1873 Bridgewater Annual Town Report

The Town of Bridgewater

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ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
SELECTMEN AND OVERSEEERS OF THE POOR
OF THE
TOWN OF BRIDGEWATER,
FOR THE
YEAR ENDING FEBRUARY 28, 1874.
ALSO, THE
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE,
FOR 1873.
TWENTY FIRST SERIES.

BOSTON:
DANIEL DWYER, STEAM PRINTER,
115 COURT STREET,
1874.
REPORT.

In accordance with the vote of the town, the Selectmen and Overseers of the Poor present their Annual Report of the receipts and expenditures of the town of Bridgewater, for the year ending February 28, 1874.

At a meeting held March 22, 1873, the town passed the following votes:

Voted, To raise four thousand dollars for the repairing of roads. Twenty-five hundred dollars to be expended according to the valuation on the polls and estates in the several Highway Districts. The balance, fifteen hundred dollars, to be apportioned by the Selectmen as in their judgment may seem just and proper for the interest of the town.

Voted, To raise six thousand dollars for Common Schools.
Voted, To raise twenty two hundred dollars for High School.
Voted, To raise six hundred dollars for School Incidents.
Voted, To raise one hundred dollars for drawing in High School.
Voted, To raise two thousand dollars for miscellaneous expenses.
Voted, To raise twelve hundred dollars for the Support of the Poor.
Voted, To raise fourteen hundred dollars for grading and fencing School Lot No. 1.

At a legal meeting held May 17, 1873, the town passed the following votes:
Voted, To raise one thousand dollars for repairs on Town House.

Voted, To raise one hundred dollars for piping Town House for Gas.

RECAPITULATION.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Repairing of roads,</td>
<td>$4,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Common Schools,</td>
<td>6,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High School,</td>
<td>2,200.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Incidentals,</td>
<td>600.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drawing in High School,</td>
<td>100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous Expenses,</td>
<td>2,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support of the Poor,</td>
<td>1,200.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grading and Fencing School Lot No. 1,</td>
<td>1,400.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Repairs on Town House,</td>
<td>1,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Piping Town House for Gas,</td>
<td>100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Aggregate</strong></td>
<td><strong>$18,600.00</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

At a legal meeting held July 15, 1873, the town passed the following vote:

Voted, To reduce the aggregate amount of money to be raised upon the polls and estates, thirty-five hundred dollars on account of a change in the law in relation to taxing Bank shares.

$3,500.00

$15,100.00

Voted, To raise and assess into a tax upon the polls and estates of the town the sum of fifteen thousand and one hundred dollars.

The Corporation Tax received from the State Treasurer was to be applied for the following purposes:

Discount on taxes for the year 1873,                $2,000.00
Grading Paper Mill Hill,                            600.00
Grading and fencing School Lot No. 3,               200.00
Building Cisterns,                                  500.00
Interest on Borrowed Money, 200.00
Repairing Woodward's Bridge, 100.00
  " Turnpike Bridge, 100.00
  " Bedford Street, 200.00
Working Mt. Prospect Street, 200.00
  " Centre Street, near Catholic Church, 150.00

$4,250.00

HIGHWAYS.

Town grant,  $4,000.00
Five-eights to be apportioned on valuation of each District, $2,500.00
Three-eights to be apportioned by the Selectmen, 1,500.00

$4,000.00

The following is the apportionment of twenty-five hundred dollars on the valuation of the polls and estates in each Highway District:

District No. 1, East,  $612.79
  "  1, West,  338.13
  "  2,  107.87
  "  3,  45.30
  "  4,  64.32
  "  5,  68.70
  "  6,  88.05
  "  7,  58.94
  "  8,  82.78
  "  9,  733.31
  "  10,  65.29
  "  11,  83.21
  "  12,  44.45
The following is the Selectmen's apportionment of fifteen hundred dollars upon the several Districts:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District No. 1, East,</th>
<th>Amount on polls and estates,</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&quot; 1, West,</td>
<td>$100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot; 2,</td>
<td>000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot; 3,</td>
<td>180.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot; 4,</td>
<td>90.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot; 5,</td>
<td>80.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot; 6,</td>
<td>75.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot; 7,</td>
<td>130.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot; 8,</td>
<td>60.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot; 9,</td>
<td>134.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot; 10,</td>
<td>00.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot; 11,</td>
<td>140.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot; 12,</td>
<td>20.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot; 13,</td>
<td>150.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>100.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

$1,259.00

DISTRICT NO. 1, EAST.

JOSHUA E. CRANE, Surveyor.

Amount on polls and estates, $612.79
Proportion of fifteen hundred dollars, 100.00

Expended, $731.97
Overworked, 19.18

Allowed by the Auditors, 9.18 $731.97
Not allowed, 10.00

$731.97
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DISTRICT NO. 1, WEST.</th>
<th>GALENS CONANT, Surveyor.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amount on polls and estates,</td>
<td>$328.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expended,</td>
<td>$327.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unexpended,</td>
<td>$0.58</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DISTRICT NO. 2,</th>
<th>SPENCER LEONARD, Surveyor.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amount on polls and estates,</td>
<td>$107.87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of fifteen hundred dollars,</td>
<td>180.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expended,</td>
<td>$293.77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overworked,</td>
<td>$287.87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unexpended,</td>
<td>5.90</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DISTRICT NO. 3,</th>
<th>JOSEPH C. HOOPER, Surveyor.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amount on polls and estates,</td>
<td>$45.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of fifteen hundred dollars,</td>
<td>90.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expended,</td>
<td>$133.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unexpended,</td>
<td>1.45</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DISTRICT NO. 4,</th>
<th>BENJAMIN H. PRICE, Surveyor.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amount on polls and estates,</td>
<td>$64.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of fifteen hundred dollars,</td>
<td>80.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expended,</td>
<td>$148.59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overworked,</td>
<td>4.27</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$148.59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District No. 5,</td>
<td>Amount on polls and estates,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------</td>
<td>------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Franklin C. Weston, Surveyor.</td>
<td>$68.70</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District No. 6,</th>
<th>Amount on polls and estates,</th>
<th>Proportion of fifteen hundred dollars,</th>
<th>Expended,</th>
<th>Overworked,</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Seth H. Leonard, Surveyor.</td>
<td>$88.05</td>
<td>130.00</td>
<td>$219.61</td>
<td>$218.05</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District No. 7,</th>
<th>Amount on polls and estates,</th>
<th>Proportion of fifteen hundred dollars,</th>
<th>Expended,</th>
<th>Overworked,</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Joshua Bates, Surveyor.</td>
<td>$85.94</td>
<td>60.00</td>
<td>$127.84</td>
<td>$118.94</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District No. 8,</th>
<th>Amount on polls and estates,</th>
<th>Proportion of fifteen hundred dollars,</th>
<th>Expended,</th>
<th>Unexpended,</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Linus W. Snow, Surveyor.</td>
<td>$85.00</td>
<td>134.00</td>
<td>$218.58</td>
<td>$219.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Unexpended, $0.42
DISTRICT, NO. 9,
Josiah W. Edson, Surveyor.
Amount on polls and estates, $733.31
Expended, $741.75
Overworked, 8.44

DISTRICT NO. 10,
Isaac S. Wilber, Surveyor.
Amount on polls and estates, $65.29
Proportion of fifteen hundred dollars, $140.00
Expended, $188.03
Unexpended, $17.26

DISTRICT NO. 11,
Virgil V. Conant, Surveyor.
Amount on polls and estates, $125.00
Proportion of fifteen hundred dollars, $147.35
Expended, $145.00
Overworked, 2.35

DISTRICT NO. 12,
Eliab F. Dunbar, Surveyor.
Amount on polls and estates, $44.45
Proportion of fifteen hundred dollars, 150.00
Expended, $201.75
Overworked, 7.30

$194.45

$201.75
DISTRICT NO. 13,

MARCUS PIERCE, Surveyor.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amount on polls and estates</td>
<td>$116.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of fifteen hundred dollars</td>
<td>100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expended</td>
<td>$223.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overworked</td>
<td>$216.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6.39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$223.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total amount raised for roads</td>
<td>$4,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total amount expended for repairing roads</td>
<td>3,847.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unexpended</td>
<td>$152.98</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SNOW BILLS IN EACH DISTRICT.

| District No. 1, East,                | $28.65 |
| " 1, West,                          | 4.00   |
| " 2,                                 | 10.60  |
| " 3,                                 | .40    |
| " 4,                                 | 10.33  |
| " 5,                                 | 2.50   |
| " 6,                                 | 3.00   |
| " 7,                                 | 13.33  |
| " 8,                                 | 14.25  |
| " 9,                                 | 18.05  |
| " 10,                                | 27.41  |
| " 11,                                | 6.70   |
| " 12,                                | 9.97   |
| " 13,                                | 10.27  |

$159.46
SCHOOLS, 1873.

Number of School-houses, 14. Number of School children, 683. Number of Schools, including High School, 18.

Town grant for Common Schools, $6,000.00
  " High School, 2,200.00
  " School Incidents, 600.00
  " Drawing in High School, 100.00
Interest on Edson School Fund, 18.00
  " Dyer School Fund, 204.75
Received from Mass. School Fund, 220.99
Dividend on dogs from County Treasurer, 196.61

Total amount for Schools, $9,540.35

One-tenth of the income of the Dyer School Fund is to be applied to School No. 8, in accordance with the Will.

HIGH SCHOOL.

Paid L. J. Drake, teaching 24 weeks, $1,000.00
E. D. Cornish, teaching 12 weeks, 500.00
Miss L. D. Melcher, Assistant, 6 weeks, 83.33
Miss Lucy Breck, Assistant, 30 weeks, 375.00
Miss Anna C. Eddy, teaching drawing, 56.00
Miss Sophia Walker, teaching drawing, 30.00

$2,054.33

HOUSE No. 1.

Paid Miss Eloise A. Sears, teaching Grammar School, 24 weeks, $264.00
  " M. P. Fessenden, teaching Grammar School, 12 weeks, 132.00
  " Flora C. Swift, teaching Intermediate School, 36 weeks, 360.00
## HOUSE No. 2.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Weeks</th>
<th>Salary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Miss Rosa W. Hall</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>$108.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot; Lemira Benson</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>108.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George M. Hooper</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>146.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morton D. King</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>37.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fuel and preparing</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Care of House and making fire</td>
<td></td>
<td>14.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>$449.09</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## HOUSE No. 3.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Weeks</th>
<th>Salary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Miss Isabella F. Crapo</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>$360.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fuel and preparing</td>
<td></td>
<td>44.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Care of House and making fire</td>
<td></td>
<td>10.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>$414.50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## HOUSE No. 4.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Weeks</th>
<th>Salary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Miss Hattie L. King</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>$84.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot; Olivia S. Holmes</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>84.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot; Lemira Benson</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>96.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fuel and preparing</td>
<td></td>
<td>24.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Care of House and making fire</td>
<td></td>
<td>10.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>$298.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HOUSE NO. 5.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid Miss Addie M. Hall, teaching 36 weeks,</td>
<td>$276.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fuel and preparing,</td>
<td>36.75</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Care of House and making fires,</td>
<td>10.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$322.75</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HOUSE NO. 6.</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paid Miss Anna E. C. Wentworth, teaching 36 weeks,</td>
<td>$276.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fuel and preparing,</td>
<td>39.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Care of House and making fires,</td>
<td>14.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$329.00</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HOUSE NO. 7.</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paid Miss Corinna Bates, teaching 36 weeks,</td>
<td>$288.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fuel and preparing,</td>
<td>18.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Care of House and making fires,</td>
<td>11.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$317.88</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HOUSE NO. 8.</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paid Miss S. Cora Bassett, teaching 24 weeks,</td>
<td>$198.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philander Leach, teaching 13 1-2 weeks,</td>
<td>168.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fuel and preparing,</td>
<td>25.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Care of House and making fires,</td>
<td>14.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$407.05</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HOUSE NO. 9.</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paid George Washburn, teaching Grammar School 1-2 week,</td>
<td>$6.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miss Lemira Benson, teaching Grammar School 11 1-2 weeks,</td>
<td>126.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name</td>
<td>School/Duration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------------</td>
<td>------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M. G. Hartzell</td>
<td>Grammar School, 7 weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miss Sarah Keith</td>
<td>Grammar School, 3 weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P. D. Leonard</td>
<td>Grammar School, 14 weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miss Carrie Sampson</td>
<td>Primary School, 36 weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fuel and preparing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Care of House</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miss Ellen M. Holmes</td>
<td>12 weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Josephine White</td>
<td>24 weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fuel and preparing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Care of House</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miss L. Ardelle Perkins</td>
<td>24 weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Henry Harlow</td>
<td>12 weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fuel and preparing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Care of House</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miss Hattie M. Wilbur</td>
<td>36 weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fuel and preparing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Care of House</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
HOUSE No. 14.

Paid Miss Jennie Bump, teaching Grammar School, 24 weeks, $264.00
A. H. Power, teaching Grammar School, 12 weeks, 195.00
Mrs. Rosa W. Foye, teaching Primary School, 11 weeks, 99.00
Mrs. Myra I. Swift, teaching Primary School, 24 weeks, 228.00
Fuel and preparing, 97.50
Care of House and making fires, 31.30

Expended for Common Schools from March 1, 1873, to March 1, 1874, $6,869.46
Expended for High School, including Assistant and drawing teachers, 2,054.33
Expended for School Incidentals, 422.24

Town appropriations, $9,346.03
Unexpended, 194.32

FENCING AND GRADING SCHOOL LOT NO. 1.

Town appropriation, $1,400.00
Paid F. K. Ballou, stone posts, $568.80
W. E. Coffin, iron for fence, 288.00
A. Washburn, stock and labor leading iron rails, 20.85
L. Clifford, setting stone posts, 28.00
L. Q. Clifford, " " 24.00
B. Mitchell, " " 16.50
Old Colony & Newport R. R. freight on stone posts, 24.48
Paid Breman Bros. painting fence, 8.80
Bates, Hide & Co. rounding and straightening iron rails, 29.75
W. Hill, carting stone posts and iron rails, 22.40
V. R. Swift, paid laborers and team work, 159.30
S. Harlow, sharpening drills, .35
Unexpended, $208.82
This work is yet unfinished.

**REPAIRS ON TOWN HOUSE.**

Town appropriation, $1,000.00
Paid A. Keith, labor and lumber, $149.92
E. F. Howard, masonry and stock, 280.02
Braman Bros., painting, 316.80
J. H. Fairbanks, hardware, 10.72
J. S. Barron, brick for cesspool, 1.50
J. E. Crane, covering stone for cesspool, .50
W. M. Swift, cleaning out halls, 1.75
Mrs. J. Elliot, washing upper hall, 1.50
S. Harlow, iron work, 1.60
Unexpended, $764.31

**PIPPING TOWN HOUSE FOR GAS.**

Town appropriation, $100.00
Paid B. C. R. Kneeland, labor and pipe, $126.12

**FENCING AND GRADING SCHOOL LOT NO. 3.**

Appropriation, $200.00
Paid S. Leonard, lumber and labor, $118.84
W. D. Burtch, labor and lumber, 61.87
J. H. Fairbanks, hardware, 2.28
$182.99
GRADING PAPER MILL HILL.

Appropriation, $600.00
Paid W. Perkins, grading hill and stone work, $414.00
S. Leonard, graveling hill and stoning gutters, 152.65

$566.65

REPAIRS ON WOODWARD'S BRIDGE.

Appropriation, $100.00
Paid T. Darling, lumber, $32.13
L. Leonard, lumber and labor, 6.07
W. Lazell, stone work, 7.26

$45.46

REPAIRS ON TURNPIKE BRIDGE.

Appropriation, $100.00
No outlay has been made on this bridge.

REPAIRS ON BEDFORD STREET.

Appropriation, $200.00
Paid C. Holmes, cutting wood and bushes, 19.00
L. Wentworth, " " 61.00
L. Wentworth, carting sand, 113.20

$193.20

WORKING MT. PROSPECT STREET.

Appropriation, $200.00
V. R. Swift, paid laborers and team work, $193.25

WORKING CENTRE STREET, Near Catholic Church.

Appropriation, $150.00
V. R. Swift, paid laborers and team work, 114.15
Paid L. Q. Clifford, stone work, 5.25
A. Berry, "   " .50
A. Bassett, for stones, 4.00

BUILDING CISTERNs.

Appropriation, $500.00
Paid Q. A Faunce, masonry, $210.20
Wingate & Adams, cement, 75.00
H. T. Pratt, cement, 18.90
M. Hooper & Co., brick, 127.49
H. A. Hall, rubber hose, 115.00
J. H. Fairbanks, Drain Pipe, 38.30
L. F. & Co., iron pipe, 6.05
H. Perkins, iron covers, 18.63
Bates, Hyde & Co., lumber and labor, 11.55
L. Clifford, excavating stone, 14.00
L. Q. Clifford, " 12.00
B. Mitchell, " 12.00
O. C. & Newport R. R. freight on cement, 14.58
W. Hill, trucking for cisterns, 3.25
C. L. Howland, express on rubber hose, .75
V. R. Swift, paid laborers and team work excavating, 217.48
S. Harlow, sharpening picks and drills, .88

$896.06

One-third of the cost for building cisterns is to be paid by the State by agreement.

LIGHTING TOWN HOUSE WITH GAS.

No special appropriation.
Paid Walworth Manufacturing Co., Gas Generator and Setting, $482.56
Paid Tucker Manufacturing Co., Gas Fixtures, 256.50
S. Keith, 2d, labor putting up Gas Fixtures, 10.00
A. Keith, labor and lumber for pump room in cellar, 13.64
O. C. & Newport R. R. freight on Generator and Fixtures, 5.98
W. Hill, trucking Generator and Fixtures, 2.75
V. R. Swift, paid laborers and team work, 52.00
M. Hooper & Co., brick for Gas well, 2.40

$825.83

NEW STREET FROM BEDFORD TO SOUTH STREET.

No special appropriation.
Paid L. Parsons for land, $300.00
L. Clifford, building culvert and breaking rocks, 8.75
L. Clifford, " " " " " " 7.50
B. Mitchell, " " " " " " 6.00
V. R. Swift, paid laborers, team work and powder, 15.15
S. Harlow, sharpening drills, 1.42

$338.82

The above street is unfinished.

MISCELLANEOUS BILLS.

Town appropriation, $2,000.00
Paid D. Dwyer, printing Town Reports for '72, $135.00
H. D. Sanford, labor on culvert front of his house, 9.61
J. Enwright, damage to carriage near his house, 25.00
T. Kennedy, injury to his wife by upsetting of carriage, 25.00
Paid C. Ryan, injury to person and carriage on Broad Street, 87.00
Referee's bills, in case of C. Ryan, vs. town, 13.00
M. Owens, damage to carriage on High Street, 20.00
H. F. Barnes, Sunday Police, 57.50
Hyland House, entertainment for Commissioners, Referee's and Selectmen, 7.50
E. D. Merriam, blank schedules for Assessors, 5.00
S. S. Woodcock, designs for Town House, 50.00
P. A. Wales, Town Pump, 26.00
A. Washburn, repairing stone work around Town pump, 3.00
J. L. Fairbanks, blank book for Town records, 6.50
Miss M. A. M. Dunbar, copying 3d book of Town records, 137.37
H. Kingman, indexing 3d book of Town records, 124.20
J. L. Fairbanks, binding 3d book of Town records, 5.50
W. Perkins, building Sect. one of road on petition of D. L. Hayward, 462.68
H. Gurney, completing Sect. two of road on petition of D. L. Hayward, 47.32
Cornwell Bros. concreting side walk from J. E. Crane's store to Depot Corner, 600.69
Cornwell Bros. concreting road crossing from L. P. & Co. cor. to J. E. Crane's corner, 18.67
C. Hobart, rent of vault, 4.00
P. D. Kingman, surveying roads and School lot No. 3, 13.50
Jones, Holmes & Co. printing posters, 3.75
L. Holmes, box rent and postage, 3.72
W. Hill, cleaning up old hedge in Depot yard, 1.50
Paid S. Leonard, lumber for railing South Brook bridge, 5.76
W. D. Burtch, putting up railing on South Brook bridge, 3.00
W. P. Cutter, repairing privy and putting up fence, House No. 6, 16.87
V. R. Swift, wheels for Road Former, 16.00
F. W. Beers & Co. map of Br. E. Br. and W. Bridgewater, 10.00
V. R. Swift, putting herring into Nippenickett pond, 18.75
I. S. Wilbar, transportation of herring from Taunton river to Nippenickett pond, 24.00
J. W. Edson, repairs on Hearse, 3.50
J. W. Gibbs, oiling and repairing Hearse harness, 5.60
Braman Bros. varnishing Hearse, painting brick work & doors to brick safe, 27.00
E. Washburn, damage to carriage on School Street, 4.00
E. Shedds, express, 4.15
S. Keith, Blank books, Stationery and hardware, 17.11
S. Keith, Committee on new Town House, 5.00
A. Keith, plans and cash expenses for Town House, 14.20
J. E. Crane, blank book for Mortgages, &c. 6.50
" " Com. on petition of H. W. Keith, 2.00
" " Expressage, .60
I. S. Wilbar, Stable hire, 13.00
Dr. E. Sawyer, health officer during the Small Pox, 5.00
F. D. King, locks, straw and care of Lock-up, 9.00
Paid Town of Halifax, one-third the expense putting herring into Monponset pond, 21.22

$2,128.94

TOWN OFFICERS.

Van R. Swift, Selectman, $145.25
  " Assessor, 112.50
  " Overseer of the Poor, 17.50
  " Committee, 28.00
  " Cash expenses, 40.65
  " Use of horse and carriage, 14.75

Spencer Leonard, Selectman, 88.75
  " Assessor, 90.00
  " Overseer of the Poor, 11.25
  " Committee, 25.00
  " Cash expenses, 19.30
  " Use of horse and carriage, 33.75

Isaac S. Wilber, Selectman, 69.25
  " Assessor, 18.75
  " Overseer of the Poor, 3.75
  " Committee, 12.00
  " Use of horse and carriage, 13.50

J. E. Crane, Town Clerk, recording births, deaths and marriages, 51.80
  " Recording militia roll, 1.00
  " Recording location of roads, 3.00
  " Copying for Town Report, 2.00

Philander D. Leonard, School Committee, 74.95

George M. Hooper, 75.80

Theodore F. Wright 35.62

Lewis S. Hopkins 1872 8.00

F. D. King, Collector, 130.00
  " Constable, 27.00
F. D. King, Truant Officer, 5.00
Van. R. Swift, Treasurer, 50.00
Williams Latham, Auditor, 5.50
Virgil Ames, " 4.00
Josiah L. Bassatt, " 3.00

1,216.62

STATE AID FURNISHED TO SOLDIERS AND FAMILIES OF SOLDIERS, FROM MARCH 1, 1873, TO MARCH 1, 1874.

John Frawley, $8.75
Amos L. Dorr, 76.00
William Holmes, 72.00
Oreb F. Mitchell, 72.00
Sumner Keith, 27.00
Hervey Joselyn, Guardian, 48.00
Benjamin Darling, Guardian, 48.00
Mrs. Eliza Conant, 80.00
" Lucy White, 96.00
" Eunice H. Wood, 96.00
" Mary A. Price, 96.00
" Paulina R. Benson, 48.00
" Christiana Benson, 20.00
" Mary Driscoll, 4.00
" Jane Leonard, 96.00
" Sarah Simpson, 48.00
" Abby W. Lambert, 40.00

$975.75

ALMSHOUSE ACCOUNT.

Dr.

Inventory March 1, 1873, $1,056.18
Cash on hand March 1, 1873, 48.42
Due from sundry persons March 1, 1873, 116.62
Cash drawn from Town Treasury, 300.00
Superintendent’s Salary, 300.00
Interest on farm, 150.00
Interest on stock and furniture, 40.00

$2,011.22

Inventory March 1, 1874, $1,144.97
Cash on hand March 1, 1874, 38.65
Due from sundry persons March 1, 1874, 125.53

$1,309.15

Cost of supporting the poor at the house, 702.07
Whole number of paupers during the year, 11,
Average number during the year, 8.67,
Present number at the house, 8,
Average cost per week for support, $1.51\frac{3}{20}.

In addition to the regular persons at the Almshouse, one hundred forty-four tramps have been fed and lodged at the Almshouse, and several of them two or more nights at the same time.

**PAUPER EXPENSES OUT OF THE HOUSE.**

Support of Mrs. H. W. Washburn (Lun, Hospital) $203.27
Fuel and supplies for Mrs. Hannah Ashport, 37.84
“ “ Mary A. Price, 70.07
“ “ Misses D. & V. Fuller, 48.38
“ “ Mrs. Charity Washburn, 26.37
“ “ Rowena Keith, 22.00
“ “ Leander Fobes, 51.23
Med. aid for Mrs. Mary A. Price and family, 19.75
“ “ Miss D. Fuller, 14.00
“ “ Leander Fobes, 2.00
Medical aid for Seth Conant, $9.00
J. W. Smith, boarding Mrs. Sion Swift one year, $26.00
Hyland House, keeping tramps over night, $34.50
Dr. B. T. Crooker, medical aid for a stranger, $1.00
Town of Andover, supplies for Margaret Carroll, $5.00
J. E. Crane, entertainment of tramps, $.50
I. S. Wilbur, carrying tramps to Almshouse, $1.75
F. D. King, carrying tramps to Almshouse, $1.50

$574.16

SUPPORT OF POOR BELONGING TO OTHER TOWNS.
Supplies for Mrs. Mary Bates, (Plymouth) $77.69

RECAPITULATION OF EXPENDITURES.
Paid
State Tax, $3,802.50
County Tax, 2,830.29
Schooling from March 1, 1873 to March 1, 1874, 8,923.79
School Incidentals, 422.24
Repairing Roads, 3,847.02
Building Roads laid out by C. C., 566.65
Building Road and land laid out by Selectmen, 338.82
Repairs on Town House, 764.31
Piping Town House, 126.12
Lighting Town House with gas, 825.83
Grading and fencing School Lot No. 1, 1,191.18
Fencing School Lot No. 3, 182.99
Repairs on Woodward’s Bridge, 45.46
Working Mt. Prospect street, 193.25
Working Centre street, 123.90
Cisterns, 896.06
Work on new street and land, 338.82
Working Bedford Street, 193.20
State Aid, 975.75
Town Officers, 1,216.62
Support of poor at the Almshouse, 702.07
Support of poor out of the Almshouse, 574.16
Support of poor belonging to other towns, 77.69
Borrowed money and interest, 7,629.88
Miscellaneous expenses, 2,128.94
Snow bills, 159.46

$39,077.00

The Selectmen further report that they have examined the Treasurer's account, which stands as follows:

DR.

Cash on hand March 1, 1873, $390.98
Rec'd of F. D. King, Collector, 1873, 17,825.00
" Van R. Swift, " 1871, 10.56
" " 1872, 266.42
" State Treas., Corporation Tax, 1873, 4,507.23
" " National Bk. Tax, 1873, 3,335.12
" " State Aid, 1872, 1,051.00
" " Mass. School Fund, 1873, 220.99
" " balance Corp. Tax, 1872, 76.69
" " balance State Aid acct. 1869, 28.00
" County Treas. Dog dividend, 1873, 196.61
" Sundry persons, borrowed money, 7,450.00
" Cedar Rapids R. R. coupons, 204.75
" Interest on Edson School Fund, 18.00
" A. Morse, board at Lun. Hospital, 23.75
" School Com. injury to School House No. 11, 2.00
" Transportation of State Paupers, 1.50
" V. R. Swift, stone posts from Sch. lot No. 1, 14.40
" A Washburn, flag staff from Sch. lot No. 1, 1.00
" W. W. Fobes, wood from Sch. lot No. 1, 1.50
Rec'd of L. G. Lowe, old plastering from T'n House, 1.00
" Plymouth, support of Mrs. Mary Bates, 11.74
" West Bridgewater, one-half expense putting herring into Nippenickett pond, 21.38
" Sale of Chandelier and other Town House fixtures, 22.25
" E. H. Waterman, stones from new street, 3.00
" J. B. Rogers, for old stoves, 3.00
" Town of Halifax, for lumber, 3.47
" Town House Committee, 233.17

$35,924.42

Cr.

By paid State Tax, $3,802.50
" Sundry persons, borrowed money, 7,450.00
Interest on borrowed money, 179.88
Miscellaneous orders, 9,767.83
School orders, 9,343.03
Almshouse orders, 1,253.10
Highway orders, 4,006.45
Cash in Treasury March 1, 1874, 121.63

$35,924.42

We also find the town owes the following sums:

Fire District, money not drawn from Treasury, $11.02
Road Contractor, unfinished Road, 155.00
Unsettled accounts, 208.00

$374.02
ASSETS.

Cash on hand March 1, 1874, $121.63
State Aid, furnished 1873, 1,016.75
State Aid from Jan. 1, 1874, to March 1, 1874, 139.50
State Treas. bal. Corporation tax, 1873, 40.38
Due from town of Plymouth, support of Mary Bates, 147.73
Due from State, 1-3 expense building cisterns, 298.69
E. F. Dunbar, snow bill, paid twice, 9.97
F. D. King, taxes uncollected, 1873, 336.84

Bal. in favor of the town, March 1, 1874, $1,137.47
All of which is respectfully submitted.

VAN R. SWIFT, SPENCER LEONARD, ISAAC S. WILBAR, Selectmen of Bridgewater.

BRIDGEWATER, March 1, 1874.

COLLECTOR IN ACCT. WITH THE TREASURER.

Dr.
1873. To commitment of Town tax, $15,100.00
   " State tax, 3,802.50
   " County tax, 2,830.29
   " Overlaying, 955.95

   $22,688.74

Cr.
1873. By cash of Collector, $17,825.00
   " paid County tax, 2,830.29
Discount on taxes, 1,665.81
Abatement on taxes, 30.80 $22,351.90

March 1, 1874, due from Collector, $825.00

VAN R. SWIFT, Treas.
ASSESSOR'S DEPARTMENT.

Amount of Real Estate assessed May 1, 1873, $1,414,835.00

Amount of Personal estate assessed May 1, 1873, 495,491.00

Total, $1,910,326.00


Town grant, (combined) $15,100.00
State Tax, 3,802.50
County Tax, 2,830.29
Overlayings, 955.95

Total amount assessed and committed, $22,688.74

All of which is respectfully submitted,

VAN R. SWIFT,
SPENCER LEONARD,
ISAAC S. WILBAR,

Assessors of Bridgewater.

Bridgewater, March 1, 1874.
DOGS, 1873.

Number of dogs returned by the Assessors, one hundred twenty six, viz: Males, 124, Females, 2.
Number of dogs licensed by Town Clerk, one hundred forty. Males, 134, Females, 6.
Received for dog licenses, $28.00
Town Clerk's fee for licensing, $20.00
Paid County Treasurer, 230.40 $250.40
March 1, 1874—
Balance in the hands of Town Clerk, $39.60

ACCT. OF RECEIPTS OF TOWN HOUSE.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Rec'd.</th>
<th>Paid out</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>$25.00</td>
<td>$13.97</td>
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<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>72.00</td>
<td>21.00</td>
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<td>May</td>
<td>34.00</td>
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<td>July</td>
<td>5.00</td>
<td>19.10</td>
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<td>Aug.</td>
<td>8.00</td>
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<td>Sept.</td>
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<td>Nov.</td>
<td>70.00</td>
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<td>Dec.</td>
<td>79.00</td>
<td>$283.83</td>
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<td>Jan.</td>
<td>94.00</td>
<td>$233.17</td>
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<td>Feb.</td>
<td>71.00</td>
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$517.00

SIDNEY KEITH, Town Clerk
J. E. CRANE, Committe

Correct Report to Feb. 20, 1874.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>RESIDENCE</th>
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<tr>
<td>Jan</td>
<td>8 Cha's E Miller</td>
<td>Bridgewater</td>
<td>Isabel Hathaway</td>
<td>Taunton</td>
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<td>10 Cha's Norlin</td>
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<td>Maria Johnson</td>
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<td>12 John D Veaney</td>
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<td>Irene F Morey</td>
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<td>14 Marshall C Lane</td>
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<td>Almira F Stoddard</td>
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<td>20 Geo W Gassett</td>
<td>Bridgewater</td>
<td>Annie W Keith</td>
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<td>Feb</td>
<td>16 Cha's Scanlan 2t</td>
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<td>18 Geo H Washburn</td>
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<td>22 E H Sprague</td>
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<td>30 Henry J Miller</td>
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<td>10 Cha's Johnson</td>
<td>Hingham</td>
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<td>11 Cha's W Howland</td>
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<td>21 Everett S Knapp</td>
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<td>25 Frank H Mitchell</td>
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<td>25 Nelson O Carr</td>
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<td>Abigail E Simpson</td>
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<td>1 Cushing White Jr</td>
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<td>5 Isaac K Alden</td>
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<td>16 Gusus Akerland</td>
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<td>25 Jeramiah Riley</td>
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<td>12 Saml L Gardner</td>
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<td>13 Daniel Crimmon</td>
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<td>20 Geo W Mitchell</td>
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<td>26 Geo W Mitchell</td>
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<td>Bridgewater</td>
<td>Betsey Fobes</td>
<td>Bridgewater</td>
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<td>3 Patrick Keffer</td>
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<td>21 M Shaughnessey</td>
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<td>Mary Baggley</td>
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No. of certificates of intentions of marriage issued in 1873—37.

J. E. CRANE, Town Clerk.
## DEATHS IN BRIDGEWATER IN THE YEAR 1873.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>AGE</th>
<th>CAUSE OF DEATH</th>
<th>BIRTHPLACE</th>
<th>REMARKS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan</td>
<td>Alice J Thompson</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>Old Age</td>
<td>Westbrook, Mo</td>
<td>Wife of Dr. E. Sawyer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Caleb Christian</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>Congestion of Lungs</td>
<td>Bridgewater</td>
<td>Wife of Saml P Gates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb</td>
<td>Hannah Bowker</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>Pneumonia</td>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>Child of Henry Pickett</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mary Cunningham</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>Drospy</td>
<td>Ireland</td>
<td>Wife of John Bowker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dyer Robinson</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>Fever</td>
<td>Bridgewater</td>
<td>Son of Dyer and Abigail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>Alice M. Leonard</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Measles</td>
<td></td>
<td>Dan of Seth H and Myra Leonard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jane H Holmes</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>Consumption</td>
<td></td>
<td>Dan of Erastus and Mary Hayward</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>Anna Ford</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>Dropsey</td>
<td>Randolph</td>
<td>Dan of Isaac and Joanna Wilbur</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Frederick Luffin</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Measles</td>
<td>Bridgewater</td>
<td>Son of Joseph and Louisa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Charles Bailey</td>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Son of Seth H and Myra Leonar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>John McCourt</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>Erysipelas</td>
<td>Ireland</td>
<td>Trader</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Orrin Ellis</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>Consumption</td>
<td>Bridgewater</td>
<td>Son of Cyrus and Lucy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>Rodney L. Bates</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>Congestion of Lungs</td>
<td></td>
<td>Son of Benj B and Diantha Bates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Albert Keith</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>Pthlisis</td>
<td></td>
<td>Son of Jona and Sarah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Capt. Isaac L. Fish.</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>Kidney Disease</td>
<td>Kingston</td>
<td>Son of Nath and Mary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July</td>
<td>Margaret Frawley</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>Consumption</td>
<td>Ireland</td>
<td>Dan of——McNeland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Marcia J Gates</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Cholera Infantum</td>
<td>Bridgewater</td>
<td>Dan of Saml P Gates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Frederick Andrews</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>Pthilis</td>
<td>New Bedford</td>
<td>Son of Moses K and Ellen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Robert Hames Keith</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Diabetes</td>
<td>Bridgewater</td>
<td>Son of Adna P and Mary T</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug</td>
<td>Ellen McCourt</td>
<td>67</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Dan of John and Bridget</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Willard Washburn</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Son of Oliver and Mary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept</td>
<td>Calvin Mitchell</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>Old Age</td>
<td></td>
<td>Son of John and Anna</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Daniel Egan</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Convulsions</td>
<td></td>
<td>Son of Dami and Elizabeth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct</td>
<td>Joseph Jackson</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>Murrnasus</td>
<td></td>
<td>Son of John and Elizabeth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>John A Shaw</td>
<td>36</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Augustus Foss</td>
<td>56</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Oct

12 Betsey S Woodman 36 9 Consumption Vermont Wife of John F Woodman
14 Mabel M Andrews 12 1 Marasmus Bridgewater Dan of Lloyd and Sophia L
14 Phebe Howland Wilbur 12 1 Typhoid Fever Bridgewater Dan of David Hand and Maria
17 Mary Aseltin 60 6 Still Born Ireland Wife of Patrick Pender
18 Hannah Cagney 60 6 Aseptic Bridgewater Dan of Henry and Hannah Hall
19 Lucy F Conant 34 1 Convulsions Ireland Dan of William and Catherine
23 Emma White 25 11 Phthico Dan of Benj F and Lotise
11 Hannah Mahoney 18 9 Croup Dan of Welcome and Phebe
12 Hannah Conant 7 4 Croup Ireland Dan of John and Mary
13 Seth Conant 9 3 Paralytic Bridgewater Dan of John and Deborah

Nov

22 Daniel Mahoney 4 4 Croup Ireland Dan of Wm O and Susan Josselyn
19 Mary Conant 4 4 Croup Bridgewater Dan of Daniel L and Hannah
23 Hannah Mahoney 27 3 Paralytic Ireland Dan of Lorenzo and Ellen C Holmes
27 Seth Conant 9 3 Still Born Bridgewater Wife of Lorenzo
29 Daniel Doneher 18 11 Erysipelas Bridgewater

Dec

11 Hannah X Hayward 36 1 Consumption Ireland Dan of John and Joanna
21 Ellen C Holmes 27 4 Erysipelas Plymouth Wife of William Swift
9 Clarissa Keith 81 11 Old Age Bridgewater
11 John Doneher 45 1 Pneumonia Ireland
10 Mary F Swift 46 1 Consumption Bridgewater Son of James and Kate Cleary
19 James Cleary 24 4 Convulsions Bridgewater

Total number of Deaths in 1873, 46.
Births Registered in 1873:—
Of American parentage, 36; of foreign parentage, 24. Total number, 69.

July 15 Susan Swan 5 10
19 Julia Britton 8 10
July 21 Jacob Wadham 6 10
7 James 6 8
14 Cephus Washburn 12 11
3 Mike Costello 65 6 10

J. E. CRANE, Town Clerk.
TOWN MEETING.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.

PLYMOUTH COUNTY, ss.

To either of the Constables of the Town of Bridgewater, in the County of Plymouth:

GREETING.

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are directed to notify the inhabitants of the town of Bridgewater, qualified to vote in elections and town affairs, to meet at the TOWN HOUSE, in said town, on MONDAY, the NINTH day of March next, at 10 o'clock in the forenoon, then and there to act upon the following articles, viz.:

1. To choose a Moderator.
2. To hear and act upon the Report of the Auditors Accounts.
3. To hear and act upon the Report of the School Committee.
4. To hear and act upon the Report of the Selectmen respecting the receipts and expenditures for the past year.
5. To hear and act upon the Report of the Overseers of the Poor.
7. To choose all necessary Town Officers for the year ensuing.
8. To determine the method of repairing highways for the year ensuing, and raise such sum as may be necessary therefor, to be paid in labor or otherwise.
9. To raise, appropriate and vote into a Tax, to be assessed upon the Polls and Estates, according to law, such sums of money as may be thought necessary for the support of the Poor, support of Schools, repairs of Roads and Bridges, and for the Incidental expenses of the town for the year ensuing.
10. To see if the town will accept the list of Jurors reported by the Selectmen.
11. To see what action the town will take in relation to working the road laid out by the Hon. County Commissioners on the petition of John Enwright.

12th. To hear the report of the Selectmen on the petition of Levi Walker, for a town way from Aldrich street to North street, and act thereon.

13th. To see if the town will take any action with regard to obtaining the use of the property of the Bridgewater Academy for purposes of education. (By request.)

14th. To see if the town will take any measures to obtain a tract of land of the heirs of Levi Hooper, near the Almshouse.

15th. To see if the town will take any action with regard to changing the grade of Oak street, opposite the dwelling house of Nathan Monroe. (By request.)

16th. To see if the town will take any action with regard to establishing a place to take fish in said town.

17th. To see if the town will take any measures to name new streets in town.

And you are directed to serve this warrant, according to the By-Laws of the town, seven days at least before the time appointed for said meeting.

Hereof fail not, and make due return of this warrant, with your doings thereon, to the Town Clerk, at the time and place of meeting as aforesaid.

Given under our hands and seals at Bridgewater, this twenty seventh day of February, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventy four.

VAN R. SWIFT, SPENCER LEONARD, ISAAC S. WILBAR, Selectmen of Bridgewater.
ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
SCHOOL COMMITTEE
OF THE
TOWN OF
BRIDGEWATER.
1873.
ANNUAL REPORT.

FELLOW CITIZENS:—

In compliance with the law of the Commonwealth the School Committee present to you their Annual Report for the year 1873—4.

The town at its annual meeting, in March, voted to raise a liberal sum of money for educational purposes, and we believe it will always be ready to do so, if the money be judiciously expended.

We all desire to see our schools and school system improve, well knowing that any illiberal policy on the part of the town, touching said systems and schools, will surely retard their advancement, and prevent their keeping pace with the progress of the age.

Without doubt, we have much better schools in many respects than could be found a quarter of a century ago, and considering the advantages now afforded, we have abundant reason to expect it. Whether the difference is as great as can reasonably be expected is questionable. Suppose we allow that it is not, then arises the question, Where lies the blame? The evil may arise from various sources. Perhaps regular and punctual attendance at School is regarded by some parents as of little importance, and possibly there is not that application on the part of the pupils that there was when our schools kept only six months in a year, and all felt that every moment must be improved. We may be in error, but we think there was formerly a greater disposition on the part of the pupils to study evenings, and if they failed in their recitations, they looked upon it as a deep disgrace.
We will here say, that we shall not task our children too heavily if we require them to study an hour or more, each day, at home; indeed, it seems to be absolutely necessary for them to do so, in order to have recitations that are even passable.

Some may think, at the present time, that their children are overworked. Did they ever consider how large a part of the pupils time at school must be given to recitations, and how small a part to the preparation? How many ever question their children concerning their studies so as to ascertain what they are doing and what the teacher is expecting of them? Let them examine the matter closely and they will find, that instead of doing too much they are doing too little. Their children instead of "wearing out," are "rusting out."

Seldom does the good experienced teacher assign tasks too difficult; young and inexperienced teachers may, occasionally.

We have now in town nearly seven hundred scholars of the school-going age, and of that number probably not more than one in ten, will ever enter the High School. If so large a portion are to end their studies in the Grammar Schools, it is of the utmost importance that we make those schools the best in our power.

Our sympathies are with those scholars who are to obtain the major part of their education here, and who are debarred the privilege of attending those of a higher grade.

Our Common Schools were originally designed for the purpose of giving to all, rich and poor, a practical business education. Orthography, reading, writing, arithmetic, geography and grammar—the principal studies pursued—although they may appear to some rather unimportant, still they are the solid foundation of all education and must receive the most thorough application before the higher
branches are studied. The great object of instruction is a preparation for the performance of the duties of life, and a mind which is cultivated by study, and enriched with knowledge—if directed in the proper channels—will not only be a great advantage to its possessor, but a benefit to others.

We think a large proportion of our youth close their school-going days at too early an age. Those who purpose giving their attention in life to agricultural, commercial, mercantile or manufacturing pursuits would be greatly benefited by having an acquaintance with chemistry, philosophy, drawing, &c.,—sciences which have a direct bearing upon many of our industries. These studies may be taught to a limited extent in our Common Schools by means of oral instruction. A knowledge of them will help our young men to become better farmers and mechanics, and thus enable them to compete more successfully with their own countrymen and foreigners engaged in like employments. The mechanic in New England, to-day, does not find competition local; he has to contend, we may say, with the whole world. Steamboats, railroads, telegraphic wires and submarine cables have wrought great changes in farming as well as in our mechanical and commercial industries. The farmer on the Atlantic seaboard—with his impoverished soil—has for his competitors, in many products, the farmers of the West, and also those of other sections of the globe. He will find it difficult enough to compete with them when he becomes better acquainted with the chemical nature of his soils.

The time has arrived when the American mechanic has to throw all his energies, skill and talent into his vocation, in order to find himself on a level with his brother mechanic across the Atlantic, in the manufacture of almost any article. Our artisans in many respects are far behind
those of the "Old World." We refer to this subject to remind our youth that it is very necessary for them to become masters of their profession. An acquaintance with drawing will be of almost incalculable benefit to many of them.

Some may think if new studies are added, the old ones will not receive proper attention.

It may be found that nearly all the branches, now pursued, might be abridged somewhat without diminishing the amount of useful knowledge obtained. If parents, teachers and children do their duty, is it necessary for our children to remain in school eight or ten years to learn spelling, reading, grammar, geography and arithmetic? We would have them familiar with all these branches, but would not let them spend eight or ten years, upon what ought to be learned in seven.

READING.

Before printing was invented, those who had a desire to add to their stock of knowledge found it necessary to travel from one country to another, to learn from people who knew what they did not. Now the greater part of all the knowledge upon any given subject, can be learned from books, and that our youth may reap the full benefit afforded by these, it is essential for them to be able to read fluently and understandingly. We believe none too much time is devoted to this study in any of our schools.

GRAMMAR.

To most children Grammar is not an interesting study, as it is sometimes taught. The common practice of beginning it by learning definitions and general statements is fundamentally wrong. In teaching, the idea ought to be presented first, then the formal expression of it. By giving less time to memorizing, and more to thinking, our children will make better progress in it than they now do.
It is a study, the success of which depends much upon the ability of the teacher to make interesting, and one that requires much oral instruction.

**GEOGRAPHY.**

When pupils are obliged to memorize the words of the text-book their attention is devoted mainly to the acquisition of those words, rather than facts and ideas; oftentimes they can recite the text with great accuracy, and still have but a faint idea of the meaning. Children can learn a longer lesson in descriptive geography by studying upon the topical plan and will find it vastly more interesting and instructive. They will finally be enabled—without a hint from the teacher—to collect from their books the most important facts and principles. Scholars in our Primary and Intermediate Schools are too young to pursue this plan. What they do not learn by oral instruction must be learned by wrote.

In giving pupils oral instruction in this branch of knowledge it is necessary to have globes and good outline maps to which the teacher can refer. The most of our schools are deficient in both.

**ARITHMETIC.**

As regards Arithmetic, it is essential that our children have some knowledge of all, or nearly all, of the different principles contained therein. It is supposed by many, that too much time is spent in explanation of the processes by which arithmetical work is done. In Prussia, much of the pupils' time is given to slate work, as it is considered to be of more advantage to the scholars and requires about all the time which can be afforded for this branch of study. The philosophy of the processes of arithmetical work is usually beyond the capacities of the scholars at the time when such processes are necessary for their practice.
This school, we have reason to believe, is now under the care of able and efficient teachers, who manifest great interest in their attention to their duties, and in the progress of those committed to their charge. The school would appear to better advantage if the qualifications of those admitted were raised to a higher standard. None should be encouraged or permitted to enter, unless they are thoroughly acquainted with the fundamental branches taught in the Grammar Schools. Probably a large part of those now in this School might have spent very profitably another year before entering.

It has been ascertained that the class which expected to graduate at the close of the present term, will not be able to complete the course until the expiration of another term. It is therefore thought proper by your Committee, that the time for admitting another class be changed so as to allow it to enter at the commencement of the Fall term, and furthermore that the standard for admittance be raised, so that it may not be necessary for the teacher of this School to teach what can be equally well taught in the lower schools.

Parents are generally anxious to see their children make rapid advancement in their studies, and in their anxiety it is not strange for them to wish to see them enter this school earlier than would be for their advantage. Let it be borne in mind that the admittance of a scholar, who is not qualified, does not advance him in his studies, and may be a disadvantage, not only to himself, but to other members of the school. By the premature transfer of scholars from the Grammar Schools, all of our schools will be reduced to a lower standard than they ought to occupy. Let us, instead of lowering the standard of the High School, raise that of the others.
VENTILATION.

The air of our school rooms become very impure and disagreeable when the rooms have been closed for any great length of time. It is very necessary that they be ventilated, but when we hear of a teacher raising or lowering a window so as to allow a draft of cold air to strike directly upon the pupils backs, then we can but wish that that teacher, when she learned that a room ever needed ventilating, had learned at the same time the proper manner of doing it.

The following named persons were chosen at the commencement of the year to act as members of the School Committee: Rev. B. R. Gifford, Geo. M. Hooper and Philander D. Leonard. Mr. Gifford attended to his duties during the Spring term, and soon after left to visit Europe. At the commencement of the Winter term it was found necessary to have a full board, and Rev. Theodore F. Wright was chosen to fill the vacancy caused by Mr. Gifford's absence.

TEACHERS.

The selection of teachers is one of the most important duties School Committees are called upon to perform. Competent and faithful instructors are absolutely indispensable for the good of a school, and more extensive and varied the knowledge possessed by them, the greater—usually—will be their success. It is folly to suppose that teachers can do a good work, who, in literary qualifications, are but little in advance of those whom they are called upon to teach.

Some are heartily engaged in their work, while others teach wholly for the compensation afforded, are soon found out and lose their situations. Our teachers during the past year, as a body, have been able and efficient, and have labored faithfully and successfully in the discharge
of their duties. To govern and teach a school well is not an easy task. Parents, if you would have good schools aid and encourage your teachers, who have many trials and difficulties, and need a share of your sympathies.

APPROPRIATIONS.

In order to maintain the Schools successfully the coming year, your Committee think it will be necessary to raise as large a sum as was raised for the year that is now closing.

Respectfully submitted,

PHILANDER D. LEONARD, School
GEORGE HOOPER,
THEO. F. WRIGHT, Committee.