Worcester.

Records of the Amer. Political Society
1793-1796.
American Revolution

Records of the American Political Society

Established in Worcester Dec. 1773 - June 1776.

From the Papers of Dr. John Green.
Worcester, New England Dec. 27, 1773

at a meeting this day held at the Dwelling house of Mr. Ma-
ward in Worcester aforesaid, at five of the clock in the after-
noon, by a number of persons whose names are herein after
mentioned, made choice of Mr. Joshua Bigelow chairman of
this meeting.

A motion was made & seconded that a vote be put whether
this meeting shall be continued from time to take under our
consideration & debate upon such matters and things as con-
cern our rights and liberties, and whether the members pre-
sent would enter into a social covenant for said purpose
under god and wholesome rules & regulations.

The said was accordingly put and it was unanimously vot-
to continued said meetings for the purpose aforesaid and
that they would enter into a covenant as before mentioned.

Then a motion was made that a committee might be cho-
zen to prepare rules & regulations for the well ordering
this society in their respective meetings for the future
and bring in the same at the next meeting by appoint-
ment; whereason Messrs. Nathan Baldwin, Samuel
Curtis, and Timothy Bigelow was chosen a committee
for said purpose. And the meeting was adjourned to
monday the third day of January at five of the
clock in the afternoon to meet at this house.
Monday Jan 3 1774 Being met according to adjournment

Messrs. Nathan Baldwin, Sam. Cogles, and Timothy Bigelow
offered the following rules for the regulating of meetings
which was accepted and subscribed to by each member
of said society.

Whereas at this present time the good people of this coun-
try in general (and with respect to some particulars circum-
stances the Town of Worcester in particular) labour under
many impositions and burdens grievous to be borne, which
we apprehend could never have been imposed upon us, if we had
been united, and opposed the machinations of some designing
persons in this Province, who are grasping at power and
the property of their neighbours. For the prevention whereof
and the better securing our liberties and properties, and
counteracting the designs of our enemies. We whose
names are hereunto subscribed do by these presents in-
corporate ourselves into a society by the name of an
American Political Society. And to meet at some
public House in Worcester at least once every month
to advise with each other on proper methods to be pursued
by us and each of us respecting our common rights and
liberties, civil and religious. And for the particular orders
and conducting our said society in their meetings, they shall
choose some one of the members of said society as a chairman
to preside in said meeting or meetings to keep up good order 
and
an observance of the rules hereafter mentioned, and one
other member as a clerk, to keep an exact journal of the
acts and proceedings of this our society in their said meetings
and for the well ordering our said society, the following rule
shall be strictly observed and complied with by each every
member thereof viz.

1. That no discourse or transaction in any of our meetings
shall be communicated or divulged to any person or
persons not belonging to our said society by any way
or means whatsoever (with only excepted as is allowed to
be made public by the unanimous vote of our said society
and that if any person or persons shall be guilty of a
breach of this article, he or they be punished with ex-
pulsion from our society.

2. That we will avoid all lawsuits with all men as
much as possible in general, and in particular with any
or either of the members of this our society, and if it shall
so happen that any difference shall arise between any
two or more of the members thereby, in any of our meet-
ings, and the parties cannot settle it to their satisfaction
between themselves, they shall submit to the determina-
tion of the society thereto or be expelled the society.

3. That each member of the society shall as he hath opportunity pro-
scribe the interest of every other member of this society in all
honest ways and methods that he can, without hurting his own or the interest of any other member of this society.

4. That in our said meetings, if any member knows of any infringements of the common rights of mankind he shall make the same known.

5. That whenever any member hath any thing to offer in a speech to the Society assembled, he shall address himself to the chairman then presiding, and during the time of his speaking, he shall not be broken in upon, or interrupted by any person whatever but by leave of the chairman.

6. That in all and every of our monthly meetings, our expense for liquors shall not exceed sixpence per man upon an average, and in our quarterly meetings it shall not exceed twopence per man as afforded upon an average.

7. That each member shall constantly attend all our said meetings, and if any member shall fail of attending he shall forfeit and pay into the hand of the Clerk six pence for the use of the Society, for such his nonattendance, and at the rate for every such offence, except he can assign reasons for his nonattendance satisfactory to the Society.

8. That every member of this Society is debarred the liberty of asking, inviting or introducing any person whatever into our company, without first having obtained leave of our Society for so doing.
That every member of our said society shall have full power to dismiss himself from said society in the following manner, by informing them in any one of their meetings in writing that he will involuntarily keep all the secrets of said society as faithfully as if he still belonged to it himself as they desire, but that he desires a dispensation by a vote of said society and that it may be entered on the journals of the transactions of said society that he was dismissed by his own desire.

That each particular member of this our society being in special trust and confidence in every other member of this society, looks upon himself bound and hereby bind himself by the ties of honor, virtue, truth, honesty and every appellation that is dear to him in this life faithfully and truly to keep and perform for himself and every of the articles herein mentioned as expressed to all intents and purposes.

Joshua Beggles
Ben Franklin
The Wheeler
Wm Young
John Smith
Robert Smith
Jacob Hemingway
Francis Harrington
David Knowles

Samuel Woodburn
Josiah Peirce
Samuel Rust
Josiah Peirce
John Hallo
Eneas Wheeler
Nathan Baldwin

Samuel W. Stevens
Joseph Barber
David Chadwick
James Barber
Wm Dana
Thos Lynds
Sam Fullerton
Will Johnson
John Emerson

Eben Lowell
Eben Loveall
Then voted that the said committee make some addition to the rules now brought in and that they bring in additional rules for acceptance at our next meeting.

Then voted to adjourn the meeting to the 10th day of January instant, then to meet at this House at 5 of the clock.

January 10, 1774 met according to appointment and Messrs. Nathan Baldwin, Samuel Currie, and Timothy Begelow offered the following additional rules for the well ordering our society:

11. That there shall be a new choice of officers in said society at each meeting next following a quarterly meeting.

12. That no member be admitted into this society but by a majority of the votes and that the vote be by ballot.

13. That each of our said meetings begin at five of the clock PM and not to continue more than four hours, quarterly meetings excepted.

14. That our monthly meetings shall be on the first Monday of February, second Monday of March, first Monday of May, June, August, September, November and December. And our quarterly meetings shall be on the first Monday,
of April, July, October, and January, and all quarterly meetings to begin at two of the clock P.M.

The foregoing rules being several times read before the society, were accepted by the unanimous vote of all the members present.

Then voted that our next meeting, which will be on the 7th day of February next, that being the first Monday in that month, be held at the house of Mr. Timothy Bigelow.

February 7, 1774. Met at the house of Mr. Timothy Bigelow according to appointment at our last meeting. Presence of Mr. William Young, chairman.

Admitted into our society Mr. Sigfrid Stevens.

Then debated upon the propriety of choosing any person into any office that was not an open professed friend to constitutional liberty.

Then adjourned to Friday the 25th of this instant to meet at this house at five of the clock P.M.

Friday, February 25, 1774. Met according to adjournment. Mr. Goodwin in the chair, and after agreeing upon a plan of procedure for which meeting appointed that our next meeting be at the house of Mr. Timothy Bigelow.

Monday, March 14, 1774. Met at the house of Mr. Timothy Bigelow according to appointment at last meeting, and made choice of Mr. Caleb Coit, chairman, and after debating ondry intruding matter and voting an enlargement of our society by admitting Cumby persons who were there named if they applied personally. Then voted that our next meeting be at the house of Mr. John Ward.
April 4, 1776 met at the House of Mr. Asa Ward and by a vote at our last meeting and made choice of Mr. T. & Wheeler, Chairman.

Note that the Committee of Correspondence of the Town of Worcester be directed to send circular letters to the Committee of Correspondence in the seven towns within this county, advising them of the votes for a county in favor not being carried at the late Court of General Sessions of Peace; as hath been usual; and of the danger consequent thereupon, that the whole people of the county may be upon their guard against any fraud or deception.

Note from Com. That this society will each one of them bear and pay their equal part of the fine and charges that may be laid on Messrs. Josiah Bigelow and Timothy Bigelow, for their refusal to be impeached upon the Grand Jury at our next superior court; Court of Assizes for the County of Worcester if they shall be chosen into that office; and their refusal is founded on the following principle, viz., that they cannot, consistent with good conscience and order serve if Peter Oliver Smith is present on the bench as chief justice or judge of said court, before he is lawfully tried and acquitted from the high crimes and charges for which he now stands impeached by the Hon. House of the present of this Province, and the major part of the grand jurors for the whole county join them in refusing to serve for the said offense.

The following members was present at the passing the aforesaid vote:

Josiah Bigelow, Thomas Wheeler, John Smith,

Benjamin Fagg, Timothy Bigelow, Robert Smith.
Jacob Flemingway  James Wheeler  Tho Lynd
Francis Harington  Nathan Baldwin  Sam Fullerton
David Thomas  John Pierre  Willm Johnson
Sipiah Peird  Joseph Barber  Silas Moore
Jonas Hubbard  James Barber  Willm Gates
Joshua Whitney  David Chadwick  Berg Steed
John Kelps  Willm Dana  Daniel Biggellon
Jon Rue  Ephm Miller  Reuben Gray
Daniel Beard  Moses Miller  Asa Ward

Voted that Messrs. William Young, Nathan Baldwin, Tim Baggs, Benjamin Flag, and Stephen Salisbury be a committee to prepare instructions for our representatives that shall be chosen to serve the town in its office at our annual meeting in May next.

Admitted into Society:

Daniel Beard  Ephm Miller  Moses Miller
Reuben Gray  Asa Ward

Vote that our next meeting be at the House of M't Asa Ward.
12 Monday May 21. 1774. Met at the House of Mr. Josiah Wards. According to appointment and adjourned to the House of the Widow Steiner.

Noted that Lieut. Josiah Price be chosen for the society three months next following.

Noted that Mr. Price be clerk for the society for the three months next ensuing.


Debated whether the Rev. W. McCarthy addition gallery of the sum of $20.00 be taken off for the year 1774.00 and is noted to be taken off.

Resolved. Now, con. that for the future we will abide strictly by our articles that we have heretofore subscribed to.

Noted that Mr. Kello be George GrandSurveyor for the Town of Worcester for the year 1774.
Voted to be admitted into our society the following persons viz.

Reuben Glessen, Phinehas Glessen, and Oliver Peirce.

Voted in addition to a committee to give instructions to our representation, the following persons viz. Josiah Peirce, Esq. Crafts and D. Neho.

Voted yet our next meeting be at ye house of Mr. Tri & Rigelow in North Dor in Worcester.

Monday June 6th 1774.

Met at the house of Mr. Tri & Rigelow according to appointment.

Admitted S. Oliver Peirce into society.

Price of least farm Cushi two three for his non-attendance 1/0

Price of mr. Young one three for his non-attendance 9/6

Voted that Josiah Peirce deliver a copy of the list & sub of the free-holders in the town of Worcester.
Hands voted the liberty of joining our society the following persons viz.

Elijah Harrington. John Barnard. Robert Craffe
Joseph Hastings. Wm. Taylor.
Benj. Muzzell
Daniel sigelow.

Voted to assemble at the house of Mr. David Goddish, by adjournment, on Tuesday, the 10th. Day of June, in the year 1771, at two o'clock P.M.

Friday June the 10th 1771 A.D.
Met according to adjournment.

Elijah Harrington.
Rob. Crawford.
Benj. Flagg Jr.
Wm. Taylor.

Voted the liberty of joining our society the following persons viz.

James Moore.
Peter Johnson.
Abel Holbrook.
Nath. Harrington.
Tho. Nickols.
Inc. Baird.
Nath. Sealey.
For the better securing, our injured, rights, and privileges.
The following vote was passed

Voted, to sign a Solemn Agreement and Covenant.
But we will not purchase, any English or West India,
ods, and after the last day of August next, either
directly, or indirectly, until the Port and Harbour of
Boston, shall be opened, and a Restoration of our
rights, and privileges; and also not to purchase any
thing of any person, or persons whatsoever, after he, or
they Decline signing said Covenant. From and after
our signing said Agreement or Covenant.

Voted to meet at the houses of our City ward.

Monday, July 4th, 1771.

Well According to Appointment.
Voted, that Jacob Williamson be Chairman for the Time being.
Voted, that there be a Covenant drawn, similar, to that which
the Inhabitants of the Town of Worcester, have signed. For
all the Women of an adult age, of this Town to sign.

Voted, that each, and every, member, of our Society, be forth
with furnished with two Pounds of Gun-Powder each, 12
Flints, and 100 Ammowder, powder.

短缺成员。July 4th, 1771.

(Customers' names)
We whose names are hereunto subscribed agree to take
poyr for two pound of Gun-Powder. or as much as in let
down against, our names.

Joshua Whitney . 2
Jos. Green . 1
David Thomas . 2
Eliz. Holbrooks . 2
Jos. Baird . 2
Joseph Dodsing . 2
James waiter . 2
Wm. Johnson . 2
Wm. Gater . 2
Jos. Kelfo . 3
Robt. Gray . 2
Nath. Harrington . 2
Jos. Nelson . 3
Sam. McRoberts . 2
Jos. Smith . 2
Tho. Lynd . 2
Nathan Hubbard . 1
Oliver Price . 2
Daniel Baird . 6
Wm. Dana . 1
Francis Harrington . 2
Jonh. Pich . 1
James Stoneell . 6
Jacob Harringtonseyg . 1
Joseph Peterkev . 2
Worcester, April 14th, 1774, D.

Voted Newn. Con.
Not this Society will each one of them bear to pay their
equal part of the fine if may be laid on, that John
Angelo and John Angelo to C. Vide the remainder of the
vote in Page 10th. Vote b.

The following Petition was presented to the Judges of
the Superior Court at their Session in April 1774, by
those returned as Grand Jurors of Inquest for the County
of Worcester. and after some debate was received by the Court
and ordered to be read in public by the clerk.

Worcester, April 17th, 1774, D.

To the Honorable the Majesties' Judges of the Superior
Court of Judicature &c. now sitting at Worcester in & for the
said county. We the subscribers being returned by our
Representatives to serve as Jurors of Inquest for this Court,
project humbly to inform your Honor that it is agreeable
to the sense of those whom we represent we should not
personally nor be sworn into this important Office. Where
Peter Oliver, Esq., sit as Chief Justice of this Court, and
would further add that our own sentiments perfectly coincide
With those of our constituents respecting this matter. So to
whatever inconveniences we impose ourselves, we are firmly
resolved not to be imposed, unless we are just assured that the
above gentleman will not act as a Judge on this Court, for
the following reasons. 1st because House of Commons
of this Province in their last Sessions, among other things,
Resolved. That Peter Oliver, Esq. has by his conduct rendered
himself totally disqualified any longer to hold and act in the office
of Justice of Said Court; and ought forthwith to be removed.

Respectfully,
Because the R. House of Commons in their first session did impeach the R. Peter Oliver Esq., of high crimes and misdemeanors. The particular of the impeachment we apprehend are known to your Honors which will excuse us from repeating them at large, to this impeachment the R. Peter Oliver Esq. who had not yet been brought to answer, and therefore we apprehend that the venire bearing the name Peter Oliver Esq. is illegal. But if we should be mistaken nevertheless we do protest and protest against the R. Peter Oliver Esq., acting as Judge on any of the suits which may arise in this session, which he is constitutionally disqualified of R. impeachment, because we apprehend it would be highly injurious to subject a fellow-countryman to a trial at a Court whose one of the judges is not only disqualified as aforesaid, but by his own confession found convicted in the mind of the people of a crime more Heinous (in all probability) than any that might come before him, with other reasons that might be offered, we hope your Honors will esteem sufficient to justify us for presenting the foregoing demonstration.

Joshua Spigelow.
Thomas Robinson.
Rhineus Heywood.
Nathan Walker.
Ep. Doolittle.
In. Fuller.
Ino. Tyler.
Daniel Claps.

Siler Bailey.
Ino. Shearmon.
Wm. Henshaw.
Nathaniel Corrie.
Moses Livermore.
Irma Spigelow.
Wm. Combe.
After the foregoing demonstration was read, the Hon. Edmund Frobridge, Esq.; acquainted the jury that it was altogether unlikely that Mr. Oliver would attend the trial; and being also informed that the High Sheriff had been a number of miles but in order to walk on him to London or in his usual and had returned without him. They retired and further considering the inconvenience which might attend at two o'clock a.m. were sworn and received the charge of

Attst. David Miller foreman.

Voted to meet and assemble at the house of Mr.
Asa Ward.

Monday August 1st, A.D. 1774.
Met according to appointment
Voted that Dr. John Green be Chairman for 3 months.
Next Enquiry,
Voted that Oliver Price, Esq. Clerk for 3 months.
Next Enquiry.
Voted that messrs Nathan Baldwin, Joshua Bigelow, Benjamin Flagg, Thos. John Green, Theodor Lovel, Timothy Bigelow, Lieut. Samuel Curtis be a committee to report to our Society at ye Adjournment next ensuing, something that they shall think proper for the Town to act upon, at our next Town meeting, which will be on Monday ye 22nd Day of August next, to see if our said Society will adopt them.

Voted ye messrs Samuel Woodburn, Nathan Baldwin & Thos. Bigelow be a committee to wait on, Mr. John Emerson, to desire of him the reason of his non attendance of our meetings.

Voted to Chuse a committee to wait on the selectmen to desire them to make search and see our Town stock of ammunition be in good repair.

Voted the Liberty of joining our Society, Luncheons, &c. Jenison Stearns.

Worcester, August ye 17th, 1774, Voted to meet by Adjournment at the house of the Widow Steere, at 3 o’Clock P.M. on Thursday ye 18th Day of this Instant August.
Worcester Aug 10. the D. 1774
Met and assembled at the House of the Widow Mary Rhine
from thence according to Adjournment.
Noted unanimously yr. Capt. Isenby Slagg be Chairman.
Pro Tempore
Noted of a report offered to our Society by the following
Committee (viz) Nathan Baldwin Setha Bigelow Keny.
Slagg the Greens Den’t Love Times Bigelow and
Phineas Curtis for the Town to act upon if they think
Proper be recommit to the said Committee for them
To make such Alterations and amendment as they shall
Think shall be best for this Society.

Noted yr. Nathan Parry be moderator of our next Town
Meeting to be assembled at the meeting house in Worcester
on Monday ye 12 Day of Aug. 1774
He should be chosen until that office.

Noted that Joseph Perrine be moderator as above perform
Case that the above Gent. Should refuse.

Noted that Messrs. In. Smith Tom. Bigelow a Committee
To equally divide and Proportion to each Subscribers the gun
Powder that was subscribed for in July of 4th D. 1774.

Noted Unanimously that the select men of Worcester do
forthwith make search and examination the Town Stock of
Ammunition and see if ye quantities quality be as ye
Voted to raise a committee to draft an obligation for the inhabitants of the town of Worcester to sign, by which person shall be provided with arms, ammunition, and all other accoutrements complete according to the law directing. And if we accordingly make choice of Messrs. Nathan Baldwin, John Bigelow, and Samuel Curtis for the end and purpose as above expressed.

John Gleason
Lem. Whitney
Inq. Woodard
Benj. Chapin
Josiah Sibley
Wm. Treadwell

Admitted into society the following persons:

John Gleason
Lem. Whitney
Thos. Bigelow
Inq. Woodard
Benj. Chapin
Josiah Sibley
Dan'l Hornsby
Thos. Jones
Jacob Holman
Lem. Wilford
Wm. Treadwell
Wm. Genison, Stoner
Josiah Sibley
Wm. Treadwell.

By Motion, Nathaniel Baldwin, Tiv. Bingley, John Burtine, by offering the above mentioned Obligation to this Incorporated, of said Town of Worcester, design for the end and Purpose expressed in it. Obligation otherwise had the next day shall appear.

Mr. Smeaton of Worcester hereby promises and declares that I will faithfully and inviolably, all or every of the Articles of this Society, known by the Name of an American Political Society, as faithfully and truly as if I still belonged to myself and as they now desire and also I desire to Request a Definition by a vote of said Society one that it may be inserted on the Journals of the Transactions of this Society that I was dismissed by my own desire.

Worcester Aug. the 10th. 12, 1792

A true Copy of Mr. Emerson Dismission.

Mr. Oliver Price
Noted, Sir:—Con. that for the future there shall not be any member, or member that now does or may hereafter belong to our P. Society call for or otherwise convey or cause to be conveyed into our P. Society any spirituous liquors of any sort whatever, so long as we shall remain in a social capacity.

Worcester Aug. 10th, 1776.

Meeting members: Joshua Bigelow.

David Bigelow.

Reuben Gray.

John Green.

Saml. Taylor.


Joseph Hastings.

Meeting members for June 30th, 1776:

N. Miller.

Joshua Bigelow.

As word.

Benja Bragg.

Josiah Brown.

Wm. Young.

James Hubbard.

Joseph Barker.

Wm. Johnson.

Ino. Emerson.

Ezra Heavis.

Ino. Moore.

Harry Storrs.

Samuel Price.
Missing members for May 6th 1772.

Joshua Bigelow.
Benj. Flaggs.
Tho. Wheeler.
Jacob Heroninway.
John Hubbard.
Joshua Whiting.
Anna Wheeler.
Joseph Booser.

William Dana.
Sam. Fullerton.
Wm. Johnson.
Ind. Emerson.
Cyphon Stevens.
Tooey & Dunsell.
Daniel Nee.
Daneel Davis.

Missing members.

Wm. Young.
David Thomas.
Saml. Custis.
Ezra Holbrook.
Anna Wheeler.
Saml. Fullerton.
Ind. Emerson.
Ind. Moore.
David Bigelow.
Daniel Nee.
John Sibbitt.
Wm. Taylor.
Ind. Board.
Joseph Nashings.

Noted to assemble at the dwelling house of Mr. S. a. Wadsworth in Worcester on the 8th day of September at 5 o'clock P.M.
Monday, Sept. 4th, 3rd. N. of 1773.
Met at the house of Mr. Jos. Ward, Innholder.
According to appointment.
Then adjourn'd to the House of the Widow Mary Stone.
Innholder, in Worcester.

Voted: the Liberty of joining our Society.

Voted: That Stephen Salisbury be admitted into our body
              to offer an Oath, administered to him, by Artemus Ward.

Relative to the non-importation of British Goods.

Voted: unanimously, not to except, of the oath in our society,
      that the above Gentlemen hath produced.

Voted: not to bring our Fire-arms into Town, the 6th day
      of Sept. next.

Voted: to meet by Appointment at the House of
      Mr. Jos. Ward, Innholder, in Worcester, the first
      Monday in Oct. next ensuing.

Admitted into our Society:—

James Moore

S. South Stone
Oct. 4th 1774.
Met according to appointment at the House of Mr. Jafa Ward, Inn-holder in Worcester.

Admitted into our Society — Thomas Knight
S. Levi Horton

Voted, that the Instructions for Mr. Thomas Biggs, as a Delegate, for a Provincial Congress, be read in our Society, for their Consideration. Also voted unanimously in our Society to accept of the Instructions above.

Voted, nem. cens. sent the Instructions for Mr. Joshua Biggs. Read in our Society for their Consideration, for the rule and conduct as a Representative of the Town of Worcester at the great and General Court or Assembly of the province, and satisfactory to our Society after being read one Paragraph by Paragraph.

Voted, to meet at the House of Mr. Jafa Ward, Inn-holder, the first Monday in November at 5 o'Clock P.M.

Nov. 7th 1774.
Met according to appointment. And chose W. Nathan Baldwin by a Majority, to be Chairman for three Months ensuing.

Voted, Sam. Brown to be Clerk for three Months ensuing.
Admitted into our Society M. Jonathan Stone Junior.

Voted Messrs. David Bancroft, and Jonathan Stone be a Committee with the assistance of one or more, a former Committee chosen by the Town to wait upon and offer the Solemn League and Covenant entered and entering into throughout this Province to the following Persons (Viz.) The Rev. Shaddeus M. Cary, Col. Gardner Chandler, Dr. Elijah Peirce, Stephen Salisbury, & Ion. Paine Rosier.

Voted to Meet at the House of the Widow Stearns on the first Monday in Dec. at 5 o'clock P.M.

Dec. 5th. Met according to adjournment, and Voted that M. Joshua Trigdon lay before the county Congress the refusal of Gardner Chandlers not signing the covenant entered and entering into throughout this Province.
Voted, that a Town Meeting be called and that a committee be chosen to draw a petition to the Select men, and chose Messrs. Nathan Baldwin, Sam. Curtis, Tim. Bigelow, Joshua Bigelow and Benj. Stonehill to assert the article in said petition.


Voted that this Meeting be adjourned to the first Monday in January at the House of W. Asa Wards at 5 O'clock PM.

Jan. 2, 1795
Met according to adjournment at the House of W. Asa Wards.
Voted Messrs. David Bancroft, Jonathan Stone and Jacob Hemmings be a Committee to wait on Mr. Stephen Salisbury to know the reason why he has not signed the Covenant or taken the Oath in P. Covenant, and to make report of their doing at our next meeting.

Voted to meet at the House of the Widow Mary Stearns on the first Monday of February at 5 o’clock P.M.

Feb. 6th 1773

Met according to Adjournment at the House of the Widow Stearns and chose Lieut. Curtis chairman for three months next ensuing.

Also chose Doct. John Green clerk for three months ensuing. Voted to dismiss a Committee chosen at our last meeting to wait on Mr. Salisbury for.

Voted the liberty of joining our Society.

Voted to Adjourn this Meeting at the House of Mr. Abner Ward the last Monday of this 5th of 5 o’clock P.M.
March 13, 1775
Meet according to Adjournment at the House of Mr. Asa Ward.

Voted Mr. Saml. Brown Clark Pro Temp. Voted and Read in to our society Mrs.

Voted that the word Majority in the 12th Article be struck out.

Unanimous.

Sam'l. Miller
Ralph Banercliff
Phinehas Ward
Noah S. Knight

April 8, 1775
Meet according to Adjournment at the House of Mr. Asa Ward, and Adjourn to the House of Mrs. Shanks.
May 1, 1775.

Met according to adjournment, at the house of Mrs. Tillens.

Voted: Mr. Josiah Prince, Chairman, and Mr. William Johnson, Clerk, for three months, next following,

and then adjourned to the first meeting in June at five o'clock, at the house of Mrs. Tillens.

July 2, 1775. Met according to adjournment and adjourned to the first Monday in July at five o'clock at the house of Mrs. Tillens.
1775 July 8th According to Adjournment and voted Mr. Joshua Bigelow chairman.

Adjourn to the first Monday in August at five o'clock to meet at the house of Mrs. Stearns.

August the 7th 1775 met according to Adjournment and voted Mr. Joshua Bigelow chairman, and David Bigelow Clerk for three months...voted to receive Mr. Jonathan Lovell into this Society.

Adjourn to the first Monday of September at five o'clock to meet at the house of Mrs. Stearns.
September the 4th, 1775 met according to adjournment voted to chose a committee of five: viz. Mr. Samuel McCraken, Mr. Josiah Peirce, Mr. David Bigelow, Mr. Samuel Woodburn, and Mr. Nathan Baldwin, to inspect the forges going to and coming from Lancaster or any other way.

Adjourned to the first Monday of October at five o'clock to meet at the House of Capt. William Jones in Holderness in Newbury.

October the 2nd, 1775 met according to adjournment and received Mr. Jonathan Lock into our society, also voted to receive Mr. Ebenezer Willington into our society.
Adjourned to the first Monday of November at five o'clock to meet at the House of Mrs. Stearns Inholder in Worcester.

November 3rd, 1775 met according to Adjournment and Voted Decker Samuel Miller Chair-man and Silas Chard for three months & also to proceed in furthering the best interests of the Society.

Adjourned to the first Monday of December at five o'clock to meet at Capt. William Jones Inholder in Worcester.

December 4th, 1775 met according to Adjournment and Adjourned to the first Monday in January at five o'clock to meet at the house of Capt. William Jones Inholder in Worcester.

January 7th, 1776 met according to Adjournment.
Adjourned to the first Monday in February at five o'clock to meet at Capt. [illegible] John [illegible]

February 5, 1776, met according to adjournment and voted Mr. [illegible] Hors Chairman and Joseph Ball Clark for three months next ensuing.

Adjourned to the last Monday in February at five o'clock in the after noon to meet at the house of Mr. Stearns [illegible]

February 26, 1776.

Met according to adjournment and voted the several following articles viz.
That as there is an unholy grudge subsisting in this Town and the Town as divided into parties: To prevent the bad effects where of this Society will make enquiry into the origin of it and the means by which the same is kept up and continued and do all in our power to suppress contention and reunite parties and establish peace and harmony.
Voted that every member of this Society shall give all the intelligence in his power of any male practice or misbehavior of any and every person in the Society or belonging to this Town that hath been the means of causing a division or that hath done any thing having a tendency to continue it, or that hath been guilty of irritating or reflecting animosities against either party in publick Town meetings.

Voted that if any member of this Society during the absence of inquiry shall refuse to give direct the answers to inquiry as he may be asked by the chairman or a committee appointed for such purposes respecting the inquiry, or shall be found guilty of willful falsehood he shall be expelled the Society and his expulsion and crime recorded.

Voted that a committee of inquiry consisting of six persons be chosen out of each party to investigate the rise and origin of the present difference and divisions, and of all matters of grievance and make report to this Society.

Voted that Mr. Thomas Wheeler and Mr. Ezekiel How to be the Persons to nominate this committee.

Voted that Messrs. Nathan Baldwin, Joshua Biglo, Benj. Bragg, David Biglo, Sam'l. Curtis, Robert Smith to be this committee of inquiry.
Resolved that this Society in their Corporate capacity as a political Society shall not pass any laws relative to the choice of Town or publick Officers for the management of Town meetings until the fore mentioned Enquiry be made and finished and the Society have acted thereon.

Voted that it is contrary to the mind of this Society that they shall vote in Town meetings.

Resolved to the eleventh day of March next ensuing to meet at one o'clock in the afternoon at the house of Mrs. Stearns Innholder.

Monday March the 14th 1776.

Met according to adjournment and Voted Mrs. Robert Smith Chairman Pro Tempore.

Resolved that Mr. Baldwin should read a paper that he had drawn up as grievances in this society at this meeting.

Moved and seconded to dissolve this society and report in the negative.
Voted that the grievances found by messrs.
Nathan Baldwin, Benjamin Flagg, Samuel Curtis,
as part of a committee chosen in a former meeting,
should be read to this society to see if they will
act on them or not.

adjourn to the first Monday in April at
five o'clock in the afternoon to meet at the
house of Mrs. Sturms, innholder.

April 1, 1776
met according to adjournment
moved and seconded to dissolve this society and
voted in the negative.

adjourned to first Monday in May at five
o'clock in the afternoon to meet at the
house of Mrs. Sturms, innholder.

May 4, 1776. Met according to adjournment
at the house of Mrs. Sturms, and voted that
Dr. John Green be chairman for three months,
also Joseph Barber Clark for three months.

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Moved and seconderd to see if this Society would act on past grievances and voted on the negative.

Voted that the meeting be adjourned to the twentieth day of this instant then to meet at the house of Mr. Stearns, Inholder at two of the Clock.

Met according to adjournment at the house of the Widow Stearns May 20th 1726. Moved and seconderd to resolve this F Foster Society and voted in the negative.

Voted to see whether a Cemetery that was chose to bring in past grievances should to gather or separate.

Voted to separat at our next meeting.

Voted that this meeting be adjourned to the first monday in June at five o Clock at the house of Mr. Harris.