



REPORTS

OF THE

Selectmen of Acushnet

ON THE

FINANCIAL AFFAIRS OF THE TOWN,

AND OF THE

SCHOOL COMMITTEE,

FOR THE YEAR 1861-62.

NEW-BEDFORD :

F. ANTHONY, PRINTER, 67 UNION STREET.

1862.

REPORT

OF THE

SELECTMEN OF ACUSHNET,

ON THE

FINANCIAL AFFAIRS OF THE TOWN,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING FEB. 28, 1862.

NEW BEDFORD :

E. ANTHONY, PRINTER, 67 UNION STREET.

1862.

REPORT OF THE SELECTMEN.

The Selectmen have examined the account of the Collector of Taxes for 1860 and 1861.

Said Collector stands charged with the balance of the uncollected taxes for 1860,	\$395.02
Also with the tax-bills for 1861,	5,511.77
	\$5,906.79

Cr.

By amount paid State Treasurer,	\$270.00	
By amount paid County Treasurer,	910.81	
By amount paid Town Treasurer,	3,955.27	
By commissions,	51.87	
By taxes remitted,	17.68	
By uncollected taxes for 1860,	87.32	
By uncollected taxes for 1861,	513.87	
By discount for prompt payment,	99.97	5,906.79

The Treasurer is charged as follows, viz.:

With the balance in his hands, Feb. 28, 1861,	\$805.07
To the amount received of the Collector,	3,955.27
To the amount received for dog licenses,	43.30
To the amount received from the state school fund,	54.60
To cash received from Freetown,	2.50
To cash received of Edward Morse, Highway Surveyor,	14.16
To cash received of James Hammett, Highway Surveyor,	.99
To cash received for school-books,	29.67
To cash received of Jabez Wood, for book-case,	6.00
	\$4,911.56

Cr.

By paid Selectmen's orders for support of poor,	\$1,192.11	
By paid Selectmen's orders for support of schools,	1,817.98	
By paid Selectmen's orders, incidental,	291.51	
By paid Selectmen's orders for town debt and interest,	1,169.90	
By paid Selectmen's orders for highways and bridges,	24.37	
By commissions,	44.95	
Balance, carried to new account,	370.74	4,911.56

SUPPORT OF THE POOR.

Paid Sally Nye, for wood,	\$2 25
Paid C. T. Purrington	5.00
Paid Fairhaven	49.59
Paid C. E. Clark	7.68
Paid Gideon A. Harding, boarding Abby Voter,	5.00
Paid Sylvester Cummings, coal,	6.75
Paid Edmund Merrihew	6.00
Paid Asa Reynolds, support George B. Skiff,	12.00
Paid J. W. Webster	20.00
Paid Humphrey Davis, Jr., board Ruth Cook,	11.00
Paid Asa Raymond, George B. Skiff,	5.00
Paid Sally Nye, wood, Benjamin Howard,	5.00
Paid Gideon A. Harding, Abby Voter,	8.00
Paid Richard B. Nye, herrings,	5.40
Paid Edmund Merrihew	6.80
Paid Abraham Skiff, Jr., potatoes,	2.33
Paid Hannah Hoad, house-rent,	58.27
Paid Eliashib S. Allen, manure,	3.75
Paid Ann Gifford	7.50
Paid Gideon Harding, A. Voter,	9.00
Paid State Lunatic Asylum, Priscilla Thatcher,	78.11
Paid town of Sandwich, George B. Skiff,	25.37
Paid Samuel Wilde, groceries,	68.24
Paid Ruhamah Gray, board Sally Gifford,	6.50
Paid George T. & A. Russell, wood,	57.27
Paid Phineas White	1.80
Paid Francis A. Butts, beef,	7.28
Paid Asa Packard, meat,	6.00
Paid John R. Davis, Jr., groceries,	36.25
Paid Lewis S. Pope, groceries,	4.00
Paid town Medway, Amos L. Fuller,	8.45
Paid Shaw & Bro., pork, &c.,	22.40
Paid James Wilbur, salt,	.90
Paid Abraham Reed, Hiram Peirce,	20.00
Paid Edmund Merrihew	26.00
Paid Gideon A. Harding, A. Voter,	9.00
Paid Franklin Teacher, Weaver,	5.25
Paid Eliza Weaver	5.00
Paid Ansel Ellis	3.50
Paid James Skiff, work on house,	2.50
Paid William H. Tirrell, work on house,	5.71
Paid New Bedford	189.53
Paid Humphrey Davis, support Ruth Cook,	13.00
Paid Ruhamah Gray, support Sally Gifford,	6.50
Paid Joseph Wheldon, hay,	6.30
Paid S. B. Hamlin	4.30

Carried up,

\$855.48

<i>Brought up,</i>	\$855.48
Paid Foxborough, Amos L. Fuller,	24.19
Paid John Weaver	5.00
Paid Benjamin White, lumber, &c.,	26.26
Paid Gideon A. Harding, A. Voter,	9.00
Paid Edward Morse	3.50
Paid C. E. Clark	9.94
Paid H. H. Fisher.	1.65
Paid David C. Hawes	2.56
Paid James Skiff	4.94
Paid State Lunatic Asylum, P. Thatcher,	77.23
Paid Lemuel Dillingham	1.67
Paid John Weaver	10.00
Paid George P. Morse, shingles,	7.87
Paid Lurana Reynolds	1.00
Paid Nancy C. Terry, grave-clothes,	.75
Paid John Wilcox, pasture,	8.50
Paid J. P. Lund	10.97
Paid S. T. Viall, pork,	16.80
Paid James Warren	1.72
Paid Nancy Merrihew	1.42
Paid James Burt	1.00
Paid C. E. Clark	16.26
Paid Gideon A. Harding, A. Voter,	8.00
Paid Abner Gifford, support Page,	12.86
Paid John H. Perry & Co., coal, Cameron,	5.75
Paid Bradford Mosher	43.50
Paid A. J. Wing, wood,	1.75
Paid John H. Perry & Co., coal, G. H. Weston,	5.58
Lewis S. Pope, groceries, &c.,	17.52
Ruhamah Gifford, support of Sally Gifford,	6.50
Paid Allen Russell, wood,	36.25
Paid Samuel Wilde, groceries, &c.,	67.46
Paid Benjamin White	.50
Paid William H. Washburn, groceries, &c.,	68.99
Paid Joseph S. Spooner, shoes,	6.34
Paid Edward G. Dillingham, wood to C. Eldridge,	1.75
Paid John R. Davis, Jr., groceries,	28.61
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	\$1,409.07

Cr.

By cash due from the state for the support of soldiers' families,	\$38.42	
Due from Freetown,	11.50	
Due from Mattapoissett,	3.50	53.42
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		\$1,355.65

RECAPITULATION.

Appropriation for Schools,	\$2,000.00
Appropriation for Poor,	700.00
Appropriation for Incidentals,	500.00
Appropriation for liquidating Town Debt,	1,000.00
Overlay on Taxes,	118.49
Amount received from State School Fund,	54.60
Amount received for Dog Licenses,	43.30
Amount due the Schools, March 1st, 1861,	1,016.07
Amount due from State, for support of soldiers' families,	38.42
Amount due from Asa Packard,	3.35
Amount due from F. A. Butts,	4.89
School Books on hand,	36.28
Amount due from Freetown,	11.50
Amount due from Mattapoisett,	3.50
Amount received for School Books,	29.67
Amount due from Highway Taxes,	23.47
Amount received from Freetown,	2.50
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	\$5,586.03

Expended,	
For the support of Schools,	\$1,819.98
For the support of Poor,	1,408.97
For the repairs of Highways,	39.24
For Incidental Expenses,	468.90
Paid Town debt and interest,	1,169.90
Discount on Taxes for prompt payment,	99.97
Amount due the Schools,	1,197.09
Amount of Town debt,	3,200.00
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	9,404.05
Balance,	<hr/>
	\$3,818.02

GUIDE-BOARDS.—The Guide-Boards in the Town are in very good repair. We have repaired several the past year.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

CYRUS E. CLARK, }
 BENJAMIN WILSON, } *Selectmen*
 BENJAMIN WHITE, } *of Acushnet.*

We, the subscribers, have examined the foregoing accounts, and believe them to be correct.

ABIEL P. ROBINSON, }
 DAVID R. PEIRCE, } *Auditors.*
 JAMES BURT, }

REPORT

OF THE

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

OF THE

Town of Acushnet,

FOR THE YEAR

1861-62.

NEW BEDFORD:

E. ANTHONY, PRINTER, 67 UNION STREET.

1862.

REPORT OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

FELLOW CITIZENS:

IN presenting this, their Second Annual Report, the Committee have not in view merely to comply with the demand of the Statute which makes the requisition, but at the same time to gratify an interest which they believe exists in a good degree with many in our community in the most important of its public interests—its Public Schools. And they are willing to hope that this interest will strengthen and increase.

The Committee organized by the choice of Jabez Wood, Chairman, and Marcus Ashley, Secretary.

The special superintendence of the schools was assigned to the members of the Committee as follows:

The Schools in Districts Nos. 4, 7, 8, and 9, to Jabez Wood.
" " " " 1, 5, and 6, to Walter Spooner.
" " " " 2 and 3 to Marcus Ashley.

The Chairman has also visited all the schools in town once during the Summer, and once during the Winter Term.

We here present a brief account of each school, showing the attendance, &c., of each.

DISTRICT No. 1.

Summer Term—Taught by Augusta A. C. Harvey. Length of school 5 months; wages of teacher \$20 per month; whole number of scholars 33, average attendance $24\frac{1}{2}$.

Winter Term, (in session)—Taught by Walter A. Davis.
Wages of teacher \$33 per month; whole number of scholars
34, average attendance 29.

Prudential Committee, LEONARD KEEN.

DISTRICT No. 2.

Summer Term—Taught by Sarah E. Grinnell. Length of
school $5\frac{1}{2}$ months; wages of teacher \$20 per month; whole
number of scholars 27, average attendance $18\frac{3}{4}$.

Winter Term—Taught by Sarah E. Grinnell. Length of
school $3\frac{1}{2}\frac{3}{8}$ months; wages of teacher \$22 per month; whole
number of scholars 25, average attendance $16\frac{8}{5}$.

Prudential Committee, DANIEL H. SPOONER.

DISTRICT No. 3.

Summer Term—Taught by Mary J. White. Length of
school 5 months; wages of teacher \$20 per month; whole
number of scholars 34, average attendance 23.

Winter Term, (in session)—Taught by Sanford H. Dud-
ley. Wages of teacher \$28 per month; whole number of
scholars 43, average attendance 31.

Prudential Committee, MARCUS ASHLEY.

DISTRICT No. 4.

Summer Term—Taught by Sarah F. Wilson. Length of
school 5 months; wages of teacher \$20 per month; whole
number of scholars 36, average attendance 28.4.

Winter Term, (in session)—Taught by Anna Webb.
Wages of teacher \$23 per month; whole number of scholars
38, average attendance 29.85.

Prudential Committee, SAMUEL B. HAMLIN.

DISTRICT No. 5.

Summer Term—Taught by Phebe H. Tinkham. Length
of school 5 months; wages of teacher \$18 per month; whole
number of scholars 19, average attendance 13.52.

Winter Term, (in session)—Taught by Cornelia Lincoln.
Wages of teacher \$25 per month; whole number of scholars
21, average attendance 16.31.

Prudential Committee, STEPHEN S. HASWELL.

DISTRICT No. 6.

Summer Term—Taught by Sarah A. Keen. Length of school 5 months; wages of teacher \$20 per month; whole number of scholars 34, average attendance $25\frac{1}{2}$.

Winter Term, (in session)—Taught by Jabez Wood. Wages of teacher \$37 per month; whole number of scholars 48, average attendance 40.

Prudential Committee, ANDREW J. WING.

DISTRICT No. 7.

Summer Term—Taught by Mary S. Mendell. Length of school $4\frac{3}{4}$ months; wages of teacher \$20 per month; whole number of scholars 40, average attendance 32.

Winter Term, (in session)—Taught by Charles F. Alden. Wages of teacher \$35 per month; whole number of scholars 44, average attendance 40.

Prudential Committee, BENJAMIN ROBINSON.

DISTRICT No. 8.

Summer Term—Taught by Laura A. Omey. Length of school 5 months; wages of teacher \$20 per month; whole number of scholars 41, average attendance 28.82.

Winter Term, (in session)—Taught by Amos K. Haswell. Wages of teacher \$25 per month; whole number of scholars 45, average attendance 34.36.

Prudential Committee, SETH M. BLACKMER.

DISTRICT No. 9.

Summer Term—Taught by Asenath P. Taber. Length of school $4\frac{1}{2}$ months; wages of teacher \$16 per month; whole number of scholars 22, average attendance 14.8.

Winter Term, (in session)—Taught by Asenath P. Taber. Wages of teacher \$ per month; whole number of scholars , average attendance .

This district has chosen no district officers for the year, and its affairs are under the care of the School Committee.

The Committee think that the schools, taken as a whole, have made as good progress during the year as they could anticipate. There are circumstances and influences still

existing in our town, which have a direct tendency to impede the progress of school education which might otherwise be witnessed. As these were brought to view and pretty fully treated upon in a former report, we think it unnecessary to rehearse them at this time.

We give below the apportionment of money to each district:

District No. 1,	\$239.00
District No. 2,	202.00
District No. 3,	231.00
District No. 4,	217.00
District No. 5,	198.00
District No. 6,	262.00
District No. 7,	256.00
District No. 8,	248.00
District No. 9,	198.00

Total, \$2,051.00

Amount appropriated by the town,	\$2,000.00
Amount received from the state,	54.60
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	\$2,054.60

With regard to the division and expenditure of the school money, we would ask if it would not be better economy to let the town expend by and through its own regularly appointed Committee, the money which it appropriates for the support of schools, rather than to pay to persons with regard to the selection of whom, or the wages paid, it has no voice. It is well known by those who are conversant with the working of the "district system," that "rotation in office" is the principle upon which the district usually elects its Prudential Committee, all wishing to avoid holding the office, from the fact that it is not lucrative, as the incumbent receives no stipend. By pursuing this course, as it will be readily seen, no uniform system or basis upon which contracts shall be made, and no uniform standard in point of price or wages is adhered to; but on the contrary, one of the contracting parties, having been placed in office by the "rotation" principle, and that without much regard to qualification for selecting a school-teacher, or even judgment

in relation to the needs of the school, is at the same time allowed to say at what price the town's money—not *his own money*—and *not the district's money*—shall be paid out, whether the school be large or small, whether it really needs a teacher of a high order, or whether one with less experience and smaller attainments will suffice, simply because the district, it being "his turn," and not the town, whose money he is spending, has placed him in office.

The Committee deem it desirable, as the money is appropriated for schools throughout the town, that those who may attend school in the town should derive as nearly as possible equal advantages, as far as their grade or advancement in study will admit, from its expenditure; and this is exceedingly difficult, if not absolutely impracticable under the present system; and although the Committee exercise great care in the apportionment of the money, some complaint is heard from some districts because they have no more money to expend.

Of the teachers who have been engaged in our schools during the year, we do not propose to speak personally. We think the most of them have endeavored to discharge their duty to those under their care, and have evinced that they felt interested in the important work in which they were engaged. Some of them have had the advantage of experience in the service, and we expected that their well-directed efforts would produce the results which we have been pleased to witness. A few of them have taught during the year for the first time, and one or two, perhaps, for the first time as principals; and of these two classes some have won for themselves credit, and have laid, as we think, a foundation for future usefulness in this worthy occupation. And we would encourage those who now are or hereafter may be engaged in our schools as teachers, to be really alive to the work. We hope you realize the vast difference which exists between the teacher who enters upon the duties of the position with an earnestness, a zeal and an energy which bespeak that he or she feels at heart the interest as well as the importance which is always attached to the instruction

and right training of youth, and the one who enters the school-room merely to "keep school." While we wish you to recollect that much depends upon the order of the school-room and the system of the school, we would encourage you to administer a wholesome discipline, which, firm, unyielding, and effective, is still not rigid and severe, but mild, uniform, and tending to gain the confidence of those over whom it is exercised.

We would have you hold a high standard of moral character at which to aim yourselves, and also hold it up before the view of your pupils as important also for them to reach. Let it not be forgotten that goodness is the point to which all correct education tends.

Proceed then in the work in which you are engaged; a work which, although attended at times with its obstacles, its difficulties, and its discouragements, is still replete with interest; a work "humble indeed in the world's esteem, but sublime in its momentous results."

All of which is respectfully submitted.

JABEZ WOOD.
WALTER SPOONER.
MARCUS ASHLEY.

ACUSHNET, 2 mo. 26, 1862.