

## Winchester Town Records

The township was laid out into 6 tiers, parallel with the eastern line of the township, the first 5 to be 1 mile 6 rods (5,379 feet). This included a reservation for a 6-rod (99 feet) highway north-south, and the 6<sup>th</sup> or westernmost, so broad as to take up the rest of the land.

Annals and Family Records of Winchester, Conn. Boyd, Hartford, 1873

We should note here that there appears a little further on in volume 1 of the Winchester Town records, a schematic showing the town to be laid out in 11 tiers. There does not seem to be an explanation for this discrepancy.

**May 2, 1786** The following were residents of Winchester who lived on what is today Conn. Route 8. The area involved extended from the Colebrook town line southward to the north side of the Old North Road (where Pond's house is today adjacent to and south of the VFW).

David Crissey

Nathaniel Russell

Abel Hoskins

Abel Hoskins Jr.

Elijah Andrews

Elijah Andrews Jr.

Preserved Crissey

Israel Crissey

The next adjacent landowner in Winchester south of these people was Nathaniel Bissell. These people successfully petitioned the State legislature to join Colebrook's ecclesiastical society.

### **Town Meeting Dec. 1771**

Voted to raise 3 farthings on the £ of the ratable estate to defray charges to the town.

Voted that sheep shall be kept in and not run on the commons. Also, swine shall run on the commons from the first of April to the first of November with suitable yokes.

### **February 1772**

Proprietors of Winchester held a meeting in Hartford in February 1772 to lay out highways where land is left, or to alter and exchange any highways where it shall be found necessary.

They employed surveyor Epaphras Sheldon. The first of several mentioned roads reads as follows:

Began east end of west tier of lots at Torrington line run north 18° 30' east to the north side of Joel Beache's home lot with one or two rods reserved for a spring a little to the northeast of his house for to accommodate his land. (See the Dec. 22, 1788 entry.)

### **Town Meeting Dec. 7, 1772**

Voted a committee to remove nuisances [boulders, trees, etc.] from the highways. (Hereafter these are just referred to as nuisance committees.)

### **Town Meeting Sept. 5, 1774**

Voted by this meeting to stand a suit of law with Colebrook at Litchfield relative to their suing for a highway.

Voted that Warham Gibbs be an agent to act in behalf of the town against Colebrook at the county court in their action relating to a highway.

**Town Meeting Dec. 12, 1774**

Voted that if Torrington drive for a straight line between Torrington and Winchester, it be decided by Mr. Abraham Bradley, county surveyor.

Voted a committee to straighten the aforesaid line if this town is called to it by Torrington. It was put to a vote whether the following should be inhabitants of this town: Lent Mott, Widdow [*sic*] Sarah Preston and Benjamin Preston. All voted negative.

Voted the price of labor at the bridge over Mad River be 2 shillings a day for a man finding his own provisions.

Voted 2/6 [2 shillings sixpence] the price for three cattle a day at the bridge.  
[oxen]

Voted 2/ the price of one yoke of oxen.

**Town Meeting Dec. 18, 1775**

Voted that the Troopen [militia] be freed from paying anything for our colors. [Apparently some towns exacted a toll on persons passing through their town. During the War of Independence, people were denied the right to travel freely without written permission from a town official or a member of the court.]

Voted to raise 2 pence, half penny on the £ to purchase a town stock of powder and lead.

**Town Meeting Sept. 25, 1777**

Voted to provide the articles mentioned in the Governor's proclamation for the soldiers on the town's cost and give them to them *viz* to the soldiers.

Voted Deacon Samuel Wetmore and Sergt. David Austin be a committee to procure the above mentioned articles and to take care of them.

Voted Gersham McCune, Jonathan Alvord and Martin North be a committee to provide for the families of those men that are enlisted into the Continental Army according to the Act of Assembly.

**Town Meeting Dec. 1, 1777**

Ens. Peter Corbin elected tything man.

Voted to provide provisions and cloathing [*sic*] to the families of the officers and soldiers in the Continental Army.

Voted that those men that went volunteers to the northward and southward shall receive £5 out of the town treasury.

Voted the men who went with Ens. Browman last April and with Sergt. Timothy Benedict in August and with Lt. Benedict shall receive £5 each except such as have rec'd £5 for going volunteers.

Voted to pay David Austin for his expences and milage for his horse to carry cloathing [*sic*] to the soldiers.

**January 13, 1778**

The 13 Articles of Confederation were adopted. [Congress adopted the Articles in late summer of 1777.]

**August 31, 1778**

The first record of the Oath of Fidelity to the State.

**Town Meeting Dec. 7, 1778**

Voted Sergt. Freedom Wright shall have £5 for doing a military tour in the Northern Army in 1777.

Voted also the same for John Balcam [*sic* should be spelled Balcom].

Voted to give John Balcam 9 dollars for 2 whitewood trees which the committee cut on said Balcam's land to build Still River bridge.

**Town Meeting Feb. 12, 1779**

Voted Martin North, town treasurer, be paid for the paper he has used for the town the year past at 1/6 per sheet. [.37¢]

**Town meeting Mar. 13, 1780**

Voted 6 man committee as inspectors of provisions transported through this town.

Voted that Dr. Wetmore be allowed the privilege of keeping up a dam on the highway near Capt. Hills for the accommodation of a sawmill, but not to withhold the water from Saml. Hurlbut's sawmill.

**Sept. 19, 1780**

First list of Freemen appears on p. 74. The definition was as follows: "A person of a quiet and peaceable behavior and civil conversation and qualified to take the Freeman's Oath."

**Town Meeting Dec. 11, 1780**

Voted a committee of 3 to view best site for bridge over Still River near Ens. Doolittle's mills.

**Town Meeting Mar. 26, 1781**

Voted Capt. Corbin make application to Gen. Parsons or some other Genl. Officer to procure a pardon for Jinathan Preston on account of his deserting the army.

Voted to raise one shilling States money on the £ of the list for 1779 for the hiring of Continental soldiers.

**Wethersfield, April 23, 1781**

"This certifies that Richard Coit has enlisted in the Second Regt. Light Dragoons for three years, he being hired by the Town of Winchester for that term of time only.

(Signed, Michl. Conney, recruiter, non-commessd. Officer)"

**Town meeting June 21, 1781**

Voted that neat cattle or sheep or pork or English grain or Indian corn shall be accepted in lieu of the hard money granted in the last vote passed in this meeting.

**Town Meeting July 26, 1781**

Voted to raise 4pence on the £ of last August to purchase beef for the use of the army agreeable to the Act of Assembly in May lasty.

Voted a committee to procure barrels, receive and salt, pack and secure the beef and pork that shall be brought in and necessary to be salted and also to store other articles delivered in payment of State taxes.

Voted Dr. Wetmore to receive the cattle and sheep into his pasture that may be delivered in payment of the aforesaid rate.

**Town Meeting June 27, 1783**

Voted to do something for the support of the poor in this town.

**Town Meeting, 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday in Jan. 1787**

Voted that Isaac Filly shall mend and make good the gun he broke belonging to James Hale as good as when he rec'd. said gun.

**Town Meeting Dec. 1787**

Voted the rate may be paid in English grain or Indian corn or butter or cheese or flax or tallow or oats if paid by the 10<sup>th</sup> day of March next at a price to be estimated by the selectmen.

Voted the prayer of the memorial now lying in the General Assembly for Winsted to be made a Town may be granted by the Gen. Assy. If they see fit to grant the same without opposition from the First Society in Winchester, provided the west tier of lots in Winsted Society be not included in the proposed Town of Winsted.

**Town Meeting June 16, 1788**

Voted to procure weights for the use of the town *viz*: a 56 pound, 28 lb., 14 lb., & 2 lb.

Voted to procure measures for the use of the town *viz*: a half bushel, peck & two quart to be dry measures and also a two quart, one quart, pint, half pint and gill for liquids; the dry measures to be of wood, and those for liquids to be of tin.

Voted to build a bridge over Waterbury River, [Naugatuck R.] also to make a cauvey [sluice?] on the road.

**Town Meeting Dec. 22, 1788**

Voted that the spring by Mr. Joel Beach's be divided in the middle, Mr. Beach have one-half and the Town the other that the inhabitants, if they want to use the spring shall so fence it upon their own private cost so as to keep out hogs and other cattle that shall tend to foul the spring. The spring to be dug six feet long from the head so wide as to be convenient for to dip a pail. [This was in the southwest corner of Winchester that has now been transferred to Torrington.]

### **Town Meeting Feb. 19, 1798**

Voted that doctors or other men may have liberty to carry on inoculation for the small pox in this town beginning the 20<sup>th</sup> day of February until the 10<sup>th</sup> day of April under such regulations as shall be agreed on by civil authorities and selectmen appointed for that purpose provided said doctor and other men shall give a bond of one thousand pounds with surety sufficient in the judgment of the selectmen to carry on the business in such a prudent manner as not to expose any inhabitant of the town to the said disorder and to be contained at the houses hereto fore occupied and within the same limits.

### **1799**

Winchester's rate of pay on highways was 67 cents May or June, double that for man and team, .50¢ per day in October, double that for man and team.

### **Note:**

While the earliest town records mentions in passing that there was an iron ore deposit in the northeastern corner of the 11<sup>th</sup> tier, the subject is never brought up again. *A Gazetteer of the States of Connecticut and Rhode Island* by John C. Pease and John M. Niles, Hartford, 1819 noted under Winchester that they have no iron ore. (page 266)