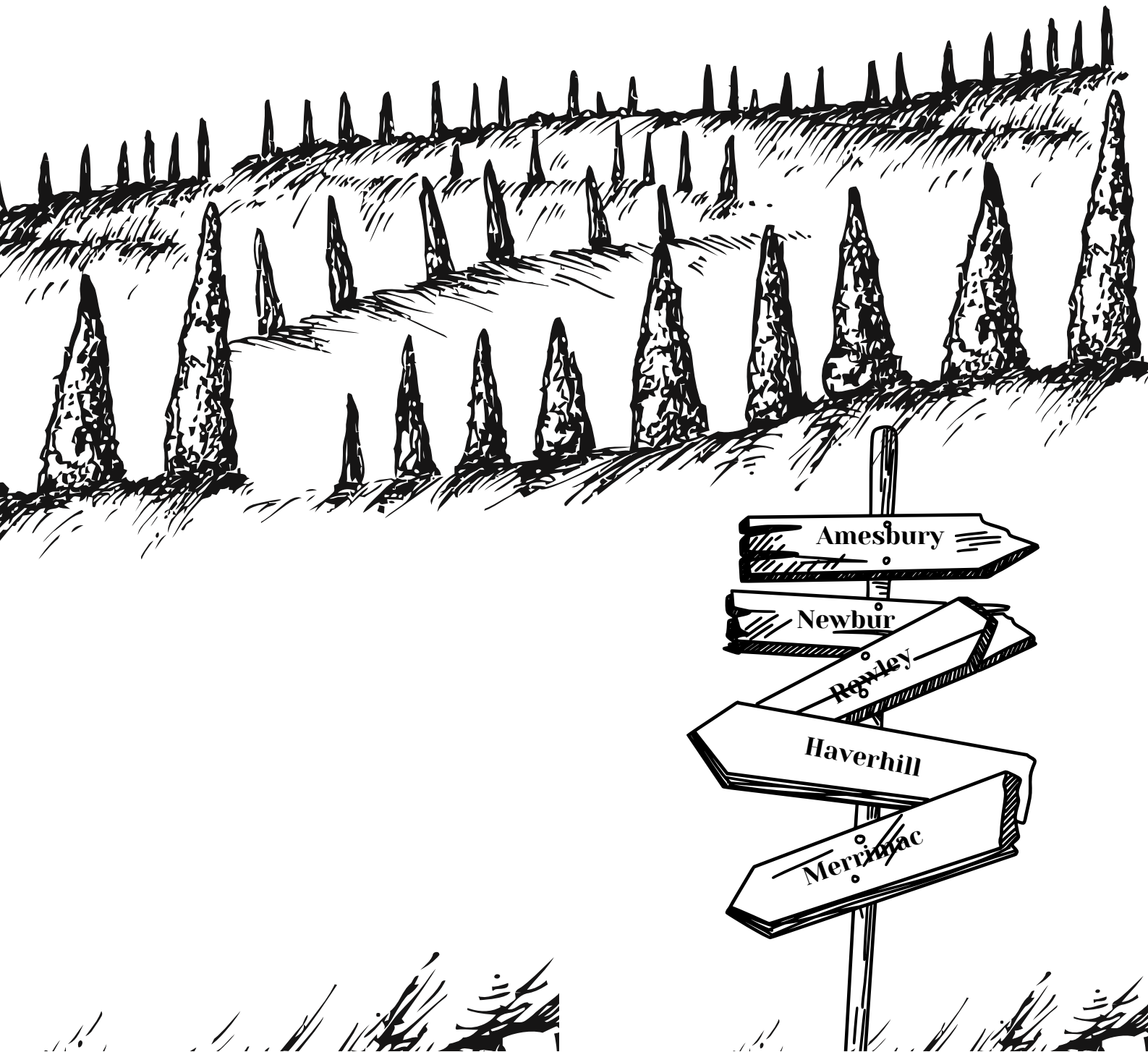


# Town Office Tales

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

## West Newbury on the Move!

For 200 years West Newbury has been a Town on the move, dotted with roads, railbeds , bridges, and byways, these traversed by carriages and cars, trolleys and trains, pedestrians and pull-carts.



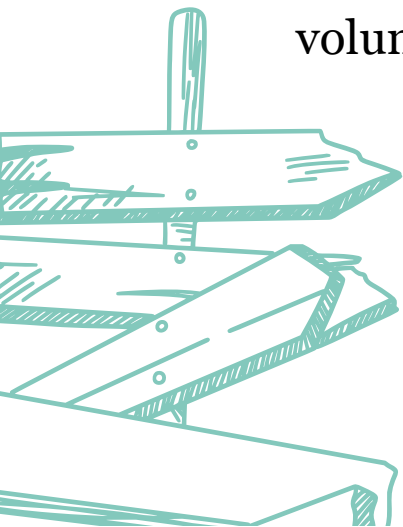
Salem January 6<sup>th</sup> 1838.  
 To the Selectmen of  
 West Newbury  
 Gentlemen—  
 In compliance with your  
 request, we have examined the price  
 of new road in your town, located  
 on the Petition of Thos. Echanals—  
 and wrought by Mr. Moulton—  
 It is not so wide by several feet  
 as ordered— when we direct a  
 road to be worked 24 feet wide  
 we mean there shall be a  
 wrought path of this extent, on  
 which the wheels can safely  
 run. We cannot accept it until  
 it is so finished. The general  
 form of the road appeared to  
 be such as it should be.  
 For the County Comrs.  
 John W. Proctor  
 Adjt. of Decr. 5. 1837.

Then as now, the development of infrastructure was a slow and tedious process. This letter at left from the County to the Selectboard rejects a roadway proposed by West Newbury for being too narrow for County standards.

Then as now, traffic congestion was a primary concern on Route 113. This citizen's petition calls for the rejection of a proposed gas station at Post Office Square citing the high volume of cars.

TO THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN OF THE TOWN OF WEST NEWBURY:  
 We, the undersigned, citizens of West Newbury, respectfully  
 petition Your Honorable Board not to grant a permit for the erection of  
 a Gasoline Station in Post Office Square, as the traffic in that location  
 at the present time makes it a very dangerous locality, and the traffic  
 would certainly be increased to a very dangerous extent if such a Gasoline  
 Station was erected.

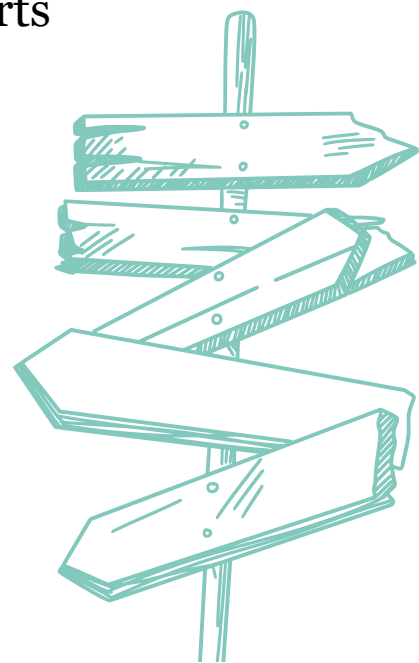
Edna J. Giles	Joseph C. M. Auliffe
Mary B. Cooney	Asa L. Welch
Alice M. Leary	Joseph C. Welch
Michael J. Leary	Henry L. May
Norman L. Brown	Daniel M. Auliffe
Mar. Janvier	H. P. Giles
Thos E. Johnson	Elizabeth Thompson
John B. Swaf	Christabel Bacheller
Russell T. Hoyle	John A. Hall
Harriet O. Whiting	Mary M. Christie
Lily B. Pomeroy	Shubert T. Dames
D. M. Bailey	Helena F. M. Auliffe
Flora C. Pease	Susan B. McVey
Margaret B. Sawyer	Katharine F. Ketticher
Lydia H. Bacheller	Emily A. Bailey
John S. Sawyer	Katherine S. Frozier
Esther T. Threlton	Charles A. Thompson
J. V. Chamber	Laura Robinson
	Annie Swaf







Regular inspection of the roads in West Newbury was undertaken by the Highway Surveyors, assigned a District (usually 1 through 12) to report in on to the Selectboard to ensure safety and maintenance. These are the Surveyor's reports from 1860.





Hard to believe, but at one time the trolley came through West Newbury right down Main Street. In the 1910s, the Boston and Northern Street Railway took over local service, running streetcars to and from Haverhill and other locations. In this letter, sent by Boston and Northern to the Town, they petition to act as sole carrier to convey “newspapers, baggage, express matter and freight”.

