

REPORTS  
OF THE  
SELECTMEN OF ACUSHNET  
ON THE  
FINANCIAL AFFAIRS OF THE TOWN,  
AND OF THE  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE,  
For the Year 1869-70.

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NEW BEDFORD:  
E. ANTHONY & SONS, PRINTERS, 37 UNION STREET.  
1870.



## REPORT.

The Selectmen of Acushnet respectfully submit the following report:

Benjamin White, Collector of Acushnet, is charged	
with the uncollected taxes of 1867,	\$80.28
With the uncollected taxes of 1868,	183.32
Also with the tax bills for 1869,	10,896.60
	\$11,160.20

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By amount paid state treasurer,	\$1,750.00
Amount paid county treasurer,	689.09
Amount paid town treasurer,	5,796.48
Taxes remitted,	34.30
Commissions on taxes collected,	64.86
Discount for prompt payment of taxes,	447.78
Uncollected taxes for 1867,	34.49
Uncollected taxes for 1868,	64.69
Uncollected taxes for 1869,	479.66
By amount remitted for school district property,	1,802.85
	\$11,160.20

Benjamin White, Treasurer, is charged with the	
balance of last year's account,	\$2,045.66
The amount received of Collector,	5,796.48
Received dividends on Fairhaven bank stock,	40.00
Of Charles L. Kenyon, for cow,	50.00
Of Ammi Howard, for cow,	50.00
Of Robert Taber, for peddler's license,	6.00
Of town of Middleborough for supplies	
furnished Jane Walling and family,	21.00
Of state treasurer, corporation tax,	207.21
Of state treasurer, reimbursement of state	
aid advanced,	276.00
From town of Mattapoissett for supplies	
furnished S. W. Bowles's family,	9.00



Received from State school fund,	143.14
Of Allen W. Snow for peddler's license,	6.00
Of county treasurer the town's proportion of the dog license fund,	84.13
From town of Nantucket, aid to R. S. Folger,	4.00
Of C. L. Kenyon, calf,	7.84
For school books sold,	22.83
Of collector for school books collected,	8.50
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	\$8,777.79

The Treasurer is credited with the following :

By amount paid public schools,	1,856.39
Amount paid support of poor,	1,322.65
Amount paid incidentals,	1,776.81
Amount paid for repairs on highways,	800.00
Amount paid towards relinquishing town debt,	500.00
Treasurer's commissions,	21.74
Amount of school district debts paid,	120.11
Balance carried to new account,	2,380.09
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	\$8,777.79

#### Support of Schools.

Paid Miss Cornelia Rounseville, teaching, 1868,	\$88.00
Benjamin Gifford, building fires, 1868,	2.67
Cobb & Jenney, bill for coal, 1869,	16.00
Miss Harriet S. Clapp, teaching, 1869,	45.50
Mr. Charles L. Russell, teaching,	294.00
Mrs. Ann H. Snow, teaching,	290.00
Miss S. T. Parker, teaching,	237.00
Miss Phebe E. Burt, teaching,	120.00
Miss Martha W. White, teaching,	236.50
Mrs. Sarah J. Braley, teaching,	280.00
Pardon Taber, Jr., wood, and preparing same,	17.00
Lewis G. Spooner, for fuel,	8.78
Town of Fairhaven, tuition,	21.36
Charles L. Russell, making fires,	5.00
George T. Russell, Jr., teaching,	140.00
George T. Russell, Jr., building fires,	4.00
Walter A. Davis, wood, and preparing same for school,	46.58
Charles Snow, building fires,	4.00
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	\$1,856.39



## Support of Paupers.

Paid Dr. Choate, Treasurer of Taunton Lunatic Hospital, for Benjamin Taber,	\$211.20
Baylies & Cannon, provisions,	109.00
Mary Andrews,	6.00
John Manter, shoemaking, &c.,	17.75
Alexander Howland, groceries,	95.03
Gideon A. Harding, support of Abby Votau,	75.00
Dr. Webster, medicines and attendance,	13.50
Smith & Varley, soap,	3.19
Support of Betsey Oliver,	42.00
Support of Ruth Cook,	26.00
Coggeshall & Co., coffins,	20.00
City of Fall River, support of paupers,	128.00
Richard Davis & Son, provisions,	112.90
Dr. Bradford Braley, medical attendance,	5.50
William A. Ashley, farm labor,	7.50
John R. Macomber, whitewashing, &c.,	5.00
Reuben Mason, teaming,	6.57
A. B. Grinnell, burial,	2.00
Alfred Morse, farm work,	9.00
Ansel C. White, hauling wood,	5.00
Driscoll, Church & Hall, meat,	37.00
Charles M. Wilde, dry goods,	10.88
Commonwealth, support of Henry D. Taber,	122.00
Cobb & Jenney, tin ware,	3.00
Simeon Macomber, services at alms-house,	75.00
Otis A. Sisson, soap,	3.48
Jane Walling and family, support,	21.00
Benjamin White, labor and supplies at alms-house,	11.40
Wood furnished paupers in New Bedford,	11.76
Aid to S. W. Bowles's family,	9.00
Aid to R. C. Folger,	4.00
C. L. Kenyon, meat,	.92
City of New Bedford, support of paupers,	67.08
Town of Fairhaven, support of paupers,	10.00
Walter Spooner, supplies at alms-house,	2.00
Town of Tisbury, support of Foster Skiff and family,	31.99
Pardon Taber, Jr., supplies at alms-house,	2.00
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	\$1,322.65

## Repairs on Highways.

Paid to the order of Joshua Morse,	\$430.00
Paid to the order of William A. Spooner,	370.00
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	\$800.00



## Incidental Expenses.

Paid interest on town debt,	\$625.77
James Warren, services as constable for 1869,	14.00
Loring Potter, services as constable for 1870,	10.00
Chas. L. Russell, cleaning & fixtures to school-houses,	19.28
Laura A. Pittsley, cleaning school-houses,	8.45
Mrs. J. Hickey, cleaning school-house,	2.00
Charles L. Russell, school books,	33.69
Walter A. Davis, school books,	16.35
S. Hutchinson, school books,	34.92
E. Anthony & Sons, printing and advertising,	40.75
S. Hutchinson, blank book and stationery,	5.56
Amos K. Haswell, damage on carriage caused by defect on highway,	2.50
Walter A. Davis, services as school committee,	80.00
Charles L. Russell, services as school committee,	40.00
Augustus White, services as school committee,	20.00
Leonard Luscomb, cleaning, and fixtures to school-house,	3.95
O. F. Braley, carpenter's bill at alms-house,	21.25
B. G. White, shingles,	50.00
Expense on bridge case,	20.00
Walter R. Spooner, labor and lumber,	5.67
E. Anthony & Sons, printing,	20.25
Jabez Taber, cow,	60.00
Henry D. Parker, cow,	52.00
James Warren, setting glass in school-house,	2.30
Town Clerk, recording marriages, births and deaths,	11.30
Cobb & Jenney, repairing stove,	1.50
William A. Spooner, constructing wall,	47.48
Clark E. Morse, repairing bridge,	.50
Walter Spooner, services as Selectman,	12.00
Walter Spooner, services as Assessor,	25.00
Walter Spooner, services as Overseer of Poor,	19.00
Benjamin White, services as Selectman,	30.00
Benjamin White, services as Assessor,	25.00
Benjamin White, services as Overseer of Poor,	25.00
Pardon Taber, Jr., services as Selectman,	15.00
Pardon Taber, Jr., services as Assessor,	30.00
Pardon Taber, Jr., services as Overseer of Poor,	15.00
Walter A. Davis, fixtures at school-house,	2.91
Augustus White, fixtures at school-house,	2.10
Postage, express, &c.,	8.53
State aid,	283.00
Assessors, making valuation returns to legislature,	15.00
Collector on Emeline Hammond's tax, 1869,	20.80
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	\$1,776.81



Amount of notes held against the town,	\$8,906.00
Amount of bank stock owned by the town, (five shares Fairhaven bank, par value \$80.00,)	\$400.00
Cash in treasury,	2,380.00
Town farm,	1,500.00
Two cows,	120.00
Amount of school books unsold in the hands of the school committee,	71.91
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	\$4,471.91

BENJAMIN WHITE,	} <i>Selectmen</i>
WALTER SPOONER,	
PARDON TABER, JR.,	
	<i>of</i>
	<i>Acushnet.</i>

ACUSHNET, March 29, 1870.

REPORT

OF THE

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

OF THE

TOWN OF ACUSHNET,

FOR THE YEAR 1869-70.



## REPORT OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

GENTLEMEN, — Following the usual annual custom of your school committee, we present the following report of our proceedings. After the annual meeting of the town the committee met and organized by choosing WALTER A. DAVIS as Chairman, and CHARLES L. RUSSELL as Secretary.

### APPROPRIATIONS.

Amount raised by the town,	\$2,000.00
Received from state school fund,	143.14
Total,	<u>\$2,143.14</u>

### DETAILED REPORT OF THE SCHOOLS.

The following tabular view will exhibit the names of teachers, wages, attendance, and other particulars of the schools.

TABLE I.

SCHOOLS.	SUMMER.					WINTER.				
	Attendance between 5 and 15.	Attendance over 15.	Attendance under 5.	Whole attendance.	Average Attendance.	Attendance between 5 and 15.	Attendance over 15.	Attendance under 5.	Whole attendance.	Average attendance.
Bisbee's, . . .	7	0	1	8	5.65					No School.
County Road, . .	18	1	2	21	17.8	17	1	2	20	13
Whelden's, . . .	37	1	0	38	23.02	35	8	0	43	33.07
Acushnet, . . .	21	0	1	22	16.3	25	4	1	30	22.7
Packard's, . . .	36	1	1	38	24.72	33	4	1	38	24.72
Perry Hill, . . .	36	5	0	41	28	33	8	0	41	33
Long Plain, . . .	26	0	0	26	15.65	22	4	0	26	17.7



TABLE II.

SCHOOLS.	TERMS.	TEACHERS.	WAGES.	LENGTH.
Bisbee's,	Summer,	Martha W. White,	\$20.00	2½ mos.
	Winter,	No school.		
County Road,	Summer,	S. T. Parker,	25.00	5 "
	Winter,	S. T. Parker,	28.00	4 "
Whelden's,	Summer,	Sarah J. Braley,	28.00	5 "
	Winter,	Sarah J. Braley,	35.00	4 "
Acushnet,	Summer,	Charles L. Russell,	30.00	5 "
	Winter,	Charles L. Russell,	35.00	4 "
Packard's,	Summer,	Phebe E. Burt,	23.00	5 "
	Winter,	George T. Russell, Jr.,	35.00	4 "
Perry Hill,	Summer,	Ann H. Snow,	30.00	5 "
	Winter,	Ann H. Snow,	35.00	4 "
Long Plain,	Summer,	Hattie Clapp,	28.00 }	4 "
		Martha W. White,	25.00 }	
	Winter,	Martha W. White,	30.00	4 "

## STATEMENTS.

By some people the committee seem to be regarded not only as an unnecessary appendage, but the common foe of teachers, parents, and children. If at our examinations we are presented with a dozen or more candidates for our schools and we select only three or four, if we make expense in searching for efficient teachers, if we demand thorough instruction and healthy discipline and employ only those who can furnish the one and enforce the other, if we discharge one teacher and employ another without consulting parents or giving reasons, if we assure teachers that in spite of all opposing influences they are to be sustained in well doing, if by word, look, or act, scholars are made to feel that order must and will be enforced, and that bidding defiance to a teacher's authority cannot be tolerated for a moment, if in the discharge of any or all of these duties the committee act as they should, they are criticised with the greatest severity. If we encourage teachers in their efforts to overcome some of the evils that hinder the progress of the school, if we remind parents and guardians that in depriving those under their care of the privilege of attending twelve weeks in a year they are



violating the law and are liable to a fine, we are accused of meddling with what is "none of our business." We suggest that *such* inform themselves of the *duty* of a committee.

Now you expect your schools will be managed by a committee. We would therefore recommend that you select those that you are willing to trust; and then if you would have them do their duty faithfully, give them your confidence and support. Do not call into question the motives and purposes by which they are actuated until you know that you comprehend all the facts of the case.

#### IRREGULAR ATTENDANCE AND TARDINESS.

It is easier to complain of an evil than to remedy it; doubly so in the case before us. We desire to urge this subject upon the minds of parents, because with them lies the remedy. Few can know, except those who have the management, to what extent these evils cripple our schools and frustrate the plans of both teachers and committee. It is not simply the loss of time to which allusion is made in our last report, but the loss of position. The losses of a pupil from absence are too many to be enumerated; but we mention a few, as the following: A loss of explanation which the teacher cannot give to each separately without robbing the class; consequent to this, interest and a feeling by the pupil that he is becoming inferior in rank to others in his class. It is impossible for a teacher to feel that interest in a pupil who is there occasionally which he does in one in constant attendance; hence the charge of partiality often laid upon teachers. If you wish your child to become prompt in the duties of life, commence now and train him in the formation of those habits that will fit him for such a course. If your child on leaving school is to be placed in a store, or to become an apprentice to some mechanic, think you that excuses similar to



those sent his teacher will avail him anything? For four or five cents a day a boy may be obtained to build the fire and take care of the house, and in our opinion, if we were to offer presents worth two or three dollars to each scholar that should be neither tardy nor absent during the term, the percentage of attendance would be very much increased.

But what are all such considerations as these compared with the benefits to be derived from the prompt attendance to, and a wise improvement of all the educational privileges that are granted you? In a town no larger than ours, there is a wide diversity of opinion in regard to the real value of a thorough education, and consequently a corresponding effort put forth to secure it. Some consider it of so little account as to be wholly unworthy of their attention. To those who have no other means of education, the value of our schools cannot be too highly estimated. We wish to improve this opportunity by saying a few words that are deserved by parents. We say first, it is in your power not only to exert a salutary influence upon the school, but to render your teacher efficient in all her efforts to promote the welfare of those in her charge. We say also, that through your neglect or undue criticisms you may very much neutralize or entirely destroy the labors and influence of the best teachers. Few of you consider what influence your expressions of dissatisfaction, uttered in the hearing of your children, have upon a school. Few, indeed, realize how sensitive it is to outside influence; it feels every syllable, every breath of blame or distrust.

In conclusion, we wish to call attention to a *circular* addressed "To the Citizens of Acushnet," in which we find the following: "Now it appears to your committee that there are fifty-eight scholars in town that will be very much incommoded or entirely deprived of the benefits of