

ANNUAL REPORTS
OF THE
Selectmen of Acushnet,
ON THE
Financial Affairs of the Town,
AND OF THE
SCHOOL COMMITTEE,
For the year 1876-7.

NEW BEDFORD:
E. ANTHONY & SONS, PRINTERS.
1877.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SELECTMEN OF THE TOWN OF ACUSHNET,

March, 1877.

The Selectmen of the town of Acushnet respectfully submit the following report :

George P. Morse, collector of taxes, is charged with tax bills of 1876,	\$6,168.40	
Also with tax bills of 1871,	22.40	
“ “ 1873,	23.20	
“ “ 1874,	25.20	
“ “ 1875,	390.00	\$6,629.20

CREDIT.

Paid state tax,	\$612.00	
Paid county tax,	556.40	
Discount on taxes collected,	333.33	
Commission on taxes collected,	61.42	
Taxes remitted,	15.00	
Uncollected taxes for 1871,	22.40	
“ “ 1873,	23.20	
“ “ 1874,	25.20	
“ “ 1875,	208.50	
“ “ 1876,	204.50	
Amount paid town treasurer,	4,567.25	\$6,629.20

✓ Treasurer's Account.

DR.

Balance of last year's account,	\$484.33	
Received of collector,	4,567.25	
Received of State treasurer, bank tax,	980.77	
Of State, corporation tax,	160.46	

Of State, state aid,	182.00	
Of State school fund,	229.18	
From County treasurer, dog fund,	107.13	
For school books sold,	31.23	
Of E. R. Ashley, auctioneer's license,	2.00	
For use of school-house, Acushnet Village,	12.00	
Cf W. H. Terrell, for use of gravel lot,	5.00	
Of Rochester, for schooling,	53.50	
Of Edgar Gammons, peddler's license,	6.00	
Of Oliver R. Taber, peddler's license,	6.00	
Of Acushnet Saw Mill Co.,	4.50	
Of town of Rochester, for helping poor,	64.60	
Of city of New Bedford, for helping poor,	219.25	
Of town of Falmouth, for helping poor,	22.00	
Of town of Fairhaven, for helping poor,	8.00	
Of T. Terry, for loam,	1.10	
Of Sylvester Pratt, for bucket,	.50	
Interest on taxes,	12.52	
Of Benjamin White, guardian of L. Gammons,	52.00	
Of James Dall, for schooling,	10.00	
Taxes assessed since first of May, 1876,	17.40	\$7,238.75

CREDIT.

The treasurer is credited with the following amounts paid :

Paid for support of poor,	\$1,344.30	
For support of public schools,	2,096.28	
For incidental expenses,	717.98	
For Wheldon school-house,	737.86	
For well at Parting-ways school-house,	183.43	
For tramp-house,	85.41	
For state aid,	302.00	
For treasurer's commission,	33.17	
For error in last year's account,	216.14	
Balance in the treasury,	540.62	
For repairs on highways,	981.56	\$7,238.75

Poor Account.

Paid Sylvester Pratt, services as keeper of alms-house,	\$170.00
Richard Davis & Son, supplies at do.,	294.96
D. H. Cannon, medical attendance,	2.50
City of Taunton, for helping Eunice Pierce,	3.32
Sylvester Pratt, for wood, herrings, &c.,	18.27
William Gifford, for one shoat,	15.00

Aid to Wm. B. Wilcox, for Boston,	67.50	
John Manter, Jr., for boots and shoes		
and box of soap,	23.15	
Wm. H. Chappell, helping C. W. Shepard,	30.00	
Treasurer of Taunton Lunatic Hospital,		
for Rochester,	44.60	
Aid for New Bedford poor,	100.00	
Aid to Ruth Cook,	26.00	
Aid to D. A. Wilcox,	13.00	
James M. Clark, for supplies furnished		
Edwin Braley,	48.55	
J. F. Shurtleff, for medical attendance		
for E. Braley,	19.75	
George Atwood, for Falmouth,	15.00	
Wm. E. Sparrow, for New Bedford,	32.25	
Aid for Betsey Oliver,	39.00	
C. H. Howland, iron work for alms-house,	2.70	
Jeremiah Hammett, for digging grave,	2.00	
Isaac Clark, expense on Frank Gammons,	5.00	
Joseph Webster, medical attendance on		
S. J. Gifford,	10.00	
George A. Cobb, for fireboards,	3.15	
Walter R. Spooner, setting pump,		
shackles, &c.,	4.16	
Mrs. Pratt, making clothes for inmates,	8.75	
Davis Pickens, for meat at alms-house,	14.51	
Walter Spooner, for bedding at alms-house,	5.00	
Alden Rounseville, Jr., for wood,	8.36	
David Cochran, for helping Fairhaven poor,	8.00	
Town of Fairhaven, helping Betsey Oliver,	7.50	
Aid for Mattapoissett poor,	104.00	
City of N. Bedford, helping Acushnet poor,	97.20	
Town of Mattapoissett, helping M. J. Wilber,	78.00	
Walter Spooner, for wood and drawing,	5.00	
B. G. Wilson, for coffin,	13.25	
Robert Stephens, for cutting wood,	4.87	\$1,344.30
Deduct for helping New Bedford poor,	134.75	
" " Mattapoissett poor,	104.00	
" " Boston poor,	67.50	
" " Rochester poor,	44.60	
" " Falmouth poor,	15.00	
" " Fairhaven poor,	8.00	373.85
Actual cost of poor,		\$970.45

Incidental Expenses.

Paid assessment on alms-house and barn,	\$3.20
Sophia O. Taber, for gravel lot,	40.00
Recording two deeds for school-house and gravel lot,	1.00
S. Hutchinson, for books, &c.,	47.40
E. Anthony & Sons, for printing,	59.25
Geo. P. Wheldon, for making wall,	10.00
Benjamin Robinson, repairs on Perry school-house,	9.10
James H. Page, stove and pipe,	7.25
L. H. Reynolds, fixing stove,	.50
F. A. Sowle,	2.88
Charles Fuller, expressage, &c.,	3.30
A. Pittsley, cleaning school-house,	5.00
J. Denham, cleaning school-house,	6.00
Walter Spooner, expenses on Fall River bridge case,	5.00
Hatch & Company,	.75
Geo. P. Morse, for pail, pan and brush,	1.51
Joshua Morse, paid for sleepers, drawing lumber and making bridge,	15.00
Wm. H. Chappell, for brooms and pail,	.95
James Warren,	2.90
S. B. Hamlin, timber for bridge,	4.75
Interest on money borrowed,	20.00
Daniel V. Smith, for painting school-house,	24.16
B. Y. Warner, school fixtures,	.83
George S. Wilber, for 1875,	3.00
Humphrey, Kirby & Co., for paints and oil,	19.99
Greene & Wood. planks for bridge,	45.18
Postage on election returns,	.48
George A. Cobb,	6.93
Wm. Ware & Co., school books,	8.10
Brewer, Tileston & Co., school books,	48.94
George P. Morse, recording births, deaths, &c.,	14.55
Pardon Taber, Jr., expenses to Boston, stamps and stationery,	6.65
Sylvester Pratt, services as constable,	10.00
Otis Snow, for repairing harrow and filing saws,	1.25
Pardon Taber, Jr., services as selectman, assessor, and overseer of poor,	90.00
Walter Spooner, services as selectman, as- sessor, and overseer of poor,	70.00

Joshua Morse, services as selectman, assessor, and overseer of poor,	16.00	
E. R. Ashley, for services as school committee,	25.00	
E. R. Ashley, paid for cleaning school-houses,	5.00	
Sullings, Kingman & Co., two call bells,	2.85	
L. B. Heath, setting glass,	.50	
George P. Morse, services as school committee,	30.00	
B. Y. Warner, services as school committee,	35.00	
S. Hutchinson, for school books,	7.83	\$717.98

Support of Schools.

Paid Zemira Baker,	\$125.00	
Clara T. Wing,	80.00	
Ann H. Snow,	285.50	
Emily J. Herrick,	76.00	
Helen M. Lovering,	75.00	
Ida A. Omev,	150.00	
M. B. Warner, for making fires,	3.75	
City of New Bedford, for Rogers boy,	6.75	
B. Y. Warner, for wood,	20.13	
Clara J. Metcalf,	232.00	
M. B. A. Wight,	213.00	
Annie W. Wing,	82.50	
Warren A. Rodman,	137.50	
Miss Dunham, sweeping school-house,	1.50	
Moses S. Douglass, for wood,	15.05	
Guilford W. Omev, for sawing wood,	2.50	
Henry W. Chace, " "	1.50	
Town of Rochester, for schooling,	4.60	
F. R. Eldridge, assistant,	25.00	
M. S. Howard,	120.00	
Charles L. Russell,	206.25	
Jabez H. Taber, wood,	2.00	
John W. Chace, making fires and sweeping,	6.00	
Geo. S. Taber, making fires and sawing wood,	4.25	
George P. Morse, wood,	2.00	
E. R. Ashley, for wood and preparing,	25.50	
G. A. Ashley, making fires,	6.00	
H. C. Churchill, making fires,	9.00	
Frank Wright, making fires,	4.00	
George A. Macomber,	160.00	
G. W. Omev, sawing wood,	2.50	
B. F. Hathaway, for coal,	11.50	\$2,096.28

Wheldon School-House.

Paid Zacheus Wright, for labor,	\$102.62	
Smith & Gammons, for painting,	20.55	
William F. Chace, for labor,	5.25	
F. A. Sowle,	23.78	
Charles S. Paisler, for lime, &c.,	8.80	
Humphrey, Kirby & Co., paints and oil,	24.85	
S. B. Hamlin, for shingles,	8.44	
Joseph W. Burt,	4.20	
Joshua Morse,	68.64	
Sullings, Kingman & Co.,	30.51	
John Macomber, for masonry,	6.50	
David K. Tripp, for lumber,	184.57	
George P. Morse, shingles and labor,	14.37	
George S. Wilber, masonry,	14.80	\$527.88

GRADING SCHOOL-HOUSE LOT.

Paid Joshua Morse, for labor, and paid out,	\$40.55	
Joseph W. Burt, for labor,	11.25	
George P. Morse, for labor,	2.00	53.80

FURNITURE FOR SCHOOL-HOUSE.

Paid Sherwood Furniture Co.,	\$145.78	
J. H. Pease, for settees,	10.40	156.18

Cost of school-house, grading, and furniture, \$737.86

Highway Account.

Paid amount expended by Andrew J. Wing,	\$207.37	
“ “ Joshua Morse,	207.01	
“ “ Noah Mandell,	210.00	
“ “ Benjamin Wilson,	215.25	
“ “ B. Y. Warner,	131.93	
“ “ Martin B. Gammons,	10.00	\$981.56

Digging Well, Pump, &c.

Paid Joseph Maxim, labor,	\$18.45	
Benjamin Wilson & Son, labor, and paid out,	80.75	
Bradford O. Braley, labor,	47.88	
G. A. Cobb, for fuse,	1.19	
Bennett & Terry, sharpening drills,	1.34	
David Cochran, for tub, pail, &c.,	1.34	
Edward G. Dillingham, for pump, setting, platform and cementing,	32.48	\$183.43

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Building Tramp House.

Paid Walter R. Spooner, for labor and window,	\$7.51	
Alden Rounseville, Jr., for lumber,	24.32	
F. A. Sowle,	2.02	
Zacheus H. Wright, for labor,	17.00	
Greene & Wood, for floor boards,	5.98	
Sylvester Pratt, labor,	6.00	
R. Davis & Son, for lumber,	19.66	
Wm. L. Holmes, for stove,	2.00	
S. S. Paine & Bro.,	.92	\$85.41

Received by S. Pratt, Superintendent of Alms-house.

For one calf,	\$8.00	
500 pounds oat straw,	4.00	
Board of G. Lawrence,	5.00	\$17.00

Paid out by S. Pratt.

For Herrings,	\$6.40	
Three barrels crackers,	10.37	
Fish,	3.50	
J. R. Davis, for cans,	2.00	
Three cords four feet wood,	13.00	35.27

Paid S. Pratt,	\$18.27
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Assets.

Cash in treasury,	\$540.62	
Due from Wm. H. Terrel, for use of gravel lot,	5.00	
Due from city of Boston, for helping poor,	67.50	
Due from town of Mattapoisett,	104.00	
George F. Glasse, 1872, taxes not collected,	93.74	
Due from L. G. Spooner, for school-house,	200.00	
Due from L. T. Jennings, for school-house,	40.00	\$1,050.86

In addition to the above assets the town owns property as follows, viz. ;

School houses and lots,	\$8,500.00	
Town farm and buildings,	1,500.00	
Furniture and stock at alms-house,	200.00	
Gravel lots,	300.00	\$10,500.00

Assessed Value of Real and Personal Estate in the Town
of Acushnet, May 1st, 1876.

Real estate,	\$449,400.00
Personal estate,	116,150.00
Total of real and personal estate,	<u>\$565,550.00</u>

Rate per cent., \$10 on \$1000.
 Number of polls, 268.
 Tax on polls, \$2.00 each.
 Number of dwelling-houses, 228.
 Number of horses, 222.
 Number of cows, 363.
 Number of acres of land, 10,819.

State Aid Paid.

Paid Collin Perrin,	\$78.00	
Lydia B. Dean,	58.00	
A. F. Howland,	72.00	
Laura Pittsley,	24.00	
George D. Whitney,	30.00	
Emily W. Cole,	28.00	
Francis Pittsley, Jr.,	12.00	\$302.00

State and County Taxes.

Paid State treasurer,	\$612.00	
County treasurer,	556.40	\$1,168.40

Discount on Taxes.

Amount discounted on taxes,	\$333.33
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All of which is respectfully submitted.

PARDON TABER, Jr.,	} Selectmen of the town of Acushnet.
WALTER SPOONER,	
JOSHUA MORSE,	

SIXTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
School Committee of the Town of Acushnet,
FOR THE YEAR 1876-7.

The school committee respectfully submit their Sixteenth Annual Report.

An organization of the school committee resulted in the choice of BURRAGE Y. WARNER as chairman, and the appointment of GEORGE P. MORSE secretary.

The special superintendence of the several schools was assigned to the members of the committee as follows, viz. : B. Y. Warner, Nos. 1 and 2 ; E. R. Ashley, Nos. 3 (Long Plain) and 4 (Perry Hill) ; George P. Morse, Nos. 5 and 6 (Acushnet village.)

The year now brought to a close has been not unlike many others as regards results attained in our schools. While there may be little, if anything, extraordinary to chronicle in the way of brilliant success, there is also an absence of decided failures. Some schools have been under the care of teachers whose reputation had been established in previous years, and whose success was assured from the beginning. In other instances your committee have endeavored to exercise care and judgment in selecting teachers well qualified for their work, and to use the funds appropriated by the town to the best advantage. Taken as a whole, our schools have never maintained or reached a higher standard than they now enjoy. Your committee sometimes labor under great disadvantage in filling a situation made vacant by the resignation of a successful teacher, as scholars get strongly attached to a thoroughly wide-awake teacher, and do not readily take to a new one, let her be ever so competent. Like the soldiers of a successful general, they are not easily satisfied with new officers.

Below may be found the names of teachers, length of schools, teachers' wages, attendance, &c.

SUMMER.					FALL.					WINTER.					
No. of schools.	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.	Attendance between 5 and 15.	Attendance over 15.	Attendance under 5.	Whole attendance.	Average attendance.
1	20	1	122	18		23	1	125	20		17	2	120	15	
2	27	0	027	24.56		30	1	031	27.75		29	6	035	29.23	
3	30	0	030	24.76		30	0	030	24.46		31	3	034	25.09	
*	37	0	037	27.5		30	0	030	23		29	0	029	23	
4	26	0	026	22.25		28	0	028	22.13		28	1	029	21.25	
5	32	2	034	28.28		30	1	031	24.40		30	7	037	33	

No.	Name.	Terms.	Teachers.	Wages.	Length of Schools.
1, Bog,		Summer,	Ann H. Snow,	\$30.00	2½ mos.
		Fall,	Ann H. Snow,	30.00	2½ "
		Winter,	Ann H. Snow,	32.00	4 "
2, Whelden,		Summer,	Helen M. Lovering,	30.00	2½ "
		Fall,	Mary B. A. Wight,	30.00	2½ "
		Winter,	Mary B. A. Wight,	34.50	4 "
3, New School,		Summer,	T. Baker,	50.00	2½ "
		Fall,	W. A. Rodman,	55.00	2½ "
		Winter,	Clara J. Metcalf,	26.00	4 "
Primary,		Summer,	Ida A. Omev,	30.00	2½ "
		Fall,	Ida A. Omev,	30.00	2½ "
		Winter,	Mary S. Howard,	30.00	4 "
4, Perry Hill,		Summer,	Clara T. Wing,	32.00	2½ "
		Fall,	Annie T. Wing,	30.00	2½ "
		Winter,	Geo. A. Macomber,	40.00	4 "
5, Long Plain,		Summer,	Emily J. Herrick,	32.00	2½ "
		Fall,	Clara J. Metcalf,	32.00	2½ "
		Winter,	Charles L. Russell,	55.00	3¾ "

APPROPRIATIONS.

Amount raised by taxation,	\$1,800.00
State school fund,	229.18
Dog fund,	107.13
Tuition of James Dall's children,	10.00
Total,	\$2,146.31

* Primary.

Although some of the schools have been frequently and numerously visited, we are sorry to see the names of so few of the parents on the visiting list.

Your committee are well aware that the introduction of new text-books in schools is looked upon with holy horror, yet after due consideration we decided that it was for the best interest of the town to adopt the Franklin Readers in place of the National, making a radical change in the First and Second Readers, with the intention of introducing the higher numbers as new classes were formed. We think the change has met the approval of the teachers in every instance. Let parents only desire the best interest of their children, and not allow their prejudices to warp their better judgment, and they will decide that all improvements in school appliances are as valuable as in the other arts and sciences. Education being the foundation upon which all civilized governments are reared, we can conceive of no better use to which our money can be put than furnishing books for our children. It is universally admitted that a farmer or mechanic, to be successful in business, must use tools of modern construction; and following out this mode of reasoning, why should we not place within reach of our teachers and scholars every facility for accomplishing their work? And furthermore, is it not a manifest injustice to take from the pockets of tax-payers, whether they have children to be benefited or not, large sums of money for erecting school-houses, and then neglect to furnish such books as are necessary to their advancement?

In a few instances, where exceptions have been taken to the teacher's ruling, we have been pleased to see those differences amicably adjusted by a conference of the interested parties, which is evidently a much better course than is sometimes pursued. Our teachers, we presume, lay no claim to infallibility, but are liable to err in judgment; but as there are always two sides to a question, would it not be fair and just for parents and citizens, before pronouncing any teacher to be deserving of particular censure, to consult frankly with the teacher, or seek an investigation by the specially appointed guardians of the public schools? The full share of perplexities which unavoidably attach themselves to the office of teacher, should not be increased by the circulation of

prejudicial hearsay reports. Particular methods of school government are as numerous in theories as the standpoints from which they are discussed. All parties agree that teachers should appeal to the higher natures of their pupils; that they should seek to build up a sense of honor and self-respect, and apply all the morally elevating means which ingenious and kind-hearted instructors can invent. Practical teachers know by experience that after trying to enforce such appeals, and resorting to these appliances, as every faithful teacher should, there are liable to be still some examples of habitual disregard of rules, and instances of stubborn opposition to authority, so long as the public good requires that the various specimens of human nature from all sorts and conditions of homes shall congregate in the schools.

Perhaps it would not be out of place if we should suggest to the teachers the importance of being wide-awake, and intensely interested in your duties. Do you complain that your pupils are dull, monotonous, slow and lifeless? To such we would say, Look well about you and see if you are manifesting that degree of animation, promptness and vigor that is so essential to arouse the latent energies and ambition of the scholars.

SCHOOL-HOUSES.

The town may justly take pride in the improved condition of their school buildings. Within the past three years we have erected three new houses, either of which would be a credit to some more pretentious town or city. The Wheldon school-house, which has been remodeled and enlarged the past year, is now very well adapted for the purpose designed. The grounds have been cleared of rocks and bushes, outbuildings erected, and together with what has been accomplished by private contributions, makes the building and its surroundings creditable alike to the town, to the neighborhood, and the building committee.

It is to be hoped that the town will favorably consider the petition to build a school-house at Perry Hill the present year, or as soon as possible. The building now occupied for school purposes at that place is totally unfit in every respect.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

B. Y. WARNER,	} School Committee.
EDWARD R. ASHLEY,	
GEORGE P. MORSE,	