

Esqr late Governor of this Province; And that for the future We Will not Exercise any Power or Authority by Virtue of the Same In Witness Whereof we have hereunto Set our hands this Ninth Day of January Anno Domini 1775.

“Joseph Holbrook Daniel Penniman Jesse Holbrook.”

In 1776 the town warrant was under the new name, “The Government and People of Massachusetts Bay.”

“July 4 1776 Voted that in case the Honble Continental Congress should think it necessary for the safety of the united colonies to declare them independent of Great Britain, The Inhabitants of this town with their lives & fortunes will cheerfully support them in the measure.”

“July 22 1776 Met at 6 A M at Elias Thayer’s house and voted to pay four men £11 each” and to borrow money.

In September the Massachusetts House of Representatives resolved “that the towns consider whether they will give their consent that this House & Council enact a Constitution, and if they would direct that it be made public before being ratified by this Assembly.” But when the royal authority came to an end, the towns felt themselves almost sovereign, like the Colonies of the Confederation before the adoption of the United States Constitution. They were not looking for a constitution made by any other authority than their own. Already in May Bellingham had instructed its Representative Stephen Metcalf to try for a more democratic government, more economical and closer to the common people. In October it chose a special committee to reply to this resolve of the House, consisting of Dr. John Corbet, “Crownor” John Metcalf, Elder Noah Alden, Deacon Samuel Darling and Lieut. Seth Hall, and voted to print