

**THE EARLY RECORDS OF  
GROTON,  
MASSACHUSETTS: 1662-  
1707**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649566938

The Early Records of Groton, Massachusetts: 1662-1707 by Samuel A. Green

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**SAMUEL A. GREEN**

**THE EARLY RECORDS OF  
GROTON,  
MASSACHUSETTS:  
1662-1707**



THE

C+

EARLY RECORDS OF GROTON, *Mass.*

*MASSACHUSETTS.*

1662-1707.

EDITED BY

SAMUEL A. GREEN, M.D.

---

GROTON:  
1880.

US  
7 5,070 00  
1880

Rec 7 Arc

*The paper on which this edition of the "Early Records of Groton,"—known as "The Indian Roll,"—is printed was made in that town at the "Hollingsworth Paper-Mills," situated in a part of the Nashua Valley which is full of Indian associations and traditions.*

NOV 18 1935

UNIVERSITY PRESS:  
JOHN WILSON & SON, CAMBRIDGE.

TO

## **The Memory**

OF

RICHARD SAWTELL,	JONATHAN MORSE,
JAMES FISKE,	JOSIAH PARKER,
WILLIAM LONGLEY,	JONAS PRESCOTT,
JOHN PAGE,	WILLIAM LONGLEY, JR.,
RICHARD BLOOD,	JAMES BLANCHARD,
JOHN MORSE,	THOMAS TARBELL, AND
JAMES PARKER,	JOSEPH LAKIN,

*The First Fourteen Town Clerks of Groton,*

OF WHOM THREE DIED WHILE IN OFFICE,

*THIS COPY OF THEIR RECORDS IS INSCRIBED*

By THE EDITOR.







## INTRODUCTION.



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 proceedings at these meetings furnish the basis of our political history, and they give us the best insight of the forces that developed local self-government.

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 are now printed in accordance with a vote of the town. From the fact that the book was for a while preserved rolled up, it acquired the name of "The Indian Roll." It appears to have been lost at one time, but was subsequently found; and, when first seen by Mr. Butler, according to his History, page 33, the wrapper containing it bore this inscription:—

"The Indian Roll,  
Found at Dea. Lawrence's, Feb. 21, 1807."

Major Samuel Lawrence was the town clerk from the year 1796 to 1798, and this book had probably been overlooked when the other records were turned over to his successor. The cover has long since been lost; the leaves are loose and much worn, and a few of them are missing. The records extend from the year 1662 to 1707, and contain many inter-

esting 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 day.

The pages of the record-book are not numbered, though there are traces of numbering in the part containing the Land-grants. The entries of the proceedings are made frequently out of place, and sometimes the record of one meeting is found scattered about, written on the blank spaces of several leaves. These detached fragments may be recognized from the date as belonging to the same meeting, and in this printed copy such fragments have been brought together. The paging of the early part of the record-book is indicated by the large figures enclosed within brackets. This, however, has not been deemed practicable later than June, 1681, on account of the want of chronological arrangement.

The Land-grants are given at the end of this volume, and for the most part are arranged chronologically; but in some instances they are not dated. In these cases, the name of the town clerk who recorded them is given, with his term of service; and the date can be approximated near enough for practical purposes. In printing them, the capitalization and punctuation have been made to conform to modern usage, as it is thought that in this way the different localities might be more easily identified; but the spelling remains unchanged.

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. His house-lot was situated on the west side of James's Brook, just below the monument marking the birth-place of Colonel Prescott. He died August 21, 1694, at Watertown, where he went, doubtless in the spring of 1676, when Groton was burned by the Indians. In his will, dated May 16, 1692, he mentions his wife, Elizabeth, — who died October 18, 1694, — and a large number of children and grandchildren.

