

A REPORT
OF THE
RECORD COMMISSIONERS

OF THE
CITY OF BOSTON,

CONTAINING THE

Mesa Family History Center
41 S. Hobson Street
Mesa, AZ 85204

BOSTON RECORDS FROM 1700 TO 1728.



BOSTON:
ROCKWELL AND CHURCHILL, CITY PRINTERS,
No. 39 ARCH STREET.
1883.

Temple Genealogical Library
484 East First Ave.
Mesa, Arizona

~~It is Ordered that whosoever Shal presume to use and Exercise them Selves in Throwing Rolling or flinging the Bullet or any Such like Instrument whether made of Iron, Lead, Brass, Stone, wood, or any other matter or Substance that may Endanger the Lives or Limbs of any of His Majesties Subjects in the Common Training field Highwayes, Streets Lanes or Allyes in the Town, Shal forfeit and pay the Sum of Twenty Shillings upon Conviction, before any of His Majesties Justices of the Peace for Said County for every Such offence.~~

~~This was Sundry times Read over & Voted.~~

~~Voted that the Select men be Impowred and directed to Enquire into the State of the Wells & Pumps Standing or being in any of the Grounds, Streets or Highwayes belonging to the Town and Cause them to be put into Repare and to Assess the Persons in the Neighbourhood who Comonly make use of them, and to appoint and Impower Some meet Person or Persons to Receive the Same to be Improved according to a Town order or By-Law made about Pumps & Wells.~~

~~Voted that the Select men be Impwred to Improve the Towns Land near m^r Jeri Belknaps, Either by Building upon it or Letting it for Term not Exceeding Thirty one years as they Shal think best.~~

~~Voted that it be left with the Select men & that they be Impowred to make Sale of the House & Land in Beacon Street which belongs to the Town.~~

~~[423.] Pursuant to the Vote & direction of the freeholders & Inhabitants of the Town at their Annuall meeting in March last.~~

~~The Select men haue drawn up heads or Articles for the Better Regulating Indians Negros and Molattos within this Town, that if approved of they may be Endeavored to be Drawn into a Law or Lawes at the next Session of the Great and Generall Court or Assembly.~~

~~That if any free Indian Negro or Molatto Shal Receive or Entertain any Indian Negro or Molatto Servant or Slaue into His House yard garden or out house unless Sent there by his master or Employer, Shal forfeit and pay the Sum of Twenty Shillings and be Sent to the House of Correction and there be Severly whiped, And the better to Enforce this order any two free holders may Enter the House of any Such free Indian Negro or Molatto.~~

~~That no free Indian Negro or Molatto Shal haue and keep any manner of weapons fire armes, Powder or Ball in his House or the Dependances thereof on forfeiture of five pounds & being Severly whipt at the House of Correction.~~

~~That no free Indian Negro or Molatto Shal on Training dayes, or any other Publick dayes carry into the Common or Training field Streets or Highwayes any Strong drink Cakes or any other Provision to Sell on Pain of ten pounds and being Sent to the House of Correction and Severly whipt, And any two freeholders Shal haue power to Seize Secure and Dispose of all Such Liquors & Provisions for the use and benefit of the Poor.~~

~~That every free Indian Negro or Molatto Shal bind out, all their Children at or before they arrive to the age of four years to Some~~

English master, and upon neglect thereof the Select men or Overseers of the Poor Shal be Empowered to bind out all Such Children till the age of Twenty one years.

If any free Indian Negro or Molatto Shal Receive any goods wares Merchandize Money or Provisions from the hands of any Indian Negro or Molatto Servant or Slave or any Stolen goods found in their Houses or Possession upon Conviction Such Indian Negro or Molatto Shall beside making Restitution as by Law already provided be Severly Whipt, And ordered by the Court before whom the Tryal is to depart this Province, And if any Such Shal Return to be taken and Sent to the House of Correction and have the Discipline of the House and there to Remain and abide during life & kept to hard Labour.

[424.] If any Indian, Negro or Molatto bond or free be Convict of Stealing Robbing Pilfering or Breaking into any House Ware house Shop Stable Barn or out house Ship or Vessell He Shal upon Conviction be Transported beyond Sea Remaining in the Comon Goal or House of Correction till Shipt Off besides making Restitution as the Law Provides.

That no Indian Negro or Molatto Slave or Servant Shal be out of His Masters House or Dependances thereat unless in the Imediat Service of his master, an hour after Sun Sett from the first of march to the first of September nor half an hour after from the Second of September till March nor before Sun Rising upon Pain of being Sent to the House of Correction and there Severly Whipt.

That no Indian Negro or Molatto Servant or Slave Shall be Suffered to wear or Carry about him any manner of armes or weapons Clubb Stave Cane or knives Except Decriped upon Pain of Severe punishment at the House of Correction.

That if more then Two Indian Negro or Molatto Servants or Slaves be found in the Streets or Highways in or about the Town Idling or Lurking together unless in the Service of their master or Employer. Every one so found Shal be punished at the House of Correction.

That no Indian Negro or Molatto Servant or Slave tho' haueing obtained leave from his Master to go into the Comon or Training field on Training dayes or any other Publick dayes, Shal abide there after Sun Sett upon pain of Sever Whipping at the Hou of Correction.

That if any Indian, Negro, or Molatto Servant or Slave Shal assalt Strike Beat wound Bruse or mame any of his Majesties Subjects, He Shal be Severely Punnished at the Discretion of the Court before whom Convict and Sent beyond Sea being Confined till his Departure at the Charge of His Master or Owner.

If any Person Shal Sell any Strong Liquor to any Indian Negro, or Molatto Servant or Slave, unless Sent by his master he Shal forfeit & pay ten pounds fine, and Suffer Three months Imprisonment, and if the Person that Sell contrary hereto be a Tavernor Inholder or Retailer He Shal forfeit his Recognizance and be Rendered Ever after incapable of hauing [425.] His Licence renewed. The Proof for Conviction to be as in the Case of Selling Strong drink to Indians.

That no Indian Negro or Molatto Bond or free Shal presume to work as a Porter in or about the Town unless first approved by the Select men and Bond given to the Town Treasurer in a Sum not less then fifty Pounds for his fidelity. The forfeiture of Such Bonds to be applied to and for the use of the Poor of the Town And if any appear and are found in Such work Shal be taken up and Sent to the House of Correction, Receive the Discipline of the House & Remain there Six dayes.

That Indian Negro and Molatto Evidences only with Concurring Circumstances Shal be proof Sofficient to Convict Indian Negro or Molattos.

That no Indian Negro or Molatto up on the breaking out of fire and the Continuance there of dureing the night Season Shal depart his or his masters House, nor found in the Streets or at or near the place where the fire is upon pain of being forthwith Secured and Sent to the Comon Goal and afterwards whipt at the House of Correction three dayes following before dismist, unless his or his masters House or Estate be on fire or in great hazzard thereof.

That all fines and forfeitures arising by this act be disposed the one halfe to the Poor of the Town the other halfe to the Informer.

The foregoing Heads or Articles presented by the Select men, were Sundry times Read over and Each of them voted and voted to be given to the Representatives of the Town in their Instructions to use their Endeavor that a Bill or Bills may be Passed for the Regulating Indians Negros and Molattos in this Town.

Whereas Sundry fires haue of late broke out among us to the great Terror & Affrightment of the Inhabitants, which we haue too Just grounds to beleieve were wickedly contrived and Designed by Some Evil Instruments.

It is therefore humbly proposed by the Select men.

That there be forth with five watch houses at the Least in the Most Sutable places of the Town, and five good able Bodyed men of Sober Conversation Assigned to Each of those Houses, to be Employed Six months of the year from Nine of the Clock in the Evening the Other from Eight to Sun Rising. To be carfully watching by Turns the Streets, Lanes and allyes through out the Town to discover and prevent what in them lies fires, Breaking into Houses, Thefts or any Disturbance that may arise And that there be Two Sutable Discreet persons appointed [426.] to Inspect the Severall watches and keep them to their duty.

And in as much as the maintaining and defraying the Charge of Such a watch will Require a much larger Sum then has bin heretofore allowed for that Service.

Should therefore the Rule for Proportioning the Watch Tax be as it now or last agreed upon by the Justices in their Sessions Great Inequality would nescessarily Enue.

That therefore a Comittee be appointed to Attend the Justices at their next Sessions and Demonstrate this matter to them that so the Sum of the Highest Rate may be so far advanced that no Inequality or Injustice may ensue, but Every one willingly pay and Contribute his Reasonable Proportion in carrying on the

aforesaid watch, which doubtless will be Readily assented to by them.

The Sundry foregoing Proposals Offred by the Select men were Sundry times Read, and Voted.

And that the Select men with m^r John Dixwell and m^r John Edwards be a Co^mitte to waite upon the Sessions at their next Adjornment and lay that affair before them.

Voted that the Select men be desired & Impowred to take care to provide Sutable watch houses, & watch men untill the Adjornment of this meeting.

Voted that this Meeting be Adjorned to fryday the third day of May Next at three of the Clock after noon.

May the Third. The Inhabitants According to Adjornment being Assemble^d.

Voted that this Meeting be adjorned till to morrow morning Nine of the Clock.

May the 4th. The Inhabitants According to Adjornment being Assembled.

Voted. That whoever shall keep any Cow going at large within the Neck of Boston Shal pay into the hand of Such Person as the Select men Shal appoint to Receive the Same, the Sum of five Shillings & Six pence per Annum to be Employed towards providing four Bulls to goe on the Co^mon from the first of aprill to the first of Novemb^r and two Bulls from thence to the first of Aprill following, for paying the Cowkeeper, with Six pence per Head for a Certificate from the Said Receiver that the owner has paid the Said five Shillings and Six pence, And any Cow that Shal be found on the Common whose owner has not [427.] a Certificate as aforesaid shal be by the Cowkeeper Impounded and the Owner pay before the Said Cow be discharged three Shillings, and the Said Cow not Suffered to goe on the Common untill the Owner haue paid the five Shillings and Six pence and gained a Certificate.

And if any person has already paid any part of this Sum it Shal be allowed him.

Voted a Grant of Three Thousand & Seven hundred pounds to be Raised on the Inhabitants and Estates within this Town, for Releif of the Poor, Defraying the Charg of the watch, and other necessary Charges arising within & for the Said Town for the year Ensning.

Whereas great numbers of Indians Negros & Molattoes haue of late accustomed them selves to attend the Burial of Indians Negros & Molattoes, which practise is of Ill tendency and may be of great Inconveniency to the Town if not prevented.

for Remedy whereof Ordered that all Indians Negros and molattoes Shal be Buryed halfe an hour before Sun Set at the Least and at the nearest burying place (where negros are usually buried) from the place they Shal be Carryed, thro' the most direct Lanes or Streets that lead thereto.

And no Indian Negro or Molatto Shal be Buryed on the Lords Day, Except in Exterordinary Cases, Leaue being first had and

Obtained from two or more of the Selectmen, And that one Bell only, and that but once tolled for the Buryall of any Indian, Negro, or Molatto, on pain of Twenty Shillings for Every breach of this Order, to be paid by the Master or Owner of any Indian Negro, or Molatto Buryed Contrary to this order, And by the Person ordering the Buryal of any free Indian Negro or Molatto in Contempt of this Order The like Sum of Twenty Shillings.

And Every grave digger or Sexton that Shal break in upon this Order Shal forfeit and pay the Sum of ten Shillings for every Offence being thereof Convict, before any one of His Majesties Justices of the Peace for Said County.

Whereas great numbers of Persons haue very lately bin Transported from Ireland into this Province, many of which by Reason of the Present Indian war and other Accedents befalling them, [428.] Are now Resident in this Town whose Circumstances and Condition are not known, Some of which if due care be not taken may become a Town Charge or be otherwise prejudicial to the well fair & Prosperity of the Place.

for Remedy whereof Ordered That Every Person now Resident here, that hath within the Space of three years last past bin brought from Ireland, or for the future Shal come from thence hither, Shal come and Enter his name and Occupation with the Town Clerk, and if married the number and Age of his Children and Servants, within the Space of five dayes, on pain of forfeiting and paying the Sum of twenty Shillings for Each offence, And the Sum of ten Shillings for Every one that Shal Continue in the neglect or non-Observance of this Order, for and During the term of forty-Eight hours after the Expiration of the five dayes aforesaid So often as the Person offending Shal be Complained of and Convict before any Justice of the Peace within the Said County.

And be it further Ordered that whoever Shal Receive and Entertain and keep in his family any Person or Persons Transported from Ireland as aforesaid, Shal within the Space of forty Eight hours after Such Receipt and Entertainment Return the Names of all Such Persons with their Circumstances as far as they are able to the Town Clerk.

On Penalty of Twenty Shillings fine for the first forty Eight hours and Ten Shillings for Every twenty four houres he Shal be convict after the first forty Eight hours and so toties quoties.

Voted That it be left with the Select men to doe what they find needfull for Repairing the Batterys in the Town.

Voted that the Treasurer be Impowred to make use of So much of the appropriated money of the Towns as He Shal find needfull untill the Taxes come into the Treasury.

At a Meeting of the freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston Duly Qualified being Regularly Assembled in a Publick Town Meeting at the Town House in Boston upon Monday the 23th of Decem^{br} 1723.

Voted, that Elisha Cook Esq^r Be moderator for this Meeting.

[429.] Upon Reading the Motion of Sundry Inhabitants Referring to a memorial of Governor Shute Exhibited to his Most