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For Ready Reference

A Chronological Record

Of the

Principal Events

That have occurred in

Amesbury, Massachusetts

From the Organization of the

Township of Merrimac in 1638

To

1900

By

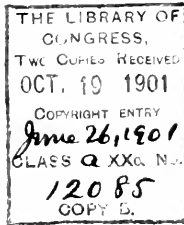
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THE object of this little book is to give a record of the principal events that have occurred in Amesbury from the organization of Salisbury,—of which Amesbury was once a part,—to the present time; reference being made to Salisbury and Merrimac only as they are or have been connected with Amesbury.

The writer has tried to so arrange and condense the material that the book may be used easily for reference, and from its price be accessible to all.

Town and church records have been carefully read in connection with Mr. Merrill's History until 1880, after which time, files of newspapers and records of various kinds have been used.

The thanks of the writer are given to the many who have assisted her.

Chronological Record of the Principal Events that have Occurred in Amesbury.

17th Century.

- 1638**—Leave is granted by the General Court to Simon Bradstreet and others to form a plantation at “Merrimac,” on the north side of the Merrimac river, to include what is now South Hampton, part of Kingston, Plaistow, Newton, Seabrook and Hampstead, N. H., as well as Amesbury, Salisbury and Merrimac.
- 1639**—Location chosen for new town about the Salisbury Green. Named Colchester by General Court.
- 1640**—First meeting-house built at the Green about this time. Name of town changed to Salisbury by General Court. Large number of lots granted west of the Powow river. Line run towards Pentucket six miles.
- 1641**—Two roads ordered laid out west of Powow river. One starting at Floating Bridge at Weir Point up Gun House Lane (now Macy street), four rods wide, and running through Pond Hills to Haverhill; the other starting at the Merrimac river, running over the eastern part of Ferry Hill (i. e., across Bailey’s and Sandy Hill), “through Sand hollow over Whittier’s Hill to New Hampshire line.”

- 1642**—Ordered at town meeting that “Thirty families remove to ye west side of ye Powowas river” before the first of the third month in 1645, such as “the seven men shall approve of,” and “that this order shall stand unrepealed forever except by the consent of every freeman in town.”
- 1643**—Norfolk County established, including Salisbury, Hampton, Haverhill, Exeter, Dover and Strawberry Bank (Portsmouth), continuing till 1679.
- 1645**—“Ordered that John Sanders, John Stevens and Thomas Macy shall appoint where the highways shall be beyond ye Powowas river from ye mill to ye houses where they shall think most convenient and this to be done between this and September next.”
- 1652**—Anthony Colby and Richard Currier given power “to lay out a road from ye mill bridge to ye plain that goeth to ye Lyons mouth.”
- 1653**—General Court forbids preaching unless licensed by four churches; denounced by Major Pike; petitioners in his favor bound over for trial.
- 1654**—Articles of agreement between the inhabitants of the old town of Salisbury and the “inhabitants of that which is commonly the new town.” Anthony Colby buys house of Thomas Macy.
- 1655**—Organization of Salisbury New Town; held to Salisbury for support of minister and common defense; taxed for roads and improvements also; one or more of the new townsmen on the old prudential board,—Thomas Macy, first town clerk. Names of founders: Anthony Colby, John Hoyt, Phillip Challis, George Martin, Jarrot Haddon, Richard Currier, John Bayly, William Huntington, Valentine Rowell, Thomas Barnard, Edward Cottle, John Weed, Orlando Bagly, Henry Blasdell, Thomas Macy, William Sargent, William Barnes, John Colby. “Voted that the number of inhabitants that shall

be commoners shall not exceed twenty six, without the consent of every inhabitant of ye plantation."

- 1656**—Sawmill on the west side of the Powow river built by Thomas Macy and Richard Currier at falls.
- 1657**—Bounds between "Hafriell" and Salisbury laid out by selectmen of both towns.
- 1658**—Trouble with General Court about preaching of Joseph Peaslee and between two settlements about ministry. Inhabitants to worship in old town or be fined 5s.
- 1659**—Thomas Macy flees or seeks refuge in Nantucket for harboring Quakers, "selling his house at the Mills." [John Mayhew in July sold the island of Nantucket to Thomas Macy, Tristram Coffin, Christopher Hussey and others for thirty pounds, also "two bever hats, one for myself and one for my wife."]
- 1663**—Town buys one acre of land of Edman Elleat for a burying place (now Union Cemetery). Gogtha the burying ground prior to this date.
- 1665**—Meeting-house built "upon ye land bought of Edman Elleat for a burying place; thirty foot long, five and twenty foot wide, and sixteen foot stood or thereabouts." Robert Pike invited to be minister, but declines.
- 1666**—Mr. Benjamin Woodbridge obtained for the ministry, and a new township granted to the inhabitants of New Salisbury by the General Court. Thirty-six freemen (voters and commoners) at incorporation.
- 1667**—The town named Amesbury at town meeting. Parsonage lot laid out for the "yous of the ministry" at corner of Martin road.
- 1668**—Name of town confirmed by General Court. Amesbury ferry established.

- 1669**—Mr. Hubbard “of Kettle” settled as minister. Geo. Carr of Carr’s island given charge of ferries.
- 1672**—Mr. Thomas Wells settled as minister.
- 1673**—Parson Wells builds his house on the land once granted by Salisbury to Sir Henry Vane (now residence of Dr. Blake on Wells avenue).
- 1675**—Business, — farming, fishing, making staves, and building small vessels.
- 1676**—Indians troublesome. Watch and garrison houses built. Men, women and children murdered.
- 1678**—First public house at corner of “Mill” and Haverhill road, kept by Samuel Colby.
- 1682**—Mr. George Hewes presents a bell to the Salisbury church and is made a present of Deer Island by vote of town of Salisbury.
- 1686**—Records of births, marriages and deaths begun. Mr. Wells chosen register.
- 1687–1690**—Indian wars. Amesbury petitions General Court to be made a frontier town.
- 1692**—Accusation, trial and conviction of widow Susannah Martin as a witch at Salem.
- 1693**—Tithing-men first chosen; last one chosen in 1833.
- 1694**—Mr. Wells chosen schoolmaster of Grammar school, “to teach all except such little ones as cannot say their a, b, c’s,” at a salary of £20.
- 1695**—Many murders by Indians. Citizens fined for non-attendance at town meeting, 2s.
- 1696**—Indians still troublesome, attack Haverhill. Hannah Dustin’s heroism. John Hoyt killed.
- 1697**—Mr. Wells asks liberty to build a “pue outside of the meeting-house opening into the congregation, not damning y^e meeting house.”

1699—£5 voted to build “galiers” in the meeting-house, “on ye fore side and at each end.” The ketch “Peter,” the first vessel built on the Powow.

18th Century.

1700—Voted to have a lecture once a month for seven months.

1701—Earliest record of Society of Friends in the town.

1702—Town establishes a free school and authorizes selectmen to hire a master in accordance with State law at £6 salary.

1703—Vessel, “Friend’s Adventure,” built on Powow.

1704—Tanning carried on at Pleasant Valley and Pond Hills. Indians troublesome. Vessel, “Success,” built. Samuel Colby allowed 20s. for ringing the bell and sweeping the meeting-house.

1705—Minister ordered to preach every third Sunday at “Jamaco” (West Amesbury), for the safety of old people and children coming to meeting. Schools kept in different parts of town alternately for safety to children on the roads. Ox-carts principal means of conveyance. Thomas Barnard gives a lot of land for first Friends’ meeting-house on Friend street (near No. 8 mill).

1706—Selectmen ordered to make a tax to pay the schoolmaster.

1707—Voted that “ye selectmen should have four or five school dames to teach children to read,” and “that the town should allow £5 to two men that ye selectmen should hire to teach young persons to write and sipher two months this year insuing.”

1708—First fulling mill established below “mill bridge on Powow river,” by Benjamin Eastman.

- 1710**—Iron works built on Amesbury side of Powow river, on “little island,” by Col. John March, John Barnard, Joseph Brown and Jarvis Ring, not liable to taxation. £30 appropriated for school purposes. Several shipyards. Friends’ monthly meeting held alternately at Amesbury and Hampton (for sixty years).
- 1712**—Capt. John Wadey of Salisbury has leave to build a dam at the pond’s mouth, “to preserve water in a dry time for grinding.”
- 1713**—Bounty of 20s. voted for each wolf’s head.
- 1714**—Amesbury extended through Great island in Country pond. Quakers freed from minister’s rate.
- 1715**—Meeting-house raised on the “Parsonage lot” on the Martin road; “forty five feet in length and thirty five feet in width, and twenty foot stud”; £150 raised to build it; without porch or spire.
- 1716**—Orlando Bagly, town clerk and schoolmaster, gives town land for school house at Pond Hills, and town votes to build one “twenty foot square and seven foot stud.” First record of Episcopalians in town.
- 1717**—New meeting-house on Parsonage lot completed.
- 1719**—Ferry street laid out from Bartlett’s Corner to Powow river.
- 1720**—Gideon Lowell gives the town a piece of land at the mouth of Powow river for a landing place. Richard Currier allowed the privilege of building a vessel or vessels on this landing.
- 1721**—Hunt road defined. Bills of credit loaned to town by Province.
- 1722**—Town presented to General Court for not having a schoolmaster. Meeting-house at Jamaco (West Amesbury) built on the plain. Indians raid Jamaco and Pond Hills. Several garrison houses in town.

- 1724**—Janaco meeting-house completed. No potatoes planted to this date.
- 1725**—The two parishes divided by the General Court.
- 1726**—Rev. Pain Wingate begins pastorate of fifty-eight years at West Amesbury. One hundred and twenty-three male voters in West Parish.
- 1727**—At the annual meeting, voted that “no person shall cut down or otherwise destroy any trees standing in ye country road or on any town way within two miles of Merrimac river, on a forfeiture of forty shillings per tree so cut or destroyed.” Great earthquake. Mary (Parker), wife of Parson Wells, died.
- 1728**—Province Treasurer issues £60,000 to be loaned to towns in proportion to valuation. Amesbury receives £473 5s. Money loaned by trustees, John Challis, Wm. Moulton, John Sargent, in sums not less than two or more than £10, interest 6 p. c. Rev. Edmund March ordained colleague to Mr. Wells.
- 1729**—Nov. 21, Josiah Bartlett, signer of the Declaration of Independence, born at the Ferry.
- 1730**—Town pays its share, £30, to agents in England to prevent charter of Province being taken away. “A pair of stocks built.”
- 1731**—Jonathan Barnard given right to build a bridge 4 rods below bridge “now across Powow river.” West Parish buys 210 rods of land for a training field “to lay common forever” (near present cemetery), and also buys land for a burying place near it.
- 1733**—Horses licensed from 1694 to this time.
- 1734**—General Court passes law against taking fish in the Merrimac by using traps of any kind. Rev. Thomas Wells dies, aged 87 years.

- 1735**--List of twelve Quakers exempt from taxation in East Parish for the support of the Established Church.
- 1737**--£5 bounty for wolves' heads. Schoolmaster paid £15 10s. by "Trustees of First Bank." General Court of Massachusetts and New Hampshire Assembly adjourn to visit Hampton Falls to adjust State boundary. Massachusetts' General Court then adjourns to Salisbury. As a result, large territory lost to Massachusetts, in which is included South Hampton, and "Little Salisbury" created.
- 1739**--Law to protect deer.
- 1740**--Pond ridge tunneled, allowing an outlet into Powow river, by "Mr. Ring and Mr. Nutter."
- 1741**--Orlando and Jonathan Bagley build a wharf next to Gideon Lowell's.
- 1742**--Almshouse hired. (Paupers heretofore "boarded out.")
- 1743**--Rev. Elisha Odlin ordained as minister at First Church. John Currier is Captain of the first foot company.
- 1745**--First Episcopal Church built about this time, with assistance from Newbury Church; location unknown, probably in Union Cemetery.
- 1746**--Law of 1727, relating to trees, made the first by-law with slight alteration. Town's stock of ammunition divided and well secured. Town debt, £200.
- 1747**--Rev. Matthias Plant of Newbury paid £15 11s. from the parish rate on account of "Church men," 11 in number. Wm. Whittier sets up brickyard on Buttonwood road, near Merrimac river. Road over Bailey's hill exchanged for a town landing on Powow river. Amesbury men at Cape Breton.
- 1750**--Joseph Bartlett granted land near Powow river for a lime kiln, the lime made from clam shells.

- 1751**—Change of calendar by Parliament, year to begin on January first instead of March first, as heretofore. Theodore Hoyt and Thomas Colby granted shipyards. Moses Sargent made Captain of 2nd company at west end. “Selectmen to have 4 pounds lawful money for their services ye present year and no more.”
- 1752**—Rev. Elisha Odlin died. First bridge probably built over the Powow at Ferry in 1752 or 1753.
- 1754**—Rev. Anthony Wibird dismissed from East Parish.
- 1755**—£100 raised for public expenses. Soldiers called for by French and Indian war; sent to Kennebec and Crown Point.
- 1756**—Men impressed by Captain Worthen for Lake George. Arcadians deported, and several quartered in Amesbury as “town’s poor.”
- 1757**—East Parish buys $1\frac{1}{2}$ acres of land at Sandy Hill for a meeting-house for £13 6s. 8d. Capt. Worthen makes large draft of men for war
- 1758**—Men furnished for Cape Breton and Lord Loudon’s army.
- 1759**—£60 for town expenses. £40 for roads. Soldiers and laborers from this town at Lake George. Schoolhouse built for West Parish.
- 1760**—First list of jurors made by Selectmen. Small pox. Two pest houses established.
- 1761**—Meeting-house at parsonage lot taken down and rebuilt at Sandy Hill, enlarged and with a porch added.
- 1762**—Theodore Hoyt allotted a shipyard on the Powow. Second Episcopal church, King George III. chapel, built at Pond Hills.
- 1766**—A committee chosen to recover to the town Amesbury Ferry.

- 1767**—French people sent back to Canada. Hats first manufactured by Moses Chase at the Ferry near Powow river. Ferry most populous and thriving portion of town. Tax on tea, paper, glass, etc., imposed by Parliament.
- 1768**—Schoolhouse built at Ferry where brick schoolhouse was afterwards built.
- 1770**—Colonial tax on Amesbury, £93 4s. 3d.
- 1771**—Valuation of West Parish, £2201 10s.; 217 acres tillage land. Largest estate, £47; 51 horses owned, 117 oxen, 274 cows, 4 negroes. William Ballard, Captain of Ferry Military Company.
- 1773**—Violent tornado, two hundred buildings damaged.
- 1774**—Isaac Merrill, Esq., chosen as representative to the Provincial Congress from Amesbury. Taxes not paid into the royal treasury.
- 1775**—Voted to raise fifty able bodied men including officers, for "minnit men" and to enlist them for one year if not disbanded before. April 17, voted to pay money for taxes raised in '73 and '74 to Provincial Treasurer. "Each minnit man to have a bounty of two dollars paid them at their first marching off," provided they are called for by the Congress. (April 19, Battle of Lexington.) April 24, voted to send a man at town's cost to Cambridge to the minute men, "to see whether they want their bounty or any part of it." May 5, Capt. Caleb Pillsbury chosen representative to Provincial Congress. June 6, pier sunk at mouth of Merrimac by Newburyport and Amesbury. Capt. Currier's company of 54 men enlisted after the battle of Lexington to the following December, were at the battle of Bunker Hill. Guns of battle heard in Amesbury. Capt. William Ballard's company from the Ferry also at Cambridge. Amesbury furnished its share called for, 69 coats for the soldiers.

- 1776**—Committee of safety and correspondence chosen. July first it was voted “To abide by and defend the members of the Continental Congress with lives and fortunes if they think it expedient to declare the colonies Independent of Great Britain.” Ninety-four men raised for the army this year. Whole number of inhabitants 1795. Josiah Bartlett is signer of Declaration of Independence. Regiment organized from Newburyport, Amesbury and Salisbury.
- 1777**—Large number of men raised for army. Great depreciation of money. (Surrender of Burgoyne). First frigate of the Continental Congress, “The Alliance,” built by William and John Hackett at Salisbury Point. “At Samuel Adams shipyard at Webster’s Point,” “by order of Thomas Cushing of Boston.” Blacksmith work by Ezra Merrill, David Blaisdell and Nathaniel Ring.
- 1778**—Town meeting called at the “Church meeting-house” at Pond Hills. Capt. Pillsbury chosen representative to Provincial Congress. Many soldiers are furnished.
- 1779**—John Barnard delegate to Constitutional convention. £14320 (in depreciated money) raised for town expenses. More men furnished to army.
- 1780**—Vote on new form of government for States, 21 yeas, 19 nays. Vote on Art. III., Bill of Rights, “Every denomination of Christians demeaning themselves peaceably and as good subjects of the Commonwealth protection under the law;” rejected by town, 14 yeas, 13 yeas. 29700 lbs. of beef furnished army this year. Heavy taxes. Severe winter. Great discouragement. May 19, “Dark day.” Baptist Church of Salisbury and Amesbury organized as branch of Brentwood (N. H.) Church, Elder Moses Chase, first pastor.

- 1781**—First town report ordered. Twenty-seven men drafted. Town gives notes payable in "hard money" at some future time. (Cornwallis surrendered.) Ezra Worthen born in Amesbury.
- 1782**—Another call for soldiers supplied partly from "the eastward." East End estates, £43859 West End estates, £42470 East End polls, 231½. West End polls, 163½. More money asked for by government. Town takes possession of Amesbury Ferry.
- 1783**—Over 800 men enlisted in Revolutionary army from Amesbury and Salisbury. More than \$65,000 hired by town to pay bounties. Voted "not to raise any money" for town expenses this year.
- 1784**—"Old Still" (Presbyterian) meeting-house, called also "Deacon Tewkesbury's wilful meeting-house," built near Mr. E. A. Childs' present residence; Rev. Mr. Hibbert, pastor. (Now Mr. Edward Huntington's barn at his home at Bartlett's Corner.) Rev. Benjamin Bell ordained pastor at Sandy Hill. Close of Rev. Pain Wingate's ministry at West End.
- 1785**—Two companies of Militia formed. Mills, Capt. Nathaniel White. Ferry, Capt. John Barnard. Mr. Bell's parsonage built, (afterwards Capt. Valentine Bagley's tavern; now Mr. Daniel Huntington's homestead.) Rocky Hill meeting-house built by Palmer & Spofford.
- 1786**—Town refuses to incorporate Presbyterian society of Mr. Hibbert. Sixteen men raised by town for Shay's rebellion. £200 voted for town expenses.
- 1787**—River road built. £200 raised for town charges. "Voted that the selectmen look up the town guns" lent during war time.
- 1788**—New valuation ordered. Selectmen to be paid for at 2s. 6d. per day. First President of the United

States voted for. Electors receive twenty-two votes each. Oil mills established and linseed oil made. Great field of sunflowers near Highland street used for oil. Much flax raised.

- 1789**—President Washington visits Amesbury, Oct. 31; crosses the Merrimac at Amesbury Ferry, then over Powow river bridge, through Point to Rocky Hill, where Amesbury company, under Capt. Jonathan Morrill, and Salisbury company, under Capt. Merrill, go through dress parade. Rev. Francis Welch ordained minister at West End. About this time post office established at Salisbury point; Capt. Edward Wadleigh, postmaster. Mail stage brought mail to "Clark" Maxfield's store for Amesbury.
- 1791**—A committee of eight chosen to "inspect and regulate the schools in the town of Amesbury the present year." Plan for a bridge over the Merrimac at Deer Island, opposed by the town as a menace to navigation and ferries.
- 1792**—Essex Merrimac bridge built by Timothy Palmer, consisting of two wooden arched bridges resting on Deer Island in middle of river. Opened to travel Nov. 26. Company incorporated Feb. 24, with 200 shares of stock; cost \$36,000. Presidential election, 14 votes cast, all for George Washington. Capt. Valentine Bagley cast away in Arabia. Cemetery at "Corner" deeded by John Barnard to town.
- 1793**—Small pox hospital established.
- 1794**—Rev. Ebenezer Cleveland made pastor of Sandy Hill meeting-house. (Deed given in 1757, recorded in 1794.) Amesbury and Salisbury Artillery Company organized at Gun House lane. (Now Macy street.) Two brass field pieces kept here. Powow river bridge rebuilt.

- 1795**—Revised constitution of Massachusetts rejected by town.
- 1796**—Brick schoolhouse built at Ferry. Master Burrows first teacher. Town presented memorial to Congress concerning fisheries. School money apportioned to districts according to taxes. Old "Union" fire engine purchased by citizens.
- 1798**—Severe winter. River above bridge frozen over until March 27th.
- 1799**—In Webster's yard at Point the "Warren" is built for United States; 18 guns.

19th Century.

- 1800**—Iron works established at the Mills, near where John March in 1710 had established, "upon ye falls at ye Powow river," the works at which in 1777 the anchor for the "Alliance" had been forged. Carriage business started in West Amesbury by Michael Emery and William Little.
- 1801**—Sandy Hill meeting-house repaired. Brick schoolhouse on Friend street built. (Now a dwelling-house.)
- 1802**—Stephen Hull ordained pastor at Sandy Hill; repairs finished; "cubaloe" added.
- 1803**—Ship building and fisheries important. Ferry school district has largest number of scholars and pays largest tax. Second Friends' meeting-house built on site of present Free Baptist church.
- 1804**—Population over 1700. Schoolhouse built at Pleasant Valley. Academy Company of Amesbury and Salisbury organized with two hundred shares at \$10 each. Carding machines set up in Amesbury by Gookin and Shores. Paul Moody and William Worthen in the business later.

- 1805**—Academy built where High school now stands; Mr. Abner Emerson the first teacher. Great fire—nail factory, grist mill and other property burned.
- 1808**—Embargo declared by President Jefferson. Petition against embargo read in town meeting and voted that “The Selectmen forward the same to the President.” Ship building stopped. Old bell on brick schoolhouse, now engine-house on School street, given to the town by Capt. James Rowell. Bell brought from West Indies. Inscription on the bell, “Anno 1789,” beneath an ornamented crucifix.
- 1810**—No appropriation for schools. Forty-two vessels built this year. Wadleighs, Rowells, Morrills and Curriers have shipyards on the Powow. Population 1890. Nail Company buy land at outlet of Pond (Kimball’s) and control flowage. Present Finlay Chain Suspension Bridge between Deer Island and Newburyport built by Mr. Templeman. King George III. chapel blown down.
- 1811**—Great fire at Newburyport. Voted that subscription papers be circulated by “the committee man” of each district in town.
- 1812**—First engine men appointed by the Selectmen. Selectmen ordered to provide a dinner at town’s cost for the militia on general muster day. War declared with Great Britain. Militia drilled. Five companies organized at Ferry. Mills engine company organized. First Baptist society incorporated. “Amesbury Wool and Cotton Company” organized for manufacture of satinet, and brick mill (No. 6) built on Mill street, by Ezra Worthen, Paul Moody, Thomas Boardman and Samuel Wigglesworth. Privateer “Decatur” built at Mills landing by Jonathan Morrill; others built at the Point.

- 1813**—Second cloth mill built (No. 5) by “Ensign Morrill and his two sons.” Rev. Stephen Hull dismissed from Sandy Hill church.
- 1814**—Epidemic of “spotted fever.”
- 1816**—Rev. Benjamin Sawyer installed pastor of Rocky Hill church. Frost every month in the year. Amesbury State tax \$426; County tax \$339; town tax \$1387.42.
- 1817**—President Monroe visits Amesbury and the different mills. Stops at Wadleigh tavern; goes through Monroe street.
- 1820**—Mill No. 3 built. Post office established at Mills; Captain Jonathan Morrill, first postmaster.
- 1821**—First Baptist church built, “east side Back river.”
- 1822**—Warren Lodge of Masons chartered; Valentine Bagley, treasurer. Amesbury Flannel Manufacturing Co. incorporated; capital \$200,000; Joshua Aubin, agent. Manufactures: Amesbury Nail Co., Amesbury Woolen and Cotton Manufacturing Co., Salisbury Woolen Manufacturing Co., and Amesbury Flannel Manufacturing Co.
- 1823**—American House (brick) built by Mr. John Gilman.
- 1824**—Post office established at West Amesbury; Col. Edmund Sargent, postmaster.
- 1825**—Poor Farm purchased at Saunders Hill. Poor previously boarded out. No. 2 Mill built by Salisbury Manufacturing Co. Old Nail factory sold to same company.
- 1826**—Tanning works established by Seth Clark on Back river. Present Congregational church built at the Mills by Unitarians.
- 1827**—Chain bridge at Deer island broke down Feb 6. St. James' Episcopal church organized.

- 1828**—Congregational society at Mills organized. Pastor of Unitarian society at Mills installed, Rev. David Damon. Provident Institution for Savings in Salisbury and Amesbury incorporated; Jacob Brown, president, Edward Dorr, Robert Patten, Stephen Sargent, vice presidents; Robert Patten, treasurer. Office over counting room of factory. Ladies' Charitable society formed. Franklin Hall is built.
- 1829**—First steamer on Merrimac river, "The Merrimac."
- 1831**—"Voted that the School Committee who shall serve in future shall each be allowed six dollars a year as a compensation for his services." Organization of Congregational church of Salisbury and Amesbury Mills completed. Eleazer Johnson, clerk.
- 1832**—"Middle road" to Haverhill built. Alarm at appearance of Asiatic cholera in vicinity. Militia company organized; Jonathan Allen, Jr., Captain.
- 1833**—Episcopal society worship in Franklin Hall from 1833 to 1836; Rev. Joseph Price, rector. Salisbury and Amesbury Anti-Slavery Society founded; Jonathan A. Sargent, President; Benj. Brierly, Secretary; Robert Scott, Treasurer.
- 1834**—"Voted to request Commissioners not to license any persons to sell fermented liquors in town." Apportionment of school money: Ferry, \$185; Mills, \$296. Rev. Joseph Towne, first pastor Mills Congregational Society. Five hundred and fifty (550) carriages built this year in West Parish. Salisbury and Amesbury Female Anti-Slavery Society founded; Mrs. Helen Howarth, President; Miss Betsy Linscott, Secretary.
- 1835**—New meeting-house of Union Evangelical Church of Salisbury and Amesbury built at Salisburypoint; Rev. John Gunnison, pastor. Rev. Benjamin Bell

died in Amesbury poor-house. Rev. Benjamin Sawyer resigned pastorate at Sandy Hill.

- 1836**—Universalist Society build a meeting-house at West Amesbury. Selectmen ordered to build a stone bridge at the Mills. Powow River Bank incorporated; capital, \$100,000; Seth Clark, President; Nathaniel White, Cashier. John G. Whittier removed to Amesbury. St. James' Church consecrated; Rev. Henry M. Davis, rector.
- 1837**—Shoe-making an important industry; many shoe shops. 2507 inhabitants. Great depression in business. Baptist church on Market street finished and dedicated. Agassiz schoolhouse built.
- 1838**—Surplus revenue divided among inhabitants, \$2.00 per head (paupers excepted).
- 1839**—New schoolhouse at river district. West Amesbury Congregational Society build meeting-house on present location.
- 1840**—Town farm at Saunders' Hill sold. Porch and spire added to Congregational church at Mills. James H. Davis opened a private school in Academy building, continuing until 1850. Abolition ticket received eleven votes.
- 1842**—Bell placed in Congregational Church at the Mills.
- 1843**—Town House built at Pond Hills. Jonathan Ring and others of Little Salisbury petition Legislature to be annexed to Amesbury and petition granted. James Horton and others petition General Court for leave to build railroad from Eastern road to Mills; granted. Powow river bridge rebuilt with two stone arches.
- 1844**—Methodist society organized. Free Baptist church founded.

- 1845**—Universalist society incorporated; Episcopal church purchased by them and removed to Friend street; Rev. George G. Strickland, pastor. Powow River Lodge of Odd Fellows instituted; Josiah B. Gale, Noble Grand.
- 1846**—Second Episcopal church on present site on Main street consecrated; Rev. D. Gordon Estes, psstor.
- 1847**—Unsuccessful attempt to divide the town. Salisbury Branch railroad built in 1847-8.
- 1848**—Sandy Hill meeting-house sold to Mr. John Winkley and taken down; 133 years old. Wheel company incorporated at West Amesbury. No. 7 mill built; Capt. Horton, Agent.
- 1849**—Present poor-farm purchased. Free Baptist church on Friend street dedicated; Mr. Hanscom, pastor.
- 1850**—\$2000 appropriated to purchase four fire engines. "Friend Street Academy" opened by J. H. Davis. Present Friends' meeting-house built. Population 3143.
- 1851**—New schoolhouse built at Ferry; brick one taken down.
- 1852**—Strike of operatives in Salisbury Mills under Agent Derby; \$2000 appropriated by town to assist those out of employment. Abolitionist vote, 125.
- 1853**—Jacob R. Huntington commences manufacture of carriages at the Mills. Mt. Prospect cemetery opened. A. L. Bayley establishes hat business at Salisburypoint. Hat business established in 1780, when liberty was given Jacob Brown "to set up a hatter's shop on the highway near David Currier's barn."
- 1854**—No. 4 mill built, under Agent Derby.
- 1855**—Town's landing at Mills sold to Salisbury Manufacturing Company. Powow River and Savings Bank

building built at corner of Market street. "Old Volunteer" fire engine purchased. Amesbury and Salisbury Mutual Fire Insurance Company organized. No. 1 mill built. Merrimac Hat Company organized.

- 1856**—Amesbury and Salisbury Agricultural and Horticultural Society organized. Joshua Aubin gives a donation to establish a Public Library.
- 1857**—"Salisbury Mills Company" organized; in 1858, M. D. F. Steere made agent, and continues 25 years. Post-office established at South Amesbury.
- 1859**—New Congregational church built at West Amesbury.
- 1860**—High school established; five months at Academy, five at West and South Amesbury.
- 1861**—April 27, town meeting called to raise volunteers; \$5000 unanimously voted for "equipping, uniforming or assisting such as shall enlist." Company organized and attached to the Fourteenth Regiment (afterwards First Heavy Artillery), as Co. E; Captain J. W. Sargent.
- 1862**—No. 8 mill erected. Great fair for Sanitary Commission held in it. Calls for soldiers for three years and nine months; three hundred (\$300) and one hundred and fifty dollars (\$150) bounties offered.
- 1863**—Three hundred thousand men called for by United States; Amesbury appoints a committee to assist Selectmen in securing her share. Citizens organize Mills Fire District. Almshouse enlarged. Present wooden schoolhouse on School street built. Wharf built at South Amesbury. Patten's Hollow Mill built; E. G. Colby, President; L. F. Burrill, Agent. Amesbury Hat Company organized, and factory built near Powow river bridge; buys Ferry landing from town; consolidated with Merrimac

Hat Co. Block built by Seth Clark on the former Enoch Winkley estate. Union Block built by Leonard Brown and Henry Kingsbury.

- 1864**—Draft ordered; fifty-nine men furnished from town. Act to unite towns of Amesbury and Salisbury passed by Legislature and defeated by vote of towns. Charter granted to Newburyport and Amesbury Horse Railroad Company. Horton Hat Company organized by Alfred Bailey and others. National Bank at West Amesbury organized; President, Patten Sargent.
- 1865**—Civil War ended. Amesbury furnished about 400 men; 27 died or were killed, 13 wounded. Roman Catholic church (wooden) built on present site. \$1000 appropriated for sufferers by Portland fire. Horton and Merrimac Hat Companies consolidated; Abner L. Bayley agent for many years. Public Library building and Odd Fellows' Hall on Friend street built.
- 1867**—Greenwood street accepted by town. Baptist church organized at West Amesbury.
- 1868**—Aubin street accepted by town. Bridges made free by act of Legislature. Town protests against paying portion of expense. Present Grammar school-house built at River district. West Amesbury Branch railroad incorporated. Mills Fire District organized. Catholic cemetery laid out.
- 1869**—School districts abolished by Legislature. "Amesbury and Salisbury Academy Incorporation," incorporated by Josiah B. Gale, Wm. C. Binney and others. Post-office building and stores built over Powow river by Salisbury Mills Company. J. R. Huntington's carriage factory burned. E. P. Wallace Post, G. A. R., established.
- 1870**—Old Academy burned, Saturday night, Nov. 5. Trinity Royal Arch Chapter of Masons instituted.

Another attempt to unite towns defeated by vote. Bartlett Grammar schoolhouse at Ferry built. Baptist church at West Amesbury dedicated. Wheel factory of Foster & Howe at West Amesbury burned.

- 1871**—Fire District organized at West Amesbury. Rev. Benjamin Sawyer, pastor of Sandy Hill and of Rocky Hill church, died, aged 88 years. Boiler house of Hamilton Woolen Company built.
- 1872**—Dam at Lake Gardner built by Salisbury Mills Company; cost \$60,000. Merrimac Opera House built on Friend street by Messrs. Kelley & Woods. Light of great Boston fire seen in town.
- 1873**—Congregational church at Mills improved at expense of \$7000. Friend street schoolhouse built. Town House at Pond Hills burned. Horse railroad to Newburyport completed. Work commenced on present brick Catholic church. Town organized fire districts. Pipes laid connecting with factories, and \$5000 expended on system. R. B. Hawley made agent of the Merrimac Hat Co.
- 1874**—Soldiers' monument erected in Union cemetery; cost \$500. Rowell's block built. Knights of Pythias lodge organized.
- 1875**—Old Ladies' Home Society organized.
- 1876**—Division of town by Legislature. Territory reduced to three miles square. One-half territory and two-fifths population lost to Amesbury. West Amesbury April 11, becomes Merrimac. Division line runs from Merrimac river to south side of Lake Attitash, thence obliquely to state line; \$22,400 voted for appropriations by new town. Salisbury Mills stop operations for nearly four years.
- 1877**—Great depression in all business except carriage business.

- 1878**—Present new mill built by Merrimac Hat Company and dedicated by a fair for the Old Ladies' Home. Salisbury mills sold and known as Essex mills. Birthplace of Josiah Bartlett purchased for an "Old Ladies' Home." W. C. T. U. established.
- 1879**—Mining excitement in Newburyport and Amesbury.
- 1880**—Essex mills bought by Hamilton Corporation.
- 1882**—High schoolhouse built on Academy lot. Attempt to unite with Merrimac and Salisbury to hire a superintendent of schools defeated. Biddle, Smart & Co.'s carriage factory built. Woman's Relief Corps established. Old Catholic church building burned.
- 1883**—Powow Hill Water Company organized; Richard Briggs, President. Town ratifies contract made with Powow Hill Water Co., 87 years, 1 no. Essex Merrimac bridge (iron) and draw, between Deer Island and Amesbury built; Amesbury's share of cost \$11,653, and Amesbury and Salisbury to keep in repair. Amesbury National bank incorporated; A. M. Huntington, President; F. F. Morrill, Cashier. Bequest of Miss Anna Jaques of Newburyport, for a hospital for Newburyport, Newbury, West Newbury, Amesbury and Salisbury. July 5, Patten's Hollow mill struck by lightning and destroyed. American House enlarged, stores added to front.
- 1884**—Anna Jaques hospital opened. Free text books in schools ordered by Legislature. Y. M. C. A. society organized and building opened on Market street. Union block destroyed by fire. Public Library building has a free reading room established by Hamilton Woolen Co.
- 1885**—Union block re-built. Parochial school building and Sisters' house built; school opened in September. Celebration of the Centennial of Rocky Hill Meet-

ing-House; society organized in 1714; first church built in 1716; Rev. Joseph Parsons the first minister in 1718. "Parson Sawyer" preached his last sermon in 1870, after 36 years in the ministry in the parish. Pump at Wadleigh's block removed, and curbstone (said to be a millstone from the first corn mill of 1641,) placed around Ordway well (dug in 1735) in Huntington Square. Ladies' Auxiliary to Y. M. C. A. instituted.

1886—Towns annexed June 18; Amesbury to include the old West Parish of Salisbury and the East Parish of Amesbury; 3000 population and \$2,000,000 in property added to Amesbury, which includes "Rocky Hill," "Salisbury Mills" and "Salisbury-point." Union cemetery enlarged. Amesbury Improvement Association organized. Amesbury Co-operative Bank organized; President, George E. Batchelder; Treasurer, F. R. Whitcher. Amesbury Grange instituted.

1887—Opera House block built by Messrs. Steere, Biddle, Nelson and Batchelder. Highland avenue accepted by town. Amesbury Mills Fire District property conveyed to the town. Company B organized; E. W. M. Bailey, Captain. Contract made with Electric Light Co. for 40 lights. Methodist church on Pond street burned. Episcopal parsonage built. Methodist church on Main street begun. St. Joseph's parsonage built. Hamilton Mills made cotton mills; M. W. Quinn, Agent. C. F. Pettin-gell's machine shop and Locke & Jewell's factory destroyed by fire and re-built.

1888—Great fire on Carriage Hill, April 5; loss of property nearly \$1,000,000; 24 buildings destroyed. Statue of Josiah Bartlett, given by J. R. Huntington, dedicated July 4 with interesting exercises. Methodist church completed. Opera House rented for town meetings, etc., for five years. District Court

established. Old Ladies' Home completed. \$10,000 voted in town meeting to build an Armory building. Clan Fraser instituted. Board of Trade established; President, W. W. Smart. Schoolhouse at Lion's Mouth built. Amesbury Daily established; W. H. B. Currier, Editor. (First newspaper in Amesbury established in 1832 by Nayson & Caldwell—The Amesbury Chronicle.

1889—Town votes to accept Public Library for one year, and appropriates \$200 therefor from the dog tax. Brick schoolhouse on School street altered for the fire department. Rand-Adams block enlarged by addition of stores on the front. N. & A. R. R. made electric. Street railway built to Salisbury. Wonesquam Boat Club organized; A. C. Webster, President. Pastor of Mills Congregational church, H. M. Schermerhorn, dies. Co. B. attends inauguration of President Harrison. Engine house on Hamilton court burned.

1890—January 1, free postal delivery for greater part of the town. Bahan block finished.

1891—Greene block built on site of the old Wadleigh house. Locke & Jewell's wheel factory and Pettingell's machine shop burned.

1892—John G. Whittier died Sept. 7, aged 84 years; buried in his family lot in Union cemetery, after 56 years' residence in Amesbury. H., M. & A. St. Railway Co. incorporated. Australian system of voting adopted.

1893—Dog tax and \$300 given by town to the Library. Water Co. enlarges wells at Bartlett's Corner. Seth Clark builds wooden block on Friend street. T. J. Clark memorial gateway given to Mt. Prospect cemetery. Strathmere Club founded to improve Lake Attitash. Carriage shipments from January to August, 12458. Amesbury manufacturers send carriage exhibit to World's Fair.

- 1894**—Nov. 10, corner-stone of Y. M. C. A. building on High street laid. Electric fire alarm system adopted. \$100 voted to improve old part of Union cemetery.
- 1895**—Y. M. C. A. building dedicated June 2; President, D. C. Maxfield. Dredging of Powow river begun. Amesbury Improvement Association marks historic places with tablets and raises money to improve Highland Park. Gen. Cogswell dies and W. H. Moody is elected Representative to Congress. A. E. Tuttle resigns as Principal of High school and Forrest Brown succeeds him. Wm. Hilton dies and the Hilton will is in dispute.
- 1896**—March 19, Woman's Club organized and named Elizabeth H. Whittier Club; President, Mrs. Emily B. Smith. Josiah Bartlett Chapter, D. A. R., organized June 6; Regent, Mrs. E. O. Perkins. Great freshet in the Merrimac river; damage to mills and bridges; Wonesquam boat house greatly injured by ice and water; previous freshets in 1740, 1818, 1846, 1870, 1875 and 1887. Land on Clinton street purchased by town for use of stone. Bahan block damaged by fire. Bequest of Capt. Smith Colby for sidewalks used by town along the Point shore. Library made a town library, with board of nine trustees elected by the town; \$600 and dog tax voted for it. \$3000 voted to enlarge High school building, and \$2000 also appropriated for laboratory, heating and ventilation. Old powder house on Brown's hill repaired. Free postal delivery for Salisbury point and Pleasant Valley. Triangle at Huntington Square and Highland Park laid out by Town Improvement Association. Strathmere Club incorporated.
- 1897**—Town debt to the amount of \$71,000 refunded; \$100 appropriated to mark the graves of Union soldiers.

Curfew bell again rung at nine o'clock. Order of Eastern Star instituted. Old South Historical Society visits Amesbury. Amesbury Improvement Association incorporated, and site of Golgotha given by F. F. Morrill of Newburyport. New schoolhouse at Pond Hills built on old church lot.

1898—Feb. 1, great snowstorm. Feb. 15, battleship Maine blown up in Havana harbor. War declared with Spain. May 5, Company B leaves for camp; Capt. H. S. Bean. Names of soldiers who died: Corporal George W. Patten at Amesbury; Corporal Henry Higgins at Lexington, Ky.; Charles A. Currier at Porto Rico; Timothy O. Lamprey at Chickamauga; Rolvin G. Coombs at Lexington, Ky.; Terrence McDonald, Co. D, 17th Inf., Cuba. \$8000 appropriated for soldiers' relief. Whittier Home Association organized. Nov. 26-28, great snowstorm; steamer Portland lost.

1899—March 18, Bahan's block, Opera House block, Bartlett & Bagley's block, Rand-Adams block and Episcopal church destroyed by fire. Amesbury & Hampton electric road built. Co. B returns from Cuba, April 15, and is mustered out of service. State road built at Pond Hills. Bartlett Cemetery Association organized. Rand-Adams block rebuilt. School census, 2728. New town by-laws adopted, including curfew law. Christmas service held in new Episcopal church; R. LeB. Lynch, rector. Wilman block built. Terrence McDonald Garrison of Army and Navy Union instituted. Odd Fellows dedicate new hall in Union block. N. & A. St. Ry. becomes Citizens' St. Ry. Appropriation for schools, \$22,000; highways and bridges, \$12,000; poor department, \$7300; soldiers' relief, \$1700; sidewalks, \$2000. Voted, that nine hours shall be a day's work for town laborers and \$1.50 the minimum pay.

Remarks.

The Powow river was for many years the dividing line between Amesbury and Salisbury, and the busiest parts of the two towns were situated upon its banks, and were one in appearance and in business interests. The events noted in this book belonging to these portions of Salisbury are of interest for reference to all citizens of Amesbury, of which these divisions of old Salisbury are now a part.

Additional Facts.

1796—Jacob Perkins establishes on the Powow river the first nail mill in the United States.

1726-1835—Ship-building flourishes on the Merrimac and Powow rivers. Salisburypoint is credited with building between 500 and 600 vessels, with a great coasting and West India trade. Hackett, Webster, Clark, Colby, Lowell, Bagley, Morrill, Currier, Rowell, Wadleigh, and Keniston, are well-known names in ship-building and trade. Many inns along the Point and Ferry shore. Ferries: Swett's, near Rocks bridge, established in 1810; from Keniston's wharf to Bartlett's hill, 1789 (little used). First ferryman at Amesbury Ferry, Edward Goodwin.

1801—Little red schoolhouse built on "the island," in Powow river.

1802—School districts laid out: 1. Ferry, "Schools to keep 23 weeks, 1 day, in the year." 2. Mills, "Schools to keep 15 weeks, 1 day." 3. Pond Hills, "to keep 9 weeks, 1 day." 4. "Pleasant Value," "to keep 6 weeks, 1 day." 5. Pond, "4 weeks, 1 day."

1810—Voted, that "no highway tax be laid out in liquor."

- 1816**—An effort is made to annex towns north of the Merrimac to New Hampshire. Voted, “to take some measures to be separated from the State of Massachusetts, and be joined to the State of New Hampshire.”
- 1820**—“Male inhabitants 21 years of age, resident in town one year next preceding, having a freehold estate within said town of the annual income of £3, or any estate to the value of £60, are entitled to vote for representative to the General Court.”
- 1832**—Patten’s pond is made by a dam which flows the low ground, and oil works (the oil made from sunflowers grown on the Highlands and elsewhere,) are established at the Hollow; afterwards the site of Patten’s tannery.
- 1837**—Brick schoolhouse on School street built; Captain Rowell’s bell, brought from a West India plantation and given in 1810 (not 1808, as on page 19), taken from the old wooden schoolhouse near the same site, is placed in it.
- 1841-43**—Voted not to send a representative to the General Court.
- 1841**—Nine pence per hour paid for labor on the highway. “Congregational meeting-house in Amesbury and Salisbury Village” incorporated; Joseph Kingsbury, Clerk.
- 1844**—March 15, Little Salisbury (more than one square mile in extent, on Powow river) annexed to Amesbury.
- 1849**—Amesbury Villager published and edited for a short time by Daniel F. Morrill; later and for many years by Wm. H. B. Carrier.
- 1850**—Methodist church on Pond street built.
- 1850-51**—Washington Hall built.

- 1859**—Roman Catholic society occupy Washington Hall for services; wooden church dedicated in 1868; Rev. John Brady, Pastor.
- 1861**—The first men to enlist from Amesbury and Salisbury were a company known as the "Wallace Guards," (Capt. George H. Morrill, Lieut. Jere A. Greeley,) organized in July and August, and mustered out Aug. 15, 1864, of which the greater portion joined the 17th Mass. Regt. as Co. D. A small part of these men, however, joined a company organizing in Newburyport, and were afterwards transferred to the 40th N. Y. Regt., called the Mozart Regiment; others joined the West Amesbury company, which was mustered in July 5, and mustered out Aug. 5, 1864.
- 1862**—Men raised for the 48th regiment.
- 1863**—Bartlett & Bagley block built.
- 1866**—Colchester mill built with local capital.
- 1870**—Universalist society re-organized.
- 1871**—Dec. 6, Universalist church (formerly Washington Hall,) dedicated; 1818, "Universal society of Amesbury and Salisbury," first mentioned in the records.
- 1872**—Richard S. Spofford buys Deer Island for a residence. Hat factory, built in 1863, burned.
- 1844-1880**—Joseph Merrill, Amesbury's historian, is town clerk.
- 1886**—Sparhawk street opened. Merrimac Opera Hall burned.
- 1887**—Highland avenue named Hillside avenue, after acceptance by the town.
- 1899**—Dec. 29, Macy house given by Moses Colby to the Bartlett Cemetery Association; Dr. H. G. Leslie, President. Valuation of Amesbury, \$5,152,431. Valuation of carriage output, \$1,500,000.

Library.

Instituted by Gardner Brewer, President of the Amesbury Flannel Co., containing between 700 and 800 volumes, given by Joshua Aubin as a Public Library in 1856; incorporated in 1872; W. C. Binney, President (1860-1877); J. H. Davis, Secretary; Wms. Allen, Treasurer; 1873, 600 volumes given by Gardner Brewer; 1893-7, \$200 worth of books given by James Hume; Thomas J. Clark, George Turner and Jona. Wadleigh give donations of money; 1897, Mrs. Hannah C. Hubbard gives \$5000 by will; 1898, Miss Mary Barnard gives a bequest of \$10,000, the income only to be used for the purchase of books and for defraying the expenses of the library; also, residuary legacy of \$20,931.35 for a new library building.

Corrections.

- Page 10. "Wadey" should be "Wadley."
Page 18, 1804. For "William," read "Ezra."
Page 18. For "five companies," read "fire company."
Page 20. Tanning industry established by Seth Clark, Sr., 1824, instead of 1826.
Page 20. Omit reference to sunflower oil.

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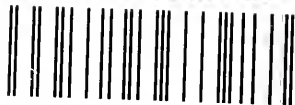


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