819, Town government has been responsible for the enforcement of the keeping of records with regard to rules and regulations, some of which are comical relics of the past, and some which are timely as ever in the 21st century.

## Tax Collection

You name it, there's probably been a tax on it: teas to turnpikes, meals to motor vehicles. The lifeblood of any Town operations and an assertion of its sovereignty, tax collection has been enforced in West Newbury since its break from Newbury. At right is the Tax Collector's Report for 1884.



Commonwealth of Massachusetts.  
Essex. ss. To Leonard W. Smith Collector of taxes of the Town of West Newbury, in said County.

For the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby required by us the subscribers, Assessors of said town, to levy and collect of the several persons named in the list herewith compelled to you, and of each one his respective proportion therein set down of the sum total of such list, the sum of thirteen hundred and twenty (\$1320.00) it being this town's proportion of a State Tax of two millions dollars granted by the last General Court of said Commonwealth for defraying the necessary charges and expenses of the Commonwealth, aforesaid.

And a tax of thirteen hundred and fifteen dollars and sixty-four cents (\$1315.64) it being this town's proportion of a tax of two hundred and five thousand dollars, granted by the last General Court of said Commonwealth, for defraying the necessary charges and expenses of the County of Essex, aforesaid.

And a tax of twelve thousand seven hundred dollars (anticipated receipts being deducted amounting to the sum of two thousand two hundred dollars) voted and agreed upon by the town aforesaid, at a meeting legally held for that purpose on the third day of March, last, for defraying the necessary charges and expenses thereof, together with the sum of six hundred and seven dollars and ninety-two cents (\$607.92), it being the overpayments of said taxes, and a tax of one hundred and forty-three dollars and seventy-six cents (\$143.76) it being the amount assessed the several persons whose names are in the list aforesaid, and severally due from them on account of School Books, in accordance with the provisions of Section 38 of Chapter 44 of the Public Statutes.

And you are to complete and make up an account of the collection of the whole sum, amounting to sixteen thousand and eighty-seven dollars and thirty-two cents (\$16,087.32) and transmit and pay over the same as follows, to wit:-

To E. Kendall Jenkins Esquire, Treasurer of the County of Essex or his Successor in said office, on or before the first day of November, next, amounting hereof the sum of thirteen

LICENSES AND CERTIFICATES  
1953-1955 Oleomargarine  
License  
Exp. NEVER

## Licenses and Permits

### VEHICLE LICENSE OLEOMARGARINE

Issued to

H.P. Houghton

Boston

Place of Business

400 Rutland Ave

Boston 29, Mass

Number of Vehicles 1

Number of Drivers 1

Expires May 31 1953

Date June 2 1953

License Number 1

Fee 50¢

HOBBS & WARREN, INC. PUBLISHERS BOSTON FORM 779

NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_ OF \_\_\_\_\_ FEE 50 CENTS

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

LICENSING AUTHORITIES

VEHICLE LICENSE-OLEOMARGARINE

This is to Certify that \_\_\_\_\_

residing at \_\_\_\_\_ and having a

place of business at \_\_\_\_\_

in the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ has been granted

A LICENSE TO SELL OLEOMARGARINE

and is subject to the Provisions of the Laws of The Commonwealth of Massachusetts, relating thereto, and upon such terms and conditions, and to the rules and regulations established by the Licensing Authorities, of \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ governing the sale of Oleomargarine and shall remain in full force until May \_\_\_\_\_, 19\_\_\_\_, unless previous to that time is suspended or revoked.

Number of Vehicles used \_\_\_\_\_

Each licensee before engaging in the sale of oleomargarine shall cause his name, the number of his license and his place of business to be legibly placed, in gothic letters not less than one inch in length, in the English language, on each outer side of each vehicle used by him in the conveyance and sale thereof.

All changes of residence and of drivers must be immediately reported to the inspector.

This License must not be sold, assigned or transferred.

License Issued \_\_\_\_\_ 19\_\_\_\_

Clerk or Inspector of Milk \_\_\_\_\_

© 1953 HOBBS & WARREN, INC.

An assortment of  
licensing books from  
the 20th century.

### SALE OF ICE CREAM, ETC. ON LORD'S DAY LICENSE

Granted to

W. B. Croft

Trading Post

Location of Business

Car. Main + Prospect

Date Issued

June 12 1940

Expiring April 30, 1941

### HAWKERS-PEDLERS LICENSE

NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

FEE \_\_\_\_\_

of \_\_\_\_\_

LICENSING AUTHORITIES

This is to Certify that \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

STREET AND NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

IS HEREBY GRANTED AN

AUTOMATIC AMUSEMENT DEVICE LICENSE

WHICH ARE KEPT ON THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED PREMISES:

HOBBS & WARREN, INC. PUBLISHERS BOSTON FORM 490

A great quantity of historical licensing and permitting records deal with the sales and inspection of dairy products.

2.50

STORE LICENSE  
MILK AND CREAM

LICENSE No. 1

DATE June 11 1945

ISSUED TO  
Henry Bailey

PLACE OF BUSINESS  
Main Street  
West Newbury, Mass

EXPIRES June 1 1946

HOBBS & WARREN, INC. PUBLISHERS BOSTON FORM 444

H. P. HOOD & SONS  
Dairy Experts.  
500 RUTHERFORD AVENUE  
BOSTON, MASS.

EXECUTIVE OFFICES

May 18, 1938

Health Department  
West Newbury  
Massachusetts

Gentlemen:

We hereby apply for license to sell milk and cream in your town for the ensuing year, and enclose check for 50¢ in payment of license fee.

Our truck covering West Newbury is operated by James Martin, 235 Andover Street, Lawrence, and he averages to dispense daily 48 quarts of milk and 2 quarts of cream.

We would appreciate receiving license at your convenience.

Very truly yours,  
H. P. Hood & Sons, Inc.  
*H. P. Hood & Sons, Inc.*  
Secretary

A note from H.P. Hood requesting a license to vend in West Newbury.

West Newbury  
June 20, 1938.

To Whom It May Concern:

Having been appointed Milk Inspector by the Board of Health of West Newbury for the term ending June 1, 1939, under the provisions of Chapter 94, Section 33, Mass. General Law.

I hereby notify you of my appointment by posting this notice in two public places in this Town.

*Albert H. Bedford*  
Milk Inspector  
28 Main St  
West Newbury  
Mass

Letter announcing appointment of the Milk Inspector (left) and his handwritten records (below).

2 1910  
May 31 Meeting of the board of health held this day in their office and Consensus Ordway & Cooney were present. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved. Since the last meeting of the board there has been reported by the parents of the children five additional cases of measles in the families of George L. Dickerson.

a true record  
Attest Daniel Cooney clerk

June 25 Meeting of the board of health held this day in their office in the almshouse present all day Consensus Ordway and Cooney in the P.M. Mr. Rogers was present. There being no business to transact

a true record  
Attest Daniel Cooney clerk

3  
1910  
Sept 14 The barn at the town farm was destroyed by fire this evening and with the barn all the stock including (8) in Good Cows. (2) two good horses all the harness and other tools as well as a barn full of hay the house being saved by the hard work of the neighbors.

Attest Daniel Cooney clerk

Sept 14 At a town meeting held this evening the Selectmen were appointed a Committee to build a new barn at the town farm and the sum of twenty five hundred dollars was appropriated to pay for the same.

a true record  
Attest Daniel Cooney clerk

Sept 24 Regular monthly meeting of the board of health held this day in their office in the almshouse present all day Consensus Ordway and Cooney. Rogers