

ANNUAL REPORTS
OF THE
Selectmen of Acushnet
ON THE
FINANCIAL AFFAIRS OF THE TOWN,
AND OF THE
SCHOOL COMMITTEE,

For the year 1879-80.

NEW BEDFORD:
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1880.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SELECTMEN OF THE TOWN OF ACUSHNET,

MARCH, 1880.

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

George P. Morse, collector of taxes, is charged			
	with tax bills of 1879,		\$4,786.64
Also with tax bills of 1871,			22.40
“ “ 1873,			23.20
“ “ 1874,			23.20
“ “ 1875,			24.00
“ “ 1876,			16.00
“ “ 1877,			18.00
“ “ 1878,			99.50
			<u>\$5,012.94</u>

COLLECTOR'S CREDIT.

Six per cent. discount on taxes collected			
	on or before Oct. 10, 1879,		\$255.26
Commission on taxes collected,			48.15
Taxes remitted,			23.65
Uncollected taxes for 1871,			22.40
“ “ 1873,			23.20
“ “ 1874,			23.20
“ “ 1875,			24.00
“ “ 1876,			16.00
“ “ 1877,			18.00
“ “ 1878,			99.50
“ “ 1879,			340.13
			<u>893.49</u>
Amount paid town treasurer,			<u>\$4,119.45</u>

TREASURER'S ACCOUNT.

DR.

Balance of last year's account,	\$327.02	
Received of collector,	4,118.45	
Of State, bank tax,	1,000.93	
Of State, corporation tax,	114.36	
Of State, state aid,	142.00	
Of State, school fund,	220.01	
Of State, soldiers' aid,	25.50	
Of County, dog fund,	83.41	
Of State, pauper burial,	7.50	
Of A. P. Little, peddler's license,	6.00	
Of E. H. Gammons, peddler's license,	6.00	
Of City of New Bedford, for help-		
ing poor,	119.19	
Of Town of Mattapoisett, for help-		
ing poor,	75.83	
Of E. B. Ashley, for auctioneer's		
license,	2.00	
Of R. W. Gifford, for old school		
desks,	1.00	
Of S. B. Hamblin, for use of school-		
house lots,	3.00	
Of S. B. Hamblin, for old stove,	1.00	
Interest on taxes,	15.74	
Of three poll taxes assessed since		
May 1, 1879,	4.95	
For sale of school books,	5.24	\$6,280.13

CR.

Paid For State tax,	\$170.00
For County tax,	598.54
For support of poor,	1,194.62

Paid For support of public schools,	\$1,888.77	
For incidental expenses,	842.34	
For repairs of highways,	943.26	
For State aid,	185.50	
For soldier's aid,	22.00	
For Treasurer's commission,	29.23	5,874.26
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		\$405.87

POOR ACCOUNT.

Paid Richard Davis, Jr., supplies at alms- house,	\$213.21
Slade & Macomber, supplies at alms- house,	60.56
Wm. H. Chappell, for Charles W. Shepard and Sarah F. Gifford,	95.01
Aid to Ruth Cook,	26.00
Aid to Mary J. Wilber,	12.00
Aid to New Bedford poor,	62.56
Aid to Mattapoisett poor,	77.83
Davis Pickens, for meat at alms- house,	39.00
John Manter, Jr., for boots, shoes and repairing,	12.70
Walter R. Spooner, for killing hogs in 1878,	2.50
A. P. R. Gilmore, for one pig at almshouse,	7.00
City of New Bedford, for helping our poor,	66.20
Richard Davis, Jr., for wood at alms- house, and poor,	74.30
Walter Spooner, for moving B. Oliver to almshouse,	3.00

Paid J. H. Paige, for coal and wood to Mrs. Wilcox,	\$6.75	
Pardon Taber, Jr., wood to Charles W. Shepard,	5.39	
Town of Brockton, for helping our poor,	45.00	
City of Taunton, for helping Eunice Pierce and ——— Chandler,	90.29	
Town of Sandwich, for helping Henry Braley,	69.50	
Mrs. Pratt, making clothes for inmates,	10.00	
Eli W. Pierce, beef for almshouse,	5.20	
James E. Blake, truss for Solomon Wilber,	5.00	
Ebenezer Leonard, for preparing fuel,	3.38	
Hendricks Gifford, for preparing fuel for L. Hammond,	9.00	
Sylvester Pratt, for services at almshouse,	158.75	
David H. Cannon, for medical attendance,	7.00	
Aid to Cyrus E. Taber,	6.00	
Sylvester Pratt, balance on account,	18.49	
Andrew J. Grinnell, for Ruth Brownell,	3.00	\$1,194.62

Deduct for helping New Bedford poor,	\$66.56	
For Mattapoisett poor,	83.33	149.89
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Actual cost of Acushnet poor,		\$1,044.73

INCIDENTAL EXPENSES.

Paid Tillinghast & Alden, insurance on schoolhouses,	\$96.25
Chas. K. Paterson, for drawing stone,	3.15
Alexander O. Pierce, for services,	3.00
Tillinghast & Alden, assessment on almshouse,	3.20
Zacheus H. Wright, for labor and materials at almshouse,	83.47
H. R. Gifford, for wall at almshouse,	5.00
E. Anthony & Sons, printing town reports,	18.00
S. Hutchinson, for books,	42.50
Geo. T. Russell, Jr., fixtures at schoolhouse,	3.51
O. Prescott, for legal advice,	2.00
Julia Denam, for cleaning schoolhouse,	6.00
Mrs. Frank Pittsley, for cleaning schoolhouse,	3.50
Sarah F. Harding, for cleaning schoolhouses,	5.00
H. W. Collins, for labor and materials at schoolhouse,	2.35
Mercury Publishing Co., printing tax bills,	2.00
Geo. A. Cobb, pipe for chimney and re- pairing pump,	2.05
E. M. Snow, fixing chimney,	9.57
Samuel Wing, cementing well and fixing pump,	20.10
Ebenezer Leonard, for painting at almshouse,	16.74
James R. Sherman, for digging well and carting gravel,	40.41
Chas. W. Coggeshall, for pump for well,	14.80
S. S. Paine, cement and pipe for well,	6.10
W. F. Wheaton, for printing notices,	3.00
Geo. T. Russell, Jr., fixtures at schoolhouse,	.93
Dexter & Haskins, clock for schoolhouse,	4.75
C. A. Howland, for blacksmithing,	.87
Otis Snow, repairing,	3.50
Sullings & Kingman, for clothes hooks,	1.26

Paid E. R. Ashley, for cleaning out wells and fixing pump,	\$4.00
J. H. Paige, school fixtures, broom, &c.,	3.11
Alexander Albro, for making wall,	3.75
Levi Wing, for guideboard,	1.50
Samuel Wing, drawing stone for wall,	8.00
Charles D. Reynolds, for making wall,	3.75
Pardon Taber, Jr., expenses to Boston, on bank taxes,	4.00
Richard C. Wilson, for watering trough,	19.00
Pardon Taber, Jr., for stamps and stationery,	3.95
Sylvester Pratt, for services as constable,	5.00
Town Clerk, recording births and deaths,	16.65
Pardon Taber, Jr., services as Selectman, Assessor and Overseer of the Poor,	90.00
Walter Spooner, services as Selectman, Assessor and Overseer of Poor,	50.00
Ebenezer Leonard, services as Selectman, Assessor and Overseer of Poor,	40.00
George P. Morse, for services as School Committee,	25.00
George T. Russell, for services as School Committee,	30.00
Burrage Y. Warner, for services as School Committee,	35.00
Interest on money borrowed,	16.67
Walter Spooner, expenses to Brockton and Sandwich, on town business,	5.25
S. B. Hamblin, for lumber and work on bridge,	70.20
Charles Fuller, expressage, etc.,	3.87
Geo. P. Morse, school fixtures,	.33
C. W. Humphrey, crayons,	.30
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	\$842.34

SUPPORT OF SCHOOLS.

Paid George H. Morse, for teaching,	\$280.00
Minnie E. Chace, for teaching,	272.00
Emily A. Delano, for teaching,	150.00
George T. Russell, for teaching,	393.75
Mary A. Leonard, for teaching,	160.00
Mary S. Howard, for teaching,	262.50
City of New Bedford, for schooling Rogers boy,	5.00
Geo. T. Russell, for care of schoolhouse and sweeping,	5.00
Richard Davis, Jr., for wood to schools,	83.07
Joseph Maxim, for sawing wood,	3.93
B. B. White, for sawing wood,	9.63
John H. Ricketson, for preparing wood,	5.00
Valmour Hammett, for building fires,	1.50
Peleg Green, for preparing wood,	.64
Albert S. Morse, building fires,	3.75
Amelia F. Keen, for teaching,	112.50
C. W. Humphreys, for teaching,	120.00
C. W. Humphreys, for care of schoolhouse and fires,	5.00
Frank Wright, for building fires,	3.50
G. H. Morse, for building fires and sweeping,	3.75
George T. Russell, paid for building fires, &c.,	8.25
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	\$1,888.77

HIGHWAY ACCOUNT OF 1879-80.

Under the direction of Benjamin Wilson.

Paid Benjamin Wilson,	\$145.15
James Wheldon,	40.05
Samuel Wheldon,	9.00
George Wheldon,	13.50

Paid Augustus White,	\$7.00	
George P. Morse,	3.50	
Joseph Burt,	6.00	
Edmund Delano,	8.40	
Stephen White,	3.00	
James Gracia,	1.50	
Wilson Pierce and boy,	3.15	\$240.25

Under the direction of Andrew J. Wing.

Paid Andrew J. Wing,	\$85.65	
Noah Gifford,	34.95	
John Gifford,	4.50	
Alden Howland,	8.00	
Lewis Simons,	29.10	
C. A. Howland, blacksmithing and gravel,	3.37	
George F. R. Snow,	12.00	
Arthur Lawrence,	24.00	
Russell Hammett,	1.20	
Jeremiah Hammett,	1.20	
Andrew J. Wing, plough-point,	.67	204.64

Under the direction of Samuel Wing.

Paid Samuel Wing,	\$87.75	
Martin B. Gammons,	10.00	
Noah F. Mandall,	12.25	
William A. Spooner,	35.95	
Henry Perry,	26.55	
Walter Perry,	3.75	
William Washburn,	11.85	
Thomas Dunham,	20.55	
William Mayo,	1.50	
Joseph Maxim,	13.65	

Paid Nathan Wilcox,	\$4.65	
John H. Ricketson,	6.00	
Thomas J. Robinson,	1.25	
Samuel Wing, plow-point, powder		
and fuse, and blacksmithing,	4.09	239.79

Under the direction of Noah F. Mandall.

Paid Noah F. Mandall,	174 28
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Under the direction of B. Y. Warner.

Paid B. Y. Warner,	\$32.00	
Frank Pittsley,	5.00	
William Gracie,	11.25	
Milton B. Warner,	13.05	
George S. Wilber,	9.00	
Chester Thornton,	13.25	
James R. Sherman,	.75	84.30

Amount expended for highways,	\$943.26
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INMATES AT ALMSHOUSE IN MARCH, 1880.

Solomon Wilber,	aged 73 years.
Laura Wilber,	" 75 "
Sarah J. Besse,	" 29 "
George W. Besse,	" 3 "
Sarah F. Skiff,	" 23 "
Adaline Bennett,	" 56 "
Frank A. Gammons,	" 39 "
Betsey Oliver,	" 82 "

POOR HELPED OUT OF ALMSHOUSE IN 1879-80.

Charles W. Shepard and wife, at New Bedford,	\$50.39
Mary J. Wilber, at New Bedford,	12.00
Ruth Cook, “	26.00
Sarah F. Gifford, “	52.00
Abraham Ashley and wife, at New Bedford,	52.00
Eunice Peirce, at Taunton,	60.00
Trueman Braley, at Brockton,	45.00
Henry Braley, at Sandwich,	69.50
Charles Chandler, at Taunton,	30.29
Lucy Hammond, at Acushnet,	34.14
Cyrus E. Taber, at Rochester,	6.00
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	\$437.32

Cost to support poor out of almshouse, in 1879-80, ~~\$607.41~~ 437.32

Average cost at almshouse, per week for each inmate, was ~~\$1.64~~ 1.46

Cost to support poor at almshouse in 1879-80, ~~437.32~~ 607.32

Total, \$1,044.73

STATE AND COUNTY TAXES FOR 1879.

Paid State Treasurer,	\$170.00
County Treasurer,	598.54
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	\$768.54

DISCOUNT ON TAXES.

Amount discounted on taxes to Oct. 10, 1879, \$255.26

Number of tramps lodged at almshouse last year, 28.

**ASSESSED VALUE OF REAL AND PERSONAL ESTATE
IN THE TOWN OF ACUSHNET, MAY 1, 1879.**

Real Estate,	\$453,450.00
Personal Estate,	119,058.00
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Total valuation,	\$572,508.00

Tax in 1879, \$7.60 on \$1000.

Number of polls, 264.

Tax on polls, \$1.65 each.

Number of dwelling houses taxed, 234

Number of horses, " 257

Number of cows, " 392

Number of acres of land, " 10,770

STATE AID PAID IN 1879-80.

Paid A. F. Howland,	\$72.00
George D. Whitney,	52.00
Francis Pittsley, Jr.,	13.50
Emily McElroy,	48.00
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	\$185.50

SOLDIERS' AID PAID IN 1879-80.

Paid George F. Gibbs,	\$22.00
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SYLVESTER PRATT, DR.

To 2250 lbs of hay at 75c. per hundred,	\$16.87	
Board of Isaac Jenney,	15.00	\$31.87

SYLVESTER PRATT, CR.

By One pair of pants for Frank Gammons,	\$1.95	
Filing saws,	1.00	
Cows in 1878-9,	2.75	
Ten bushels of turnips,	4.00	
Fish in 1879-80,	6.60	
Fixing milk pail,	.30	
One stove and pipe,	8.50	
One hog, 421 lbs. at 6c. per lb.,	25.26	\$50.36
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Balance due S. Pratt,		\$18.49

ASSETS.

Cash in treasury, March 25, 1880,	\$405.87
Due from New Bedford, helping poor,	66.56
Due from State, Bank and Corporation tax,	100.00
Due from State, State and Soldiers' aid,	210.00
Due from L. T. Jennings, for old schoolhouse,	40.00
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	\$822.43

In addition to the above assets the town owns property as follows, viz:—

Schoolhouses and lots,	\$10,300.00
Town farm and buildings,	1,500.00
Furniture and stock at Almshouse,	200.00
Gravel lots,	500.00
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	\$12,500.00

All of which is respectfully submitted,

PARDON TABER,	} Selectmen of the town of Acushnet.
WALTER SPOONER,	
EBENEZER LEONARD,	

REPORT
OF THE
School Committee of the Town of Acushnet,
FOR THE YEAR 1879-80.

The organization of the School Committee was, B. Y. Warner, Chairman, and Geo. P. Morse, Secretary.

APPROPRIATIONS.

Amount raised by taxation,	\$1,600.00
State school fund,	220.01
Dog fund,	83.41
Total,	<hr/> \$1,903.42

The following tables show the particulars of the schools :

No.	Names.	Terms.	Teachers.	Wages.	Length of Schools
1, Bog,	Summer,	Emily A. Delano,	\$30.00	13	mos.
	Fall,	Emily A. Delano,	30.00	34	"
	Winter,	Amelia F. Keen,	30.00	33	"
2, Whelden,	Summer,	Minnie E. Chace,	32.00	24	"
	Fall,	Minnie E. Chace,	32.00	24	"
	Winter,	Minnie E. Chace,	32.00	34	"
3, Village Grammar.	Summer,	Geo. T. Russell, Jr.,	45.00	24	"
	Fall,	Geo. T. Russell, Jr.,	45.00	24	"
	Winter,	Geo. T. Russell, Jr.,	45.00	34	"
4, Village Primary,	Summer,	Mary S. Howard,	30.00	24	"
	Fall,	Mary S. Howard,	30.00	24	"
	Winter,	Mary S. Howard,	30.00	34	"
5, Perry Hill,	Summer,	George H. Morse,	32.00	24	"
	Fall,	George H. Morse,	32.00	24	"
	Winter,	George H. Morse,	32.00	34	"
6, Long Plain.	Summer,	Mary M. Leonard,	32.00	24	"
	Fall,	Mary M. Leonard,	32.00	24	"
	Winter,	Chester W. Humphreys,	32.00	34	"

*Primary,

One of the greatest detriments to a school is the irregular attendance of scholars, and nothing shows more interest on their part than punctuality. In consideration of these facts, and to encourage scholars to be regularly and promptly at school, we publish the following list of scholars neither absent nor tardy :

BOG.

FIRST TERM—Sarah L. Warner, Mamie L. Warner, J. Frank Bryant.

SECOND TERM—Mamie L. Warner.

THIRD TERM—Mamie L. Warner, Albert S. Morse, Ernest S. Morse.

VILLAGE GRAMMAR.

FIRST TERM—Susie A. Gardiner, Bessie J. Davis, Annie G. Ashley, Abbie L. Collins, Mamie I. Davis.

SECOND TERM—Susie A. Gardiner, Bessie J. Davis, Herbert W. Brightman, Eddie F. Glass.

THIRD TERM—Bessie J. Davis, Mamie I. Davis.

WHELDEN.

FIRST TERM—Hattie L. Albro, Nellie Brightman, Carrie L. White, Willie M. Harding.

SECOND TERM—Hattie S. Albro, Sadie E. Albro, Amah B. White, Maria C. White, Mary L. Wright, Nellie Brightman.

THIRD TERM—Hattie L. Albro, Nellie Brightman, Edgar Wright.

LONG PLAIN.

FIRST TERM—Mary Brightman, Mary E. Geggatt, Hattie Pierce, Lizzie L. Whelden, Willie Macomber.

SECOND TERM—Lizzie L. Whelden.

THIRD TERM—Lucy Ashley, Lila Macomber.

VILLAGE PRIMARY.

FIRST TERM—Mamie Mayo, Carrie Andrews, Bertie Andrews.

SECOND TERM—Mamie Mayo, Mabel Chase.

PERRY HILL.

FIRST TERM—Bennie Hathaway, Nancy Tripp, Lizzie Bennett, Amanda Robinson, Eleanor Robinson, Josephine Graves.

SECOND TERM—Jerome Tripp, Freddie Tripp, Bennie Hathaway, Nancy Tripp, Amanda Robinson, Eleanor Robinson.

THIRD TERM—Amanda Robinson.

Owing to the reduction in the school appropriation, which the town saw fit to make in carrying out its principles of economy, we have been obliged to shorten the length of the schools. We think it a better plan to do this and employ competent teachers, than to keep the schools their usual length and hire second-class ones, with the prospect of inferior schools, for a poor school is little better than no school at all.

Although we do not intend to say that our schools have arrived at a point of perfection, yet we think, viewed as a whole, they have made more improvement, and are in better condition than ever before. There is more interest, greater diligence, and better order among the scholars than has been previously shown.

This is due, in a great measure, to the efficiency of the teachers employed. We feel satisfied with what has been done, and as we review the year, we do not recall an instance in which any school was not all that could be expected. Nevertheless, there may have been those who were dissatisfied with some school, and considered the teacher incompetent. It is natural that there should be some dissatisfaction. It is impossible to please very one, and the teacher's duty is not the easiest in this respect. It should be remembered that teachers do what they think

is for the welfare of the scholars. It is for their interest to do so, as their success as teachers depends upon the advancement their pupils make. It does not well become parents to throw obstacles in the way to prevent harmonious feelings between teacher and scholar. At the best, it is with difficulty that a teacher gains the respect of a whole school, and without the parents' sympathy it is almost impossible. Children are prototypes of their parents. If parents are always ready to pick out the petty faults of teachers, it is pretty certain that the children will go to school, not to study, but to discover what there is about the teacher they do not like.

Notwithstanding the fact that our schools have progressed much in the last ten years, and that they never occupied as high a standard as now, there may be persons who think old methods of teaching superior to those now adopted, and there may be others who would have more innovations than we are at present prepared to make. This desire on one hand to retain all the customs that are old, and adopt nothing that is new, and that on the other to adopt every thing new and retain nothing that is old, have their "origin in the diversities of temper, of understanding, and of interest, which are found in all societies, and which will be found till the human mind ceases to be drawn in opposite directions by the charm of habit and the charm of novelty. Not only in school management, but in literature, in art, in science, in surgery and mechanics, in navigation and agriculture, we find this distinction. Everywhere there is a class of men who cling with fondness to whatever is ancient, and who, even when convinced by overpowering reasons, that innovations would be beneficial, consent to it with many misgivings and forebodings. We find also everywhere another class of men, sanguine in hope, bold in speculation, always pressing forward, quick to discern the im-

perfections of whatever exists, disposed to think lightly of the risks and inconveniences which attend improvements, and disposed to give every change credit for being an improvement. In the sentiments of both classes there is something to approve. But of both the best specimens will be found not far from the common frontier. The extreme section of one class consists of bigoted dotards; the extreme section of the other consists of shallow and reckless empirics."

The foregoing quotation is from the works of an English author, and fully expresses our opinion on the subject. We should not be among the first to try new and visionary theories, nor among the last to lay by old and obsolete customs. We should adopt what has been tried in schools and found to be beneficial, and retain what is still of advantage to them. But it may be asked whether teachers are always capable of judging what is beneficial and what is not. As a rule, they are better qualified to judge than parents. They make teaching their profession; and, if at any time they fail to discriminate between that which is practicable and that which is not, it is the Committee's, and not the parents' duty, to point out to them their error.

B. Y. WARNER,	}	<i>School</i>
GEORGE P. MORSE,		
GEO. T. RUSSELL, JR.,		
		<i>Committee.</i>