

April, 1805.

1. Attended at the Bank this week.
5. Annual Fast.
11. Went to Boston.
13. Returned to Worcester.
15. Hired two Surveyors and went with them to survey the Land E. 1° North for a turnpike road to Boston¹—crossed the hills and Long pond² over to Shrewsbury on a direct line 3½ miles from Worcester Bridge,³ and returned home the same line back—a good road can be made.

¹ In February, 1805, a petition was presented to the General Court by Aaron Davis and one hundred and forty-five others, stating "that the great road or highway leading from Boston to Worcester is extremely crooked, hilly and in many places, narrow and inconvenient—that the present and most direct way from Boston is through Cambridge, Watertown, Waltham, Westown, Sudbury, Marlborough, Northborough and Shrewsbury, into Worcester; whereas, after a careful view and survey of the true situation, and course, to Worcester, the most direct and nearest way will be found to be by opening a road from the Southerly part of Boston, through Roxbury, Brooklyn, Newton, Needham, Natick, Framingham, Southborough, Westborough, and the southerly corner of Shrewsbury, into Worcester;—that by a road in this direction your Petitioners verily believe a saving between eight and ten miles in the distance between Boston and Worcester might be made; that this route would be pursued mostly over very level ground, and would avoid the very many and difficult hills which are a great impediment to the travel on the old road." The petition also stated that a like saving might be made on the roads from Worcester to Hartford and towards Pittsfield and Albany, and asked for an act of incorporation for a turnpike road "in such a direction as near a straight line to Western Bridge as your Honors in your wisdom shall deem fit, and to grant them such reasonable toll thereon as shall be thought adequate and proper for such an undertaking."

A similar petition was presented at the same time by Asa Nickols and forty-three others. 9 March, Hugh M'Clallen, William Ely and Moses Brown were appointed a legislative committee to view the respective routes, or any others as the most direct route from Boston to Western Bridge, at the expense of the petitioners, to hear the parties and report their opinion whether any turnpike road was necessary and expedient, and if any, which route would best accommodate the public.

See also entry and note, 30 October, 1806.

² Lake Quinsigamond.

³ The bridge at Lincoln square.

16. Surveyors arrived, who are measuring the old Road from Roxbury Watertown and from Cambridge, through Sudbury, Marlboro', Northboro', and on to Western.¹

23. My brother visited us, with his daughter Mrs. Ball,² the latter to tarry 3 or 4 weeks.

24. Gentlemen from Roxbury arrived.

25. Surveyors arrived from Roxbury—Went out to meet them—they crossed Long Pond at a little distance, say 30 rods from where I crossed it last week; they came in a direct line from the School house in Roxbury to Worcester Court house, were 6 days on the rout—distance from Boston about 37½ miles.

28. Surveyors from Cambridge arrived—on a direct line from West Boston Bridge to Worcester Court house—Sat off from Cambridge Wednesday morning—arrived early this morning.

30. Went to Western to meet the Court's Com^{ee}. and others, with the Agents from Roxbury to Survey the road, and find a better rout from Western to Worcester.

May, 1805.

1. Went up the Mountain near to and about S. W. from Western Bridge. Gen'l Court's Com^{ee}. arrived in the afternoon; sat off a little before Sun down and all arrived at the West Parish in Brookfield—I went to the S^o Parish and lodged.

2. Returned to Worcester, accompanied by M^r. Bangs³ and my daughter.

¹ Warren.

² Mary, daughter of Joshua and Mary Turing Thomas of Lancaster, was born, 25 November, 1778. She was twice married, first, 1 December, 1796, to Dr. Nahum Ball; and 17 June, 1812, to Calvin Willard, then of Petersham and afterwards of Worcester.

³ Edward Bangs, the son of Benjamin Bangs, of Harwich, Mass., was graduated from Harvard in 1777 and then studied law with Theophilus Parsons, in Newbury-

3. Gen'l one o'clock—dinner at Jo field.

4. The a course Ea about due E a road to R at the Long

7. Maria

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port, being a fellow bar in 1780, and fo in 1805 formed a p sented Worcester i when he was made the Western Circu; fought with the co Shays's Rebellion campaign the expo health that he nev

[Born, Harwich,

¹ The Exchange

² Bell Pond.

³ Marianne, or 1 first wife, Mary Di and then to —

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August, 1806.

2. Young Austin killed by Selfridge.¹
4. Wm. Andrews² and wife arrived from Boston.
5. And this morning sat off for Stafford Springs.
6. Went to Lancaster with Mrs. T., Miss Weld, Augusta.
7. Went from Lancaster to Sterling. Returned to Worcester with my brother's wife.
15. Raised the ground at the new bridge on the new street so as for the first time to get a loaded cart on it. William Andrews and his wife returned from Stafford Springs.
16. Left us this morning for Boston. Eliza and Miss Weld went to Sterling with my brother's wife.
18. Millander began work.

¹ This tragedy grew out of a political quarrel between the famous Boston lawyer, Benjamin Austin, the father of the victim, and Thomas Oliver Selfridge, then a partner of Lemuel Shaw, who was just beginning his professional life. It caused the greatest excitement in Boston, at a time when party feeling ran very high, and the day was long afterwards known as "Bloody Monday." The trial of Selfridge for manslaughter, before Judge Parker, was one of the most noted which ever occurred in Boston. James Sullivan, Attorney General, and Daniel Davis, Solicitor General, appeared for the prosecution; and Samuel Dexter, Christopher Gore, Harrison Gray Otis and Charles Jackson were counsel for the defence.

The defence claimed that Charles Austin, a Harvard student, eighteen years of age, had espoused his father's side, and that as he saw Selfridge crossing State street, near the old State House, advanced rapidly towards him in a threatening manner and began striking him on the head; and that, because of his inferior strength and size he was unable to defend himself, he drew his pistol and shot his assailant dead.

The verdict was "not guilty," but it is impossible to say how far it was affected by the political opinions of the jurors. Thomas Handasyd Perkins was the foreman of the grand jury which found the indictment, and Paul Revere was the foreman of the petit jury which rendered the verdict.

² William Andrews, a brother of Ebenezer T. Andrews, was a bookseller at 1 Cornhill, Boston.

21. Rode over the new bridge on the New Street for the first time it was passed with a carriage. Mr. Trumbull accompanied me. Hail storm. 2000 squares of glass broken in Worcester street by hail Stones.

23. Stevens began work.

25. Began mending the Canal. Went to Framingham and met M^r Andrews and family, etc. Returned to Worcester with Mrs. A. and his sons, young Weld, and Wm. A's son.

29. Went yesterday to Boylston with Mrs. A. her sons, the family, etc. Dined with M^r S. Chandler. Millander & Stevens absent.

30. Millander absent.

31. M^r Nash¹ dined, etc.

September, 1806.

1. Levi carried Mrs. Andrews and the lads to Framingham.

5. Ploughed up the new Street.

6. Went to Boston in Coachee with H. Frazier & Levi.

8. Quarterly Communication.

¹ Rev. William Nash, the first settled minister in West Boylston, was graduated from Yale in 1791. When he accepted the call to West Boylston, in 1797, he found that a part of the members of his church were, like himself, Arminians, while a minority were Calvinists. Although the latter faction was greatly opposed to his settlement, the opposition was after a time apparently dormant, but it broke out again so fiercely in 1812, that an attempt was made to dismiss him. In 1814 ill health prevented him from performing his pastoral duties, and in the following year he was dismissed at his own request. He died in West Boylston in 1829, at the age of sixty years.

25. Paid Tucker 25 dollars.
 27. Pd. Aqueduct 6 dols. Theatre with Eliza.
 28. Bought new Coachée.
 30. Drive with Mrs. Thomas, Eliza & Miss H. Weld.
 The subscribers of Worcester Turnpike first met this day at Concert hall, Boston, to organize and chuse Directors, etc. I was chosen a Director.¹

¹ By an act of the General Court, dated 7 March, 1806, Aaron Davis, Luther Richardson, Samuel Welles, Charles Davis and William H. Sumner and their associates were empowered "to make, lay out, and keep in repair a turnpike road" from Roxbury to Worcester, through Brookline, Newton, Needham, Natick, Framingham, Southborough, Westborough and Shrewsbury; and Bezaleel Taft, of Uxbridge, Nicholas Tillinghast of Taunton and Silas Holman of Bolton were appointed a committee to view and lay out the road, make alterations, adjust damages and authorize the erection of toll gates. Luther Richardson was the first clerk of the corporation and William H. Sumner the treasurer. In January, 1807, the directors announced that they would receive proposals for making the road, and that particulars would be furnished by Aaron Davis or George Zeigler, Roxbury, Oliver Fiske, Worcester, or William H. Sumner, Boston.

The committee held their first meeting at Coolidge's Tavern in Worcester, the following April. Work was immediately begun, and on 9 October, 1809, in a notice calling for an assessment the proprietors were notified that the road was finished and the toll-houses erected.

By the act of incorporation the company was authorized to erect four toll gates, in places not on any old road, which the committee should determine; but it was found, as the different sections of the road were completed, that it made such intersections with various old roads, that persons could easily travel on the turnpike a great part of the way, and avoid the toll gates; and the company was allowed to erect additional gates and subdivide the toll.

An act passed 16 March, 1805, established the following rates of toll on all turnpike roads within the State:

For each coach, chariot, phaeton, or other four-wheel spring carriage drawn by two horses,	.25
For each additional horse,	.02
For every waggon, drawn by two horses,	.10
For each additional horse,	.02
For every cart or waggon, drawn by two oxen,	.10
If drawn by more than two,	.12½
For every curricule,	.15
For every chaise, chair, sulkey or other carriage for pleasure, drawn by one horse,	.12½
For every cart, waggon or truck, drawn by one horse,	.06½

November, 1806.

1. Mrs. Thomas went to Worcester, with Levi in the Chariot.

3. Voted in Boston. Town of Worcester voted me thanks for the new street.¹

For every man and horse,	.04
For every sleigh or sled, drawn by two oxen or horses,	.08
For each additional ox or horse,	.01
For every sleigh or sled, drawn by one horse,	.04
For all horses, mules or neat cattle, led or driven, besides those in teams or carriages, each,	.01
For all sheep or swine, per doz.,	.03

The corporation might commute these rates by taking a certain sum annually, and carts or waggons having wheels, the fellies of which were six inches broad or more, paid only half the regular toll.

Unless these rates were posted in a conspicuous place at each gate, no toll could be collected.

The act exempted from toll "any person that shall be passing on foot, or with his horse or carriage to or from his usual place of public worship, or from any person passing on military duty, or from any person residing in the town where the gate may be placed, unless they are going or returning from beyond the limits of said town, or from any person going to or from any grist-mill, or on the common and ordinary business of family concerns."

In 1826, that part of the road lying in Roxbury was discontinued, and its eastern end was established at the arch near the Punchbowl Tavern in Brookline.

In 1841 the company surrendered its charter and the road was maintained by the different towns through which it passed. After much opposition, the section in Worcester [the present Belmont street], was accepted by the town, 1 May, 1843.

¹ "At a Meeting of the Inhabitants of the Town of Worcester Qualified to Vote in Town affairs legally warned & assembled at the meeting House of the first Parish in Said Town on Monday the third day of November A. D. 1806 then the following Votes were passed viz—Chose Samuel Flagg Esqr. Moderator.

"Voted that the Town do approve and allow of a Town way or Street laid out by the Selectmen through the land of Isaiah Thomas Esqr. & Cap^t. Daniel Heywood by the Name of *Thomas Street* and Voted that the Thanks of the Town be given to Isaiah Thomas Esqr. for his Generosity in giving the land for Said Street and building the bridge and making the Street in Complete repair to be travelled on without any Expence to the Town, the report of the Selectmen is as follows—The Selectmen of the Town of Worcester have laid out a Town way or Street through the lands of Isaiah Thomas Esquire & a Small Strip belonging to Cap^t. Daniel Heywood from the main Street to back (Summer) Street near the centre of the Town on the North Side of the bounds following, Beginning at the North-

20. Finished viewing the road, and arrived at Boston this Evening.

21. Directors met at Boston. I sat off this afternoon for Worcester in a chaise alone.

22. Arrived at Worcester.

27. Thanksgiving.—My son & family dined with me.

December, 1806.

1. Went to form Association for Assemblies.

At his ordination, 1 February, 1786, the feeling was so strong against his doctrines that only two ministers in the vicinity could be found to assist,—Rev. Timothy Harrington of Lancaster and Rev. Zabdiel Adams of Lunenburg. The new parish was incorporated 13 November, 1787, and was a poll and not a territorial parish, that is, it was composed of those of similar opinions without regard to local habitation, and was probably the first of the kind in Massachusetts outside of Boston.

Dr. Bancroft was the minister of the Second Parish until his death in 1839, a period of fifty-three years, during the last twelve of which Rev. Alonzo Hill, the second minister, was his colleague.

Outside of his parish Dr. Bancroft took an active part in general educational and religious matters. In 1810 he received the degree of D.D. from Harvard. He was trustee of Leicester Academy from 1800 to 1831, and its president for many years; president of the Worcester County Bible Society, of the American Unitarian Association from its formation in 1825 to 1836 and of the Society for promoting Christian Knowledge; vice-president of the Worcester and Middlesex Missionary Society and of the American Antiquarian Society from 1816 to 1832; and a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

In 1807 he published a "Life of Washington," which was twice reprinted; and in 1821 a series of doctrinal discourses, of which President John Adams wrote to him, "I thank you for your kind letter of Dec. 30th, and above all, for the gift of a precious volume. It is a chain of diamonds set in links of gold. I have never read, nor heard read, a volume of sermons better calculated and adapted to the age and country in which it was written. How different from the sermons I heard and read in the town of Worcester from the year 1755 to 1758 . . . You may well suppose, that I have heard controversies enough; but, after all, I declare to you, that your twenty-nine sermons have expressed the result of all my reading, experience, and reflections, in a manner more satisfactory to me, than I could have done in the best days of my strength."

He also published many sermons in pamphlet form.

[Born, Reading, Mass., 10 November, 1755. Died, Worcester, 19 August, 1839.]

See entry and note, 28 February, 1810.

9. My son returned to Boston with Eliza. They went in the Stage. Bad travelling. No snow on, nor frost in the ground. Paid 300 dollars more for my son-in-law. Bought 6 cords wood. My son was 17 hours going to Boston in the Stage. Left Worcester at 11 o'clock this day, and arrived at 4 o'clock next morning.

11. Paid Oliver Day of St. Albans 300 dols. for my son-in-law.

13. Went to Church twice. No singing.

14. Mrs. Thomas had her annual Company.

15. Went to the Bank. Heard that my property in the hands of Cheever Felch, at Walpole, N. H., was all attached by his Creditors.

16. Sent Anson Whipple to look after my property attached by Felch's Creditors at Walpole. The property amounts to between 6000 & 7000 dollars.

17. Assembly this Evening. Visited the Tanyard.

18. Moses Thomas paid his note.

19. Rec^d. from T. & A. 125 dollars for Rent pd. them for me. Bought 5 cords of wood.

and transfer the Books and papers to the new Clerk Mr Geer Terry, and to Settle with the Treasurer Mr Waldo, also, and make their report at the next meeting of the Society—and Chose Oliver Fisk Esq^r Cap^t. Asa Hamilton & Mr. Silas Brooks, Committee.

Voted, Not to remit the Hon. W^m Stedmans Fine—

Voted, Not to remit Nath^l Maccarty Esq^rs Fine

Voted, Not to have an engraved Plate procured for this Society.

Voted To Receive the 450 Card Tickets Printed by Mr Isaiah Thomas Jun and to pay him therefor the Sum of Three Dollars.

Voted, Unanimously to admit Cap^t Ephraim Mower as Member of this Society.

Voted, That Mr Silas Brooks be a Committee to inform Cap^t Ephraim Mower of his admission into this Society.

Voted, That a Sum not exceeding Twenty Dollars be appropriated towards the expense of this Evening, out of the Money in the Hands of the Treasurer of this Society.

Voted; To dissolve this Meeting—

A true Entry

Attest J. ROBINSON Clerk

5. Went to Church twice.

7. First Boat on the Canal, arrived at the Bason in Thomas Street, from Providence, with a number of Gentlemen passengers. Went on board with the Governour and a number of Gentlemen, an address by M^r. Merrick, afterwards went to the Gouvernour's with a number of Gentlemen invited, who gave us very excellent entertainment of good eating and drinking.¹

¹On the preceding day the "Lady Carrington" passed the locks near the Armory village, in Millbury, where it was welcomed by a salute of twenty-four guns. Upon its arrival at the upper basin, in Thomas street, it was enthusiastically received by the citizens, the cannon were fired and the church bells rung. On board were Stephen Smith and Moses B. Ives, of Providence, and John Waldo Lincoln and John Davis, of Worcester, of the board of canal commissioners, and many guests, both from Rhode Island and Massachusetts. Pliny Merrick, chairman of the selectmen, made an address from the deck, after which Governor Lincoln entertained the guests at luncheon.

Great expectations were raised of the benefits which would accrue to Worcester from the increase of trade following the completion of the canal. The Worcester papers established a column of marine intelligence, and the following

Cash received.

Sept ^r . 11. of Wilder	2.00	Rent of Mr. Bigelow,	
13. of Darby	5.00	in Boston	75.00
16. of Scott, Rent and note	23.62	25. From the Bank for	
17. of M. G. Thomas, interest	3.00	Peter Kendall	50.00
22. of Mr. Merrick interest & part principal	100.00	29. From do. for James Hall	80.00
		30. of Richard Hildreth, interest	60.00

Cash paid away.

Sept ^r . 4. Geer for digging, &c. a well	30.00	13. Paid Barrow's account	4.75
Pitkin's History	5.00	16. Paid Scott & Smith.	1.38
Family	1.00	18. Mrs. P. for family	5.00
5. Mrs. P. for family	5.00	19. Lease	.60
6. Sundries, Eliza	5.00	22. Loaned Isaiah Thomas jun ^r .	100.00
barrel of Flour	7.75	23. paid Smith & Western's account	1.75
Sundries—Microscope	.75	25. Paid P. Kendall	50.00
8. Ch ^r .	2.00	Sundries	.70
paid Wheeler & Thaxter's acc ^t .	2.04	26. Mrs. P. for family	6.00
9. Children	3.00	29. paid James Hall, for building Porch & Wood house & Materials	80.00
10. Eliza—Burlington	25.00		
Isaiah T.'s do.	12.00		
11. Sundries for Lancaster	3.00		
12. To Lancaster	2.00		