

**THE TOWN RECORDS OF
GROTON,
MASSACHUSETTS, 1662-
1678**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649301096

The Town Records of Groton, Massachusetts, 1662-1678 by Samuel A. Green

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SAMUEL A. GREEN

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GROTON,
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1662-1678**

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EARLY RECORDS

OF

GROTON, MASSACHUSETTS.

1662-1678.



THE

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TOWN RECORDS OF GROTON, 1865.

MASSACHUSETTS.

1662--1678.

EDITED BY

SAMUEL A. GREEN, M.D.

GROTON:

1879.

Rec. + Arc

UNIVERSITY PRESS: JOHN WILSON & SON,
CAMBRIDGE.

NOV 18 1935

TO

The Memory

OF

RICHARD SAWTELL,
JAMES FISKE,
WILLIAM LONGLEY,
JOHN PAGE,

RICHARD BLOOD,
JOHN MORSE,
AND
JAMES PARKER,

The First Seven Colon Clerks of Groton,

THIS COPY OF THEIR RECORDS IS INSCRIBED

1854

By THE EDITOR.



EARLY RECORDS

OF

GROTON, MASSACHUSETTS.

THE town meeting is an outgrowth of New-England life. It had its origin with the first settlers, and has been kept up by their successors. Each town was incorporated, and the freemen came together in public meeting to discuss and settle questions of general interest. They also chose town officers, to whom was delegated the power to manage their civil affairs.

The following records of the town of Groton are the earliest extant, and were probably the first made of any meeting held within its limits. They are copied from the only book of records kept during the Indian wars; and, from the fact that the book was for a time preserved rolled up, it acquired the name of "The Indian Roll." The cover has long since been lost; the leaves are loose and much worn, and a few of them are missing. These records extend from the year 1662 to 1707, and contain many interesting facts in regard to the town. They include the names of families that have been in the neighborhood through many generations, even to the present time. Forty pages of "The Indian Roll" are here printed, and they cover the period ending with the re-settlement of the town in 1678, two years after its destruction by the Indians.

The pages of the record-book are not numbered, and sometimes the entries are made out of place, but the paging is

indicated, as far as practicable, by the figures enclosed within brackets.

The first town clerk was Richard Sawtell, an original proprietor of Groton and the possessor of a twenty-acre right. He came from Watertown, where he was living as early as the year 1636. He wrote a good hand for his day, and held the office during three years. He died August 21, 1694, at Watertown, where he went, doubtless, in the spring of 1676, when Groton was burned by the Indians.

Att a generall towne meet[ing] June. 23. 1662.

It was agreed vpon that the house for the Minister should be set vpon the place where it is now framinge.

Also that the meetinge house shall be sett vpon the right hand of the path by a small whit Oak, marked at the souwest side with two notches & a blaze

At a generall Towne meeting December. the twenty fourth it is agreed that Richard Sawtell being chosen to be the Towne Clark shall have six penc for Recording & giving a Transcript of every twenty Acars of land to the severall proprietors

Decem: 24. At a generall Towne meeting its agreed that all the lands that are or here after shall be granted shall be recorded with these expressions following, viz: To such a one or such a one &c: Ten or: Twenty Acars so & so bounded be it estemed more or lesse

Decem. 24 Its agreed by the Towne at a general meeting That the wood & Timber that is in the hie-way against any mans house shall be his provided that he shall not [upon] the penalty of paying halfe a Crown a tree falle any trees upon the Com[mon] except it apeareth they have not amon[gst] these trees such tree or trees as will suit their necessitie provided also that when they falle they shall not let lie to the prejudice of the Towne or any or any [sic] one of the inhabitants by hindering the pass[age] of Carts or Horses &c vpon the penalty of halfe a Crowne if vpon six dayes warning they shall neglect (within the said tim of warning.) to cleare the way for full & free passage

Liberty is granted to Timothy Allen to set his House vpon a knole with out side of his fenc & land is granted him there unto not exceeding an Acar

Decem. 24 It is agreed that Deacon James Parker James Knop & John Page shall lay out according to their discretion the Towne hie way & the land which any inhabitant wan[ts] of his grant

Deacon James Parker John Lawr[ence] [Wm.] Martin Ric : Blood & James ff[iske are] chosen Selectmen for this [year &] are to draw vp som direction[s for the] Towne [1]

W^m Lakin Ralph Reed. Joh. Page & Joh Nuttin are chosen Surveyors of the hie wayes. this year, decem. 24. (6[2.]

At a generall Towne meeting, March 18. 1663. It was general[ly] agreed, as folloeth

1st That M^r Millar is by the Consent of the Towne ma[ni]fested by vote to be desired if God moue his hart there unto to continue still with vs for our further edificat[ion.] Richard Blood desents from this in regard of the time of o^r desiring him, w^{ch} he would have to be after the gen : Court.

2^d That M^r Miller shall haue a Twenty Acar lot layd out to him according to the Townes grant to him

Thomas Tarbole. Senio^r vpon his request was granted by the Towne to haue a knole of vpland containing about an Acar towards the vper end of Broad Medow w^{ch} is thought Advantagious to him for the fensing of his medow

[Ju]ne 21 [16]63 Its agreed by the Towne & manifested by vote that M^r Willard if he accept of it shall be their minester as long as he lives w^{ch} M^r Willard accepts Except a manifest providenc of God appears to take him off

These persons folloing doe desent from this former vot. Richard. Sawtell. Samuell Woods. James Parker : John Nutting James ffiske

Its agreed by the major part of the Towne that M^r Willard shall haue their interest in the house & lands that was devoted by the Towne for the ministry suckcessively, provided they may meete in the house on the lords day & vpon other ocasions of the Towne on metings : And these persons following desent from their act

James Parker Ric. Sawtell Willia^m Longley John nutting Tho. Tarbole. Jun.

Richard Blood and John Clary att present James ffiske. John longley. Joh laran[ce] Joseph laran[ce] [2]

[Date torn off.]

. . . to exercise am . . . all Edification in the ways . . . glory & o^r owne everlasting goo . . . vs And further desiring y^e Lord to . . .