

HISTORY from page 1

I found it fascinating to see that 1771 citizens' value was judged by how many horses or mares they owned and how much "Money at Interest" they had acquired, for example. In going through the list, I looked for prominent historical names that I might be familiar with, like Deacon Nathaniel Warriner, Daniel Cadwell, Nathaniel Hitchcock and Paul Langdon.

Census

Peck wrote that there were 92 dwelling houses listed. He also noted three "tan houses". I looked up "tan house" online at Ultimatelexicon.com and it said: A "tan house" is historically a building used for the process of tanning hides — a method for transforming animal skins into leather through various chemical treatments." I'm sure there were folks in 1771 busy tanning hides.

Along with the valuation list, to get an idea of the town back then, Peck wrote that the population in 1765 according to the state census was 491 and in 1776 was 1,057. He estimated the population in 1771 was about 800. Peck combined some of the categories that Stebbins included such as, "Acres of pasture" and "Acres of tillage".

One unique measurement of the value of a person was the number of barrels of cider he brewed yearly.

Nathaniel Hitchcock

Several of the names on the list struck a chord with me such as Nathaniel Hitchcock. Hitchcock was the first settler of Wilbraham who built a log home where 603 Main St is now at the foot of Wilbraham Mountain.

In May of 1731 Hitchcock brought his new bride Hannah to their new log home he built for them the summer before in 1730. The Hitchcock site was later taken over and became the location of Dr. Samuel F. Merrick's two-story Federal-style home according to historian Dave Bourcier. It eventually lapsed into ruin. In the modern era that site eventually was owned by my parents Francis and Ethel Ben-



(Times file photo)

Deacon Nathaniel Warriner was the fourth settler of Wilbraham. His house, built in 1734, was a tavern where soldiers of Shays' Rebellion stayed the night before their attack in 1787. Eventually it became the farmhouse for Bennett Turkey Farm on Main Street.

nett which Francis purchased in 1951 next to his parent's home and farm which was the former Bennett Turkey Farm at 599 Main St. My dad built a house on the property and that is where I grew up.

Hitchcock didn't fare so well in the 1771 Valuation, compared to his neighbor Nathaniel Warriner. He was listed as owning one horse, eight cows, eight goats or sheep, 38 acres of tillage pasture and 108 bushels of grain. But he yielded a whopping 15 tons of hay a year.

Another name on the list that stuck out to me was Deacon Nathaniel Warriner who built his house next to Hitchcock that was to become the turkey farm. It was one of the oldest houses in town before it was demolished to make way for modern McMansions to be built there. Some of the Warriner-Bennett house remnants, including the street sign for The Bennett Turkey Farm, are now on display at the Old Meeting House Museum in the center of town.

Deacon Warriner

Nathaniel Warriner came to Wilbraham as its fourth settler. When Wilbraham was designated a separate precinct from Springfield, Nathaniel



(FindaGrave.com photo)

Deacon Nathaniel Warriner's grave is marked by one of the four table stones in brownstone in Adams Cemetery. Table stones were used for prominent members of a community. Warriner's 1771 valuation listed him as owning 754 English pounds.

Warriner became active in the new settlement and one of the men who helped attract a minister, Rev. Noah Merrick, and establish the Congregational church in the town in 1741. He provided wood to build that first meetinghouse on Wigwam Hill off Tinkham Road and hewed its timbers. He became a deacon of the church and worshipped with Margaret in Pew No. 2 of the new meetinghouse, a seat of honor.

In 1763 when the precinct was incorporated as Wilbraham, Nathaniel became town moderator. Nathaniel and Margaret Warriner kept

a tavern in the house, which was on one of the main north-south thoroughfares in the area for travelers. They farmed the property and were known for growing the first crop of potatoes in Wilbraham in 1754.

Nathaniel died in 1780 and is buried in Adams Cemetery. His grave is marked by one of the four table stones in brownstone in the cemetery. Because the house became a tavern, soldiers from Shays' Rebellion stayed there overnight on their way to attack the Springfield Armory on January 25, 1787. Several of the rebels became inebriated

and stuck their bayonets into the upstairs ceiling, which became my grandparent's bedroom.

Deacon Warriner was well-off for a man of his time. He was listed as having 754 English pounds in 1771. He had two horses, 18 cows, 16 goats and 53 acres of tillage. He raised 154 bushels of grain a year and grew 12 tons of hay annually. Warriner brewed 10 barrels of cider a year.

Capt. Paul Langdon

Capt. Paul Langdon Jr. and his father Lt. Paul Langdon, son of a Boston family, was known for their service in the French and Indian War. The father was considered a Wilbraham pioneer. The Charles Merrick Wilbraham history book refers to the elder as a "man of great energy of character, a carpenter, a millwright and farmer." He was known to transport people to church in his wagon regularly.

The son was born in 1725 and served on the Crown Point Expedition in the French and Indian War under Major Israel Williams, Capt. Samuel Day and was a sergeant in Capt. Luke Hitchcock's Company. He died in 1804.

In 1771 Capt. Langdon had one horse and eight cows, nine goats and 30 acres of tillage. He grew 100 bushels of grain and brewed 40 barrels of cider a year.

Sgt. Daniel Cadwell

Another military man, Daniel Cadwell served in the French and Indian War and the Revolutionary War. He served at Crown Point under Capt. Hitchcock from April to October 1755. Now located in New York State, British and Colonial forces targeted fortresses there twice. Cadwell served in battles in Canada in 1776 and then in the Northern Army in Boston and then led a provisional company in garrison duty at Ft. Ticonderoga in December 1776. He lived on Ridge Road where the nearby private road, Cadwell Drive, is named after him. He died of smallpox while in the

army in 1777.

Cadwell was listed in 1771 as having one horse, 15 cows and 15 sheep with 34 acres of tillage, 108 bushels of grain and only five barrels of cider. He grew 12 tons of hay every year.

Revolutionary Moment

To honor our country's birthday, 250 years of freedom, each month we will briefly mention what certain Wilbraham citizens and soldiers did to march to the beat of history in the Revolutionary War. We call these notes "A Revolutionary Moment".

An important concept for citizens of Wilbraham in 1770, and because our state is considered "one of the birthplaces of the Revolution" was "No taxation without representation." which applied anger towards the mother country of Great Britain by Massachusetts citizens. An appeal reached all towns in the colony from Boston to abide by the pledge. At a town meeting held May 1, 1770, led by Moderator Lt. Thomas Merrick, Wilbraham citizens lent their support to the effort to show their grievances towards The Crown.

(To be continued next month)

Sources: Bennett family history. History of Wilbraham Bicentennial Edition 1763-1963" edited by Charles Merrick; Chauncey Peck who wrote "The History of Wilbraham, 1731, 1763-1913. "Military Rolls of the Outward Commons - Soldiers of Wilbraham, Massachusetts 1730 - 1840" by J. Bruce Tingle. Ultimatelexicon.com. The history books mentioned in this column are all available for sale at the Old Meetinghouse Museum Gift Shop.

Editor Emeritus Charlie Bennett is a member of the Historic Commission and a trustee of the Wilbraham Atheneum Society. Readers can contact him with comments or ideas for the column at cbennett4765@charter.net.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 Docket No. HD23P0136PM In the matter of: Florentino Cardona of Hampden, MA Protected Person/ Disabled Person/Respondent CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF CONSERVATOR'S ACCOUNT

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, you are hereby notified pursuant to Rule 72 of the Supplemental Rules of the Probate & Family Court, that the first and final account(s) of Nancy C Godbout of Granby, MA as Conservator of the property of said Respondent has or have been presented to the Court for allowance.

You have the right to object to the account(s). If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return

date of 08/26/2025. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to object to the account(s). If you fail to file the written appearance and objection by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you, including the allowance of the account(s).

Additionally, within thirty days after said return day (or within such other time as the Court upon motion may order), you must file a written affidavit of objections stating the specific facts and grounds upon which each objection is based and a copy shall be served upon the Conservator pursuant to Rule 3 of the Supplemental Rules of the Probate & Family Court.

You have the right to send to the Conservator, by registered or certified mail, a written request to receive a copy of the Petition and account(s) at no cost to you.

IMPORTANT NOTICE The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer.

Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

Witness, Hon. Barbara M. Hyland, First Justice of this Court. Date: July 16, 2025 Rosemary A. Saccamoni Register of Probate 07/31/2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 Docket No. HD23P0826PM In the matter of: Ronald Stirlacci of Hampden, MA Protected Person/ Disabled Person/Respondent CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF CONSERVATOR'S ACCOUNT

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, you are hereby notified pursuant

to Rule 72 of the Supplemental Rules of the Probate & Family Court, that the first and final account(s) of Nancy C Godbout of Granby, MA as Conservator of the property of said Respondent has or have been presented to the Court for allowance.

You have the right to object to the account(s). If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of 08/26/2025. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to object to the account(s). If you fail to file the written appearance and objection by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you, including the allowance of the account(s).

Additionally, within thirty days after said return day (or within such other time as the Court upon motion may order), you must file a written affidavit of objections stating the specific facts and grounds upon which each objection is based and a copy shall be served upon the Conservator pursuant to Rule 3 of the Supplemental Rules of the

Probate & Family Court.

You have the right to send to the Conservator, by registered or certified mail, a written request to receive a copy of the Petition and account(s) at no cost to you.

IMPORTANT NOTICE The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

Witness, Hon. Barbara M. Hyland, First Justice of this Court. Date: July 16, 2025 Rosemary A. Saccamoni Register of Probate 07/31/2025

INVITATION FOR BID Camera System Upgrade Minnechaug Regional High School Wilbraham, Massachusetts

The Hampden Wilbraham Regional School district is seeking proposals for a Camera System Upgrade at to the Minnechaug Regional High School, 621 Main Street, Wilbraham, MA. Project bids will be due, Monday, August 18, 2025, at 2:00 PM in the Superintendent's Office, Minnechaug Regional High School. Three paper bids and one electronic bid on a storage drive must be addressed to Douglas Slaughter, Hampden-Wilbraham Regional School District, 621 Main Street, Wilbraham, MA 01095, in a securely sealed envelope, showing the name and address of bidder. All bids must be clearly marked "Camera Project Bid" on the outside of the envelope. Proposals received after the due date and time will not be accepted un-

der any conditions.

The project consists of adding/replacing eighty-nine (89) cameras to the District's existing Avigilon (Motorola) camera system at the Minnechaug Regional High School.

The estimated cost of the work is \$350,000. Each Bidder may obtain sets of bidding documents from Douglas Slaughter by emailing dslaughter@hwrds.org.

A Prebid Conference will be held on August 5, 2025 at 10:00 AM in the District Offices Conference Room, 621 Main St, Wilbraham, MA. We will tour the location at that time.

A 50% Payment Bond will be required of the successful bidder. Attorney-in-fact who signs Payment Bonds must file with each Bond a certified and effective dated copy of their power of attorney. Prevailing Wage rates have been established for this project by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

The Hamden Wilbraham Regional School District reserves the right to waive any informalities, to reject any and all bids or any part thereof, and to take whatever action it believes to be in the best interest of the District. 07/31/2025

PUBLIC NOTICE

This ad is pursuant to MA Gen. Law Ch.255, Sec. 39A as of August 8, 2025 the following motor vehicle will be for sale to satisfy a garage keepers lien: Vehicle : 2016 Jeep Patriot VIN:1CAN4NJRBB5GD654789 COLOR: Blue

LKO: Tyler James Washington 8051 North Denver St Apt 123 Kansas City MO 64151

R & S Assoc. Inc PO Box 543 Wilbraham MA 01095 413-596-4374

07/24, 07/31, 08/07/2025

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