1877 Bridgewater Annual Town Report

The Town of Bridgewater

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ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
SELECTMEN, ASSESSORS,
AND
OVERSEERS OF THE POOR
OF THE
TOWN OF BRIDGEWATER,
FOR
THE YEAR ENDING FEB. 28, 1878.
ALSO
THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SCHOOL
COMMITTEE FOR 1877.
TWENTY-FIFTH SERIES.

BOSTON:
Franklin Press: Rand, Avery, & Co.,
117 Franklin Street.
1878.
REPORT.

In accordance with the vote of the Town, the Selectmen, Assessors, and Overseers of the Poor, present their Annual Report of the Receipts and Expenditures of the Town of Bridgewater, for the year ending Feb. 28, 1878.

At a meeting held March 12 and 18, 1877, the Town passed the following votes:—

Voted, To raise thirty-five hundred dollars for the repair of roads and bridges; twenty-five hundred dollars to be expended according to the valuation on the polls and estates in the several highway districts; one thousand dollars to be apportioned by the Selectmen, as in their judgment may seem just and proper, for the interest of the town.

Voted, That two hundred and fifty dollars be raised and added to the proportion of money allowed the highway surveyor of District No. 9, to be used in working the portion of Main Street laid out by the Honorab le County Commissioners.

Voted, That two hundred and fifty dollars be raised and added to the proportion of money allowed the highway surveyor of District No. 1, West, to be used in working and erecting fence on Mt. Prospect Street, as laid out by the Selectmen, and working Central Square and South Street laid out by the Honorable County Commissioners.

Voted, To raise six thousand dollars for common schools.

Voted, To raise twenty-two hundred dollars for High School.
Voted, To raise five hundred dollars for school incidentals.

Voted, To raise four hundred dollars for rental of building for High School.

Voted, To raise three thousand dollars for miscellaneous expenses.

Voted, To raise twelve hundred dollars for the support of the poor.

Voted, To raise fifteen hundred dollars to meet discount on taxes.

Voted, To raise two hundred dollars to pay interest on borrowed money.

Voted, To raise one thousand dollars to meet the indebtedness of the town for the past year.

**RECAPITULATION.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Repairing roads and bridges</td>
<td>$3,500.00</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>$500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rent of High-school building</td>
<td>$400.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous expenses</td>
<td>$3,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support of the poor</td>
<td>$1,200.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discount on taxes</td>
<td>$1,500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest on borrowed money</td>
<td>$200.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Past indebtedness</td>
<td>$1,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Working Main Street</td>
<td>$250.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Working Mt. Prospect Street, Central Square, and South Street</td>
<td>$250.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>$20,000.00</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Voted, That the Assessors be directed to assess four thousand dollars less than the amount voted, on account of Corporation and Bank Tax received from Tax Commissioner | **$16,000.00**
Voted, That the sum of sixteen thousand dollars be assessed into a tax upon the polls and estates according to law.

**HIGHWAYS.**

Town grant ........ $$3,500 00$$
Twenty-five hundred dollars to be apportioned on the valuation of each highway district 2,500 00
One thousand dollars to be apportioned by the Selectmen 1,000 00

$$3,500 00$$

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, $592 46$
“ 1, West, 430 72
“ 2, 106 22
“ 3, 37 41
“ 4, 59 24
“ 5, 64 61
“ 6, 78 49
“ 7, 59 17
“ 8, 85 68
“ 9, 707 45
“ 10, 52 70
“ 11, 80 00
“ 12, 40 85
“ 13, 112 93

$$2,507 88$$

The following is the Selectmen's apportionment of one thousand dollars upon the several districts.

District No. 1, East $00 00$
“ 1, West 00 00
District No. 2, $165 00
  "  3,  60 00
  "  4,  80 00
  "  5,  70 00
  "  6,  120 00
  "  7,  30 00
  "  8,  120 00
  "  9,  00 00
  "  10, 140 00
  "  11,  45 00
  "  12,  80 00
  "  13,  90 00

$1,000 00

District No. 1, East. LLOYD KEITH, Surveyor.
Amount on polls and estates $592 46
Expended $598 14
Overworked and allowed 5 68

$598 14

District No. 1, West. GEORGE F. LEONARD, Surveyor.
Amount on polls and estates $430 72
Expended $438 39
Overworked and allowed 7 67

$438 39

District No. 2. BENJAMIN HARDEN, Surveyor.
Amount on polls and estates $106 22
Proportion of one thousand dollars 165 00

$271 22
Expended $274 73
Overworked and allowed 3 51

$274 73
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District No. 3</th>
<th>SAMUEL S. KEITH, Surveyor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amount on polls and estates</td>
<td>$3741</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of one thousand dollars</td>
<td>6500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expended</td>
<td>$10241</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overworked and allowed</td>
<td>$10975</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District No. 4</th>
<th>WILLIAM F. HARDEN, Surveyor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amount on polls and estates</td>
<td>$5924</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of one thousand dollars</td>
<td>8000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expended</td>
<td>$13924</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overworked and allowed</td>
<td>$14916</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District No. 5</th>
<th>MARTIN WOOD, Surveyor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amount on polls and estates</td>
<td>$6461</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of one thousand dollars</td>
<td>7000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expended</td>
<td>$13461</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overworked and allowed</td>
<td>$13830</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District No. 6</th>
<th>SETH H. LEONARD, Surveyor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amount on polls and estates</td>
<td>$7849</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of one thousand dollars</td>
<td>12000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expended</td>
<td>$19849</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unexpended</td>
<td>$203</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

District No. 4: Amount on polls and estates $59 24
Proportion of one thousand dollars 80 00
Expended $149 16
Overworked and allowed 9 92

District No. 5: Amount on polls and estates $64 61
Proportion of one thousand dollars 70 00
Expended $138 30
Overworked and allowed 3 69

District No. 6: Amount on polls and estates $78 49
Proportion of one thousand dollars 120 00
Expended 196 46
Unexpended 2 03
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District No.</th>
<th>Surveyor</th>
<th>Amount on polls and estates</th>
<th>Proportion of one thousand dollars</th>
<th>Expended</th>
<th>Overworked and allowed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>SAMUEL W. BATES</td>
<td>$59 17</td>
<td>30 00</td>
<td>$91 03</td>
<td>1 86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$91 03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>NATHANIEL T. CUSHMAN</td>
<td>$85 63</td>
<td>120 00</td>
<td>$205 63</td>
<td>$209 55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$209 55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>STILLMAN ALGER</td>
<td>$707 45</td>
<td></td>
<td>$724 96</td>
<td>$724 96</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Allowed by the Auditors $10 of the $17.51.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>ZADOC W. LEACH</td>
<td>$52 70</td>
<td>140 00</td>
<td>$192 70</td>
<td>$208 30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Allowed by the Auditors $10 of the $15.60.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>District No. 11.</td>
<td>VIRGIL V. CONANT, Surveyor.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>-----------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount on polls and estates</td>
<td>$80 00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of one thousand dollars</td>
<td>45 00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expended</td>
<td>$125 00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unexpended</td>
<td>$2 18</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District No. 12.</th>
<th>ELIAB F. DUNBAR, Surveyor.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amount on polls and estates</td>
<td>$40 85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of one thousand dollars</td>
<td>80 00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expended</td>
<td>$120 85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overworked and allowed</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total amount raised for roads and bridges, including overlay</td>
<td>$3,507 88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total amount expended on roads and bridges</td>
<td>3,590 52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expended above appropriations</td>
<td>82 64</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SNOW BILLS, 1877.**

| District No. 1, East, Lloyd Keith, Surveyor | $35 09 |
| “ No. 1, West, George F. Leonard, “ | 24 44 |
| “ No. 2, Benjamin Harden, “ | 24 58 |
District No. 3, Samuel S. Keith, Surveyor $13 87
  " No. 4, William F. Harden, " 35 14
  " No. 5, Martin Wood, " 14 57
  " No. 6, Seth H. Leonard, " 11 07
  " No. 7, Samuel W. Bates, " 19 69
  " No. 8, Nathaniel T. Cushman, " 21 45
  " No. 9, Stillman Alger, " 48 16
  " No. 10, Zadoc W. Leach, " 25 82
  " No. 11, Virgil V. Conant, " 12 65
  " No. 12, Eliab F. Dunbar, " 4 04
  " No. 13, Henry C. Leach, " 25 20

_SCHOOLS, 1877._

Number of schoolhouses, including High-school building, 15; number of school children between five and fifteen years, 723; number of schools, including High School, 19.

Town grant for common schools $6,000 00
  " " for High School 2,200 00
  " " for school incidentals 500 00
Rent of Academy 400 00
Interest on Edson School Fund 16 71
Income from Dyer School Fund 100 00
Received from Massachusetts School Fund 281 26
Dividend on dogs from County Treasurer 340 55

Total amount for schools $9,788 52

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

_HIGH SCHOOL._

Paid Mr. E. D. Cornish, teaching $1,000 00
  Mr. Alfred F. Sears, teaching 277 78
  Miss Lucy S. Breck, assistant 447 26
  Mrs. Sarah H. S. Hayward, assistant 180 00
Rent of Academy for High School 400 00
Paid fuel, and preparing       $88 25
Care of Academy, and making fires       65 00

$2,458 29

HOUSE NO. 1.

Paid Miss Flora C. Swift, teaching Grammar School 36 weeks       $378 00
Miss Kate Mitchell, teaching Intermediate School 36 weeks       342 00
Miss Mary M. M. Leonard, teaching Primary School 36 weeks       306 00
Fuel, and preparing       123 00
Care of house, making fires, and cleaning       115 00

$1,264 00

HOUSE NO. 2.

Paid Miss Mabel Bryant, teaching 12 weeks       $102 00
Miss Ella L. Bush, teaching 12 weeks       102 00
Mr. William Alden, teaching 5 weeks       62 50
Mr. Joseph Belcher, teaching 7 weeks       87 50
Fuel, and preparing       34 23
Care of house, making fires, and cleaning       15 00

$403 23

HOUSE NO. 3.

Paid Miss Mary Wadsworth, teaching 36 weeks       $306 00
Fuel, and preparing       35 25
Care of house, making fires, and cleaning       17 00

$358 25

HOUSE NO. 4.

Paid Miss Martha F. Ames, teaching 24 weeks       $204 00
Mrs. Helen K. Andrews, teaching 12 weeks       90 00
Fuel, and preparing       34 53
Care of house, making fires, and cleaning       14 00

$342 53
HOUSE NO. 5.
Paid Miss Lemira Benson, teaching 36 weeks $288 00
Fuel, and preparing 35 10
Care of house, and making fires 10 00
$333 10

HOUSE NO. 6.
Paid Miss Julia M. Drew, teaching 24 weeks $120 00
Fuel, and preparing 9 75
Care of house, and making fires 9 00
$138 75

HOUSE NO. 7.
Paid Miss Corinna Bates, teaching 36 weeks $288 00
Fuel, and preparing 10 00
Care of house, and making fires 10 00
$308 12

HOUSE NO. 8.
Paid Miss Hattie M. Wilbur, teaching 36 weeks $306 00
Fuel, and preparing 35 12
Care of house, and making fires 14 00
$355 12

HOUSE NO. 9.
Paid Mr. P. D. Leonard, teaching Grammar $540 00
School 36 weeks
Miss Carrie Sampson, teaching Primary
School 36 weeks 324 00
Fuel, and preparing 64 75
Care of house, making fires and cleaning 38 00
$426 75

HOUSE NO. 10.
Paid Miss Sarah Wilbar, teaching 36 weeks $288 00
Fuel, and preparing 17 00
Care of house, and making fires 12 00
$317 00
HOUSE NO. 11.
Paid transporting scholars from No. 11 to No. 7, two terms $110.00
Miss Susie Eddy, teaching 12 weeks 96.00
Fuel, and preparing 10.45
Care of house, and making fires 4.00

$220.45

HOUSE NO. 12.
Paid Miss Annie E. C. Wentworth, teaching 36 weeks $282.00
Fuel, and preparing 19.22
Care of house, and making fires 11.50

$312.72

HOUSE NO. 13.
Paid Miss Cora Bassett, teaching 34 weeks $289.00
Fuel, and preparing 32.25
Care of house, and making fires 10.00

$331.25

HOUSE NO. 14.
Paid Mr. Frank M. King, teaching Grammar School 36 weeks $495.00
Miss Mary A. Cleare, teaching Primary School 36 weeks 306.00
Fuel, and preparing 69.25
Care of house, making fires, and cleaning 46.00

$421.25

Expended for common schools from March 1, 1877, to March 1, 1878, as follows: —
Paid teachers $5,602.00
Fuel, and preparing 529.90
Care of houses, making fires, and cleaning 325.50
Transportation of scholars 110.00

$6,567.40
Expended for High School as follows:—

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paid principal</td>
<td>$1,277 78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First assistant</td>
<td>447 26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second assistant</td>
<td>180 00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fuel, and preparing.</td>
<td>88 25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rent of building for High School</td>
<td>400 00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Care of building, and making fires</td>
<td>65 00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total amount expended for schooling</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,458 29</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Expended for school incidentals                         | 426 23 |

Total amount expended for schoolings                      | **$9,451 92** |
Total amount of school appropriations                      | **9,788 52** |

Unexpended                                               | **$336 00** |

**WORKING MAIN STREET, LAID OUT BY THE HON. COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.**

Town grant                                               | $250 00 |
Paid Stillman Ayer, for working Main street               | 250 00  |

**WORKING MT. PROSPECT ST., CENTRAL SQ., AND SOUTH ST., LAID OUT BY THE HON. COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AND SELECTMEN.**

Town grant                                               | $200 00 |

Paid George F. Leonard, working Mt. Prospect Street      | $125 00 |
H. V. Harwood, land and moving fence                     | 60 00   |
A. Keith, building fence and labor on pump               | 23 43   |
J. H. Fairbanks, pump for well on Mt. Prospect Street    | 10 31   |
F. C. Foss, masonry and stock for well                   | 7 00    |
E. Washburn, moving wall on Mt. Prospect Street          | 9 00    |
S. Leonard, posts, rails, and setting for bar-ways       | 2 75    |
Paid H. Perkins, cistern cover for well ................................ $2 68
A. L. Dorr, labor on wall near well .................................... 1 50

**MISCELLANEOUS BILLS.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Town appropriation</td>
<td>$3,000 00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid Rand, Avery, &amp; Co., printing Town and School Reports for 1876</td>
<td>$95 50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G. F. Leonard, highway work between Auditor meeting and March 1, 1877</td>
<td>4 25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S. P. Pope, highway work between Auditor meeting and March 1, 1877</td>
<td>6 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L. Keith, highway work between Auditor meeting and March 1, 1877</td>
<td>2 93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morss, Whyte, &amp; Co., two gravel screens, Old Colony Railroad, freight on</td>
<td>15 00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>screens, F. Keith, stone trough for town pump</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Old Colony Railroad, freight on trough</td>
<td>40 00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G. Conant, moving trough from depot to town pump</td>
<td>2 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. K. Darling, blank-books for collector and surveyors</td>
<td>1 00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Treasurer, blank voting register</td>
<td>3 88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V. R. Swift, witness fees, travel, and service in S. H. Leach case</td>
<td>1 20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H. Kingman, counsel fee and expenses in S. H. Leach case</td>
<td>117 52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H. Robinson, patrolman, from March 1 to March 19</td>
<td>89 55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G. H. Watson, medical examination on George Jones</td>
<td>18 00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I. S. Wilbar, damage to carriage on Plymouth Street</td>
<td>2 00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. Pratt, numbering school children</td>
<td>5 00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W. W. Fobes, repairing gullies on School Lot No. 1</td>
<td>18 00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Paid V. R. Swift, labor on cistern pipes at Schoolhouse No. 1 $14.34
M. O. Neill, constructing sidewalk on High Street 5.00
Dr. B. T. Crooker, medical aid at lockup 1.00
L. D. Monroe, entertainment at Hyland House 9.50
S. Leonard, expenses putting salmon into Nippenickett Pond 9.41
R. R. Holmes, expenses putting shad into Nippenickett Pond 23.85
H. Kingman, costs in the case against Town of Plymouth 23.65
A. Keith, altering fence at Schoolhouse No. 1 4.98
F. C. Foss, repairs on lockup 10.37
J. H. Fairbanks, repairs for lockup 80
P. A. Wales & Sons, two log pumps 61.00
A. Harriman, labor and lumber for troughs for two wells 21.73
A. Berry, cleaning out wells, and masonry, A. Keith, ventilating town-house, by vote of the town 17.07 39.63
A. Keith, altering outside doors to town-house, to swing both ways 35.14
A. Hooper, painting ventilators in town-house 5.42
H. H. White, building and moving privy for the Benson place, owned by the town 11.00
S. Leonard, labor and materials putting up railing on East Street 17.40
L. Holmes, postage, box-rent, and stationery 4.16
L. Holmes, distributing Town Reports for 1876 2.00
Paid G. Conant, putting gravel around town pump $2.00
G. Conant, cleaning out culvert on Spring Street 75
H. T. Pratt, printing posters, tax-bills, and warrants for 1876 15.75
Harwood’s Express 2.60
J. B. Rogers, stove and fixtures for lock-up 9.65
Town-house committee, lighting town-house and paying janitor for Good Samaritan meetings 50.67
A. Washburn, care and repairs on and around town pump 3.50
Commonwealth Massachusetts, board of E. W. Barstow at State Workhouse 22.75
S. P. Pope, removing snow, 1876 1.00
F. D. King, care of lock-up 40.00
" crackers and cheese for lock-up, 24.15
" fuel, oil, and lamp-chimneys for lock-up 2.33
J. E. Crane, crackers and cheese for lock-up 5.87
J. H. Fairbanks, lamp for lock-up 1.15
S. Keith, 2d, fuel for lock-up 9.73
I. S. Wilbar, care of lock-up 6.00
" damage to carriage on Main Street 10.00

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TOWN OFFICERS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Van R. Swift, Selectman</td>
<td>$123.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assessor</td>
<td>86.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overseer of the Poor</td>
<td>25.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cash expenses</td>
<td>17.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>use of horse and carriage</td>
<td>11.75</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

$949.47
Spencer Leonard, Selectman ........................................ $86 25
Assessor ........................................................................ 76 25
Overseer of the Poor ...................................................... 18 75
cash expenses .............................................................. 9 36
use of horse and carriage ............................................. 16 75
I. Sanford Wilbar, Selectman ...................................... 47 50
Assessor ....................................................................... 21 25
Overseer of the Poor .................................................... 3 75
use of horse and carriage ............................................ 13 25
Isaac Dunham, School Committee .............................. 7 25
Philander D. Leonard, “ “ .......................................... 62 58
George H. Hosmer, “ “ ................................................. 114 35
Calvin Pratt, “ “ ............................................................ 144 35
Van R. Swift, Treasurer ............................................. 50 00
Van R. Swift, Collector ............................................... 125 00
I. Sanford Wilbar, Constable ....................................... 14 00
Francis D. King, Constable ........................................ 50 00
Lloyd Parsons, Auditor ............................................. 2 50
Joshua E. Crane, “ ...................................................... 8 75
Sumner Keith, 2d, “ .................................................. 3 75

STATE AID

Furnished to Soldiers and Families of Soldiers from March 1, 1877 to March 1, 1878.

Amos L. Dorr .............................................................. $72 00
John Elliot ................................................................. 72 00
George W. Ellis .......................................................... 120 00
Cornelius Splane ....................................................... 72 07
Lewis L. Simpson ...................................................... 5 00
John Frawley ............................................................. 48 00
Mrs. Eunice H. Wood ............................................... 48 00
Mrs. Paulina R. Benson .......................................... 48 00
Mrs. Mary A. Price ................................................... 48 00
Mrs. Sarah Simpson .................................................. 48 00
Mrs. Josephine F. Wyman . . . . . . $48 00
Mrs. Christiana Benson . . . . . . 48 00
Mrs. Betsey Perkins . . . . . . 20 00

$718 67

ALMSHOUSE ACCOUNT.

Dr.
Inventory of personal property, March 1, 1877, $1,080.29
Cash on hand, March 1, 1877 . . . . . . 47 95
Due from sundry persons, March 1, 1877 . 56 04
Cash drawn from town treasury . . . . . . 300 00
Superintendent's salary . . . . . . 325 00
Interest on farm . . . . . . 150 00
Interest on stock and furniture . . . . . . 40 00

$1,999.28

Cr.
Inventory of personal property, March 1, 1878, $1,159.76
Cash on hand, March 1, 1878 . . . . . . 26 18
Due from sundry persons, March 1, 1878 . 53 24

$1,239.18

Cost of supporting the poor at the house . . . . . . $760 10

Whole number of paupers during the year, 20.
Average number for the year, 10.5.
Present number at the house, 15.
Average cost per week for support, $1.42.

PAUPER EXPENSES OUT OF THE HOUSE.

Board of Mrs. H. W. Washburn (Lunatic Hospital) . . . . . . $200.96
Dr. of Miss H. L. Alden (Lunatic Hospital), 29.00
Dr. of Patrick O'Brien (Lunatic Hospital), 48.55
Dr. of Miss Perkins, 75.00

$283.51
Hooper & Clark, supplies for Mr. C. Perkins $10.00
Dr. S. Alden, medical aid for W. Y. Tuttle 28.75
W. Prophett, coffin and services for W. Y. Tuttle 17.00
Dr. C. Pratt, medical aid for J. Fobes 4.00
W. Prophett, coffin and services for J. Fobes 17.00
Supplies and fuel for Mrs. Mary A. Price 81.78
Medical aid for Mrs. Mary A. Price and family 19.25
Supplies and fuel for Leander Fobes and family 95.92
  "  "  Samuel Pierce and family 60.75
  "  "  Beza Hayward and family 88.43
  "  "  Mrs. Charity Washburn and family 41.45
  "  "  Misses D. and V. Fuller 51.45
  "  "  A. S. Gove's family 137.06
Mrs. Horace Wentworth, board of Mrs. Seth Conant 33.00
Medical aid for Miss Deborah Fuller 16.50
Town of Plymouth, medical aid for S. Mehuren's family 12.00
Burial of Mrs. Mary Bates 29.39
Supplies and fuel for John Desmond and family 59.95
  "  "  Wm. McFarlane and family 62.00
  "  "  Cornelius Splane and family 5.00
Town of Stoughton, supplies for Mrs. C. Robinson 45.87

$1,270.06

RECAPITULATION OF EXPENDITURES.

Paid State tax $2,147.78
County tax 27.92
Schooling from March 1, 1877, to March 31, 1878 3,590.52
Repairing roads and bridges
Working Main Street ................ $250.00
Working Mt. Prospect Street, building fence, and land damages ............. 241.67
Town officers ........................ 1,134.55
Miscellaneous expenses ............... 949.47
Support of poor at almshouse ......... 760.10
Support of poor out of almshouse .... 1,270.06
Snow bills .......................... 315.77
State aid ................................ 718.67

$23,658.79

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

Dr.
Cash in treasury March 1, 1877 ................ $11.05
Received of Van R. Swift, Collector, taxes, 1874 ................ 2.48
of Van R. Swift, Collector, taxes, 1875 ................ 68.00
of Van R. Swift, Collector, taxes, 1876 ................ 581.00
of Van R. Swift, Collector, taxes, 1877 ................ 19,060.00
of Van R. Swift, Collector, fire district tax, 1876 ................ 24.00
Sundry persons, borrowed money ............ 7,850.00
State Treasurer, corporation tax, 1877, ................ 1,257.95
State Treasurer, bank tax, 1877 ................ 3,317.59
State Treasurer, State aid, 1876 ................ 794.54
State Treasurer, Massachusetts School Fund, 1877 ................ 231.26
County Treasurer, dog dividend, 1877 .......... 340.55
Interest on Dyer School Fund ............... 100.00
Interest on Edson School Fund ............... 16.71
Received of J. L. Bassett, guardian for S. H. Leach . . . . . . . . $134 61
Town of Plymouth, support and burial of Mrs. Mary Bates . . . 156 76
Miss Hattie M. Wilbar, money refunded . . . . . . . . 10 00
Estate of Patrick Frawley, note and interest . . . . . . . . 19 38
School Committee, for settle sold . . . 1 00
Sumner Keith, 2d, for old timber . . . 1 00
For peddler's license . . . . . . . . 10 00
Overseers of the Poor of Boston . . . 5 00
Interest on money and taxes . . . . . 43 10
South Abington, board of Eva Harding . . . . . . . . 37 14
Town of Middleboro', for schooling . . . 9 50

$34,032 62

By paid

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>State tax</td>
<td>$2,145 00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>County tax</td>
<td>2,831 06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sundry persons borrowed money</td>
<td>9,600 00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest on borrowed money</td>
<td>171 49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Treasurer, Bank tax drawn</td>
<td>81 20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Treasurer, Corporation tax</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous orders</td>
<td>3,298 33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School orders</td>
<td>9,451 92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Highway orders</td>
<td>3,900 08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Almshouse orders</td>
<td>1,786 46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire district, orders</td>
<td>26 96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash in the treasury, March 1, 1878</td>
<td>739 81</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

$34,032 62
We also find the town owes the following sums:

**Fire district, money not drawn from town treasury**

- **Unsettled accounts**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fire district, money not drawn from town treasury</td>
<td>$621.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unsettled accounts</td>
<td>400.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ASSETS.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash on hand, March 1, 1878</td>
<td>$739.81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uncollected taxes, 1874</td>
<td>4.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot; 1875</td>
<td>73.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot; 1876</td>
<td>224.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot; 1877</td>
<td>1,106.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State aid, furnished 1877</td>
<td>741.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State aid, from Jan. 1, 1878, to March 1, 1878</td>
<td>116.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commonwealth, for State paupers</td>
<td>56.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Balance in favor of the town, March 1, 1878**

- **2,040.67**

All of which is respectfully submitted.

VAN R. SWIFT,  
SPENCER LEONARD,  
I. SANFORD WILBAR,  

Selectmen of Bridgewater.

Bridgewater, March 1, 1878.
**ASSESSORS' DEPARTMENT.**

Amount of real estate assessed, May 1, 1877, $1,540,134 00  
Amount of personal estate assessed, May 1, 1877 486,174 00  
Total 4,026,308 00  
Gain on real estate from last year $14,194 00  
Gain on personal estate from last year 8,682 00  
Total gain over 1876 $22,886 00  

Rates of per cent for State County, and Town taxes, $9.80 on one thousand dollars. Poll-tax, $2.00. Number of polls, 961. Number of dwelling-houses, 649½. Number of horses, 416. Number of cows, 410. Number of sheep, 96. Number of acres of land taxed, 15,849½. There has been a gain on all the above personal property, except sheep, as follows: Polls gained, 5; dwelling-houses, 11; horses, 9; cows, 11. Sheep, 34 less.

Town grant (combined) $16,000 00  
State tax 2,145 00  
County tax 2,831 06  
Overlayings 805 20  
Total amount assessed and committed, $21,781 26  

All of which is respectfully submitted.

VAN R. SWIFT,  
SPENCER LEONARD,  
I. SANFORD WILBAR,  

Bridgewater, March 1, 1878.
COLLECTOR IN ACCOUNT WITH THE TREASURER.

Dr.

1877, To commitment of town tax . . . $16,000 00
   " State tax . . . 2,145 00
   " county tax . . . 2,831 06
   " overlaying . . . 805 20

$21,781 26

Cr.

1877, By cash of Collector . . . $19,060 00
   " discount on taxes . . . 1,543 52
   " abatement on taxes . . . 70 84

$20,674 36

Uncollected . . . . . . $1,106 90

VAN R. SWIFT, Treasurer.
DOGS, 1877.

Number of Dogs returned by the Assessors, 175
- Males . . . 63
- Females . . . 12

Dogs licensed by Town Clerk . 188
- Males . . . 172
- Females . . . 16

172 Males at $2.00 . . . . . $344 00
16 Females at $5.00 . . . . . 80 00

Less fees . . . . . 37 60

--- $386 40

Paid County Treasurer Dec. . . . . . $386 40

HENRY T. PRATT, Town Clerk.
LIST OF JURORS FOR 1878.

The following names will be reported at the annual March meeting, to be placed in the jury-box, subject to revision by the Town:—

Thomas H. Benson.
Stillman O. Keith.
James Richmond.
Horatio B. King.
I. Sanford Wilbar.
Spencer Leonard.
M. Lloyd Andrews.
Samuel W. Bates.
John A. Dumphre.
Sidney Keith.
Lewis G. Lowe.
Edward A. Hewett.
George H. Burtt.
Stillman Alger.
Luther Ames.
Moses K. Andrews.
A. Waldo Bassett.
Columbus Harlow.
Francis Carver.
Henry F. Braman.
Zeno Benson.
Dexter M. Sturtevant.

Hiram H. White.
Virgil V. Conant.
Thomas W. Crocker.
Charles T. Hall.
Alfred Keith.
Philo W. Keith.
E. Austin Pratt.
Robert E. Smith.
Daniel D. Sweet.
Florentius E. Wilbar.
Alfred Hall.
William P. Cutter.
Benjamin Keith, jun.
Nahum Pope.
Joshua E. Crane.
Stephen H. Wing.
Ariston M. Hayward.
John M. Stetson.
Samuel S. Keith.
John Holmes.
Henry A. Keith.
Nathaniel T. Cushman.
REPORT OF TOWN-HOUSE COMMITTEE.

Dr.

1877. Cash on hand $11 03
Feb. 22, 23, Dramatics 20 00
Mar. 15, 16, Methodist Fair 12 00
10, Young Men’s Reform Club 5 00
17, Dramatics 22 00
23, 24, Dramatics 20 00
30, Unitarian Society 17 00
April 12, Dramatics 18 00
26, 27, Dramatics 30 00
May 4, Comical Brown 10 00
26, Calendar Minstrels 10 00
June 21, Good Samaritan 5 00
July 23, Comedy Company 10 00
Sept. 19, 20, Dance 47 50
12, Prof. Cadwell 6 00
Oct. 16, Dance 12 00
19, Ruckley 8 00
26, Dance 12 00
26, Democratic Convention 3 00
Nov. 3, 5, G. M. R. Club 13 00
13, Dance 12 00
12-15, Auction 16 00
15, Dramatics 8 00
16, Lecture 7 00
23, Lecture 7 00
29, 30, Dramatics 25 00
Dec. 7, Lecture 7 00
Dec. 14, Lecture $7 00
18, Prof. Harrington 8 00
21, Lecture 7 00
25, Unitarian Society 12 00
28, Lecture 7 00
1878.
Jan. 3, Lecture 7 00
11, Lecture 7 00
16, Dance 13 00
18, Lecture 7 00
Feb. 9, Uncle Tom 10 00
Received of Van R. Swift, for use of Hall by Good Samaritan Club 50 67
Feb. 13, Dance 13 00

Dr. $522 20
Cr. 489 18

Balance due town $33 00
Bill outstanding. Globe Gas Light Company, $5.00.

Cr.

LIGHTING HOUSE.
Sumner Keith, 2d, gasoline, and labor $78 05
Tapers 1 00

$79 05

HEATING.
Sumner Keith, 2d, coal 17 75

STREET LIGHTS.
Robert Sanders, lighting, and labor $27 50
Globe Gas Light Company, gasoline 22 60
Express on gasoline 3 00

53 10

COMMON.
Mowing, and other labor 18 40
### CARE OF HOUSE.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sumner Keith</td>
<td>Janitor</td>
<td>$110.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert Sanders</td>
<td>Washing</td>
<td>30.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>$141.80</strong></td>
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### SUNDRIES.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Soap, and wash-cloths</td>
<td>$2.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Team</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Express</td>
<td>3.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Police</td>
<td>5.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J. H. Fairbanks</td>
<td>25.72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blinds for upper hall</td>
<td>105.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Piping stage for foot-lights</td>
<td>16.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Repairing lantern</td>
<td>1.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hooper &amp; Clark</td>
<td>1.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bill-boards</td>
<td>9.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A. Hooper, glazing &amp;c.</td>
<td>4.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Repairing gutters</td>
<td>2.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>179.08</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Total:** $489.18

---

HENRY T. PRATT,  
P. W. KEITH,  
ISAAC DAMON,  

*Bridgewater, Feb. 14, 1878.*
MARRIAGES RECORDED IN BRIDGEWATER IN THE YEAR 1877.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>RESIDENCE</th>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>RESIDENCE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>John H. Bowker</td>
<td>Bridgewater</td>
<td>Ruth W. Cluney</td>
<td>Middleboro'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Janine Ellis</td>
<td>Bridgewater</td>
<td>Georgie A. Haskell</td>
<td>Bridgewater.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Albert H. Hooker</td>
<td>Bridgewater</td>
<td>Mary Coll</td>
<td>Bridgewater.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>John Murphy</td>
<td>Bridgewater</td>
<td>Mary M. Chandler</td>
<td>Bridgewater.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>William D. Cook</td>
<td>South Abington</td>
<td>Cora S. Standish</td>
<td>Bridgewater.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>William Boucher</td>
<td>Middleboro'</td>
<td>Hannah Cronen</td>
<td>Bridgewater.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Nathaniel S. Keay</td>
<td>Dedham</td>
<td>Nancy J. Lyon</td>
<td>Middleboro'.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>John Crowley</td>
<td>Dedham</td>
<td>Mary McFarris</td>
<td>Middleboro'.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Nathaniel S. Keay</td>
<td>Weymouth</td>
<td>Elizabeth Barrett</td>
<td>East Bridgewater.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Nathaniel S. Keay</td>
<td>East Bridgewater</td>
<td>Margaret A. Dorey</td>
<td>East Bridgewater.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Nathaniel S. Keay</td>
<td>Marion</td>
<td>Abby H. Berry</td>
<td>Bridgewater.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Nathaniel S. Keay</td>
<td>Bridgewater</td>
<td>Ellen E. Crowley</td>
<td>Bridgewater.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Nathaniel S. Keay</td>
<td>Bridgewater</td>
<td>Ellen Lincoln Hale</td>
<td>Bridgewater.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Nathaniel S. Keay</td>
<td>Bridgewater</td>
<td>Mary Ann Winn</td>
<td>East Bridgewater.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Nathaniel S. Keay</td>
<td>Bridgewater</td>
<td>Eliza Williams</td>
<td>Bridgewater.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Nathaniel S. Keay</td>
<td>Rockland</td>
<td>Alice Campbell</td>
<td>East Bridgewater.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Nathaniel S. Keay</td>
<td>East Bridgewater</td>
<td>Kate Canfield</td>
<td>E.Somerville,Mass.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Nathaniel S. Keay</td>
<td>East Bridgewater</td>
<td>Kate Canfield</td>
<td>E.Somerville,Mass.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Number of certificates of intention of marriage issued in 1877, nineteen.

HENRY T. PRATT, Town Clerk.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Cause</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 2</td>
<td>Sarah Elizabeth Robinson</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>Consumption</td>
<td>Jacob H. and Reliance E.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Maria C. Tuttle</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>Consumption</td>
<td>Ira and Sarah Jane Buel.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Obediah Morse</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>Disease of Liver</td>
<td>Assa and Susannah.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sarah Shaw Keith</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>Consumption</td>
<td>Azil and Lucretia Perkins.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 27</td>
<td>Mary Murphy</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>Disease of Liver</td>
<td>Patrick and Ellen.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>James Keardon</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>Consumption</td>
<td>Unknown.</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 19</td>
<td>Octavia W. Howard</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>Typhoid Pneumonia</td>
<td>William and Sallo J. Webb.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>W昻ton Fitch</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>Scarlet Fever</td>
<td>Hobart W. and Myra C.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Emma Charlotte Chandler</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>Nathaniel and Mary E.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Henry P. Fobes</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>Old Age</td>
<td>Unknown.</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 11</td>
<td>Sarah W. Robbina</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>Heart Disease</td>
<td>Seth and Susanna Mitchell.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>James Reardon</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>Consumption</td>
<td>Barnum and Mary.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Octavia W. Howard</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>Consumption</td>
<td>Michael and Grace.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>W昻ton Fitch</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>Thomas and Mary Ann.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Emma Charlotte Chandler</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>Isaac and Susan Collier.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Henry P. Fobes</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>Old Age</td>
<td>James and Mary.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Edwin Williams Barstow</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>Heart Disease</td>
<td>Robert and Abiah.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bridget Elizabeth Sheehan</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Tumor</td>
<td>Elijah and Lucy E.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nellie Murphy</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Inflammatory Rheumatism</td>
<td>Susan and Kate.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jabez Withrell</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Typhoid Pneumonia</td>
<td>Timothy and Kate.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Oliver C. Wilhar</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>Water on Chest</td>
<td>Jabez and Lucy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Simocon Perkins</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>Heart Disease</td>
<td>Ebenezer and Mary.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Peleg Leach</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>Consumption</td>
<td>Peleg and Sallie S.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Peleg Leach</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>Consumption</td>
<td>George and Lydia.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>John Ward</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>Consumption</td>
<td>Abel and Sallie W.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>John Ward</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>Consumption</td>
<td>Joseph B. and Mary.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>John Ward</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>Consumption</td>
<td>Unknown.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>John Ward</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>Artemas and Deborah.</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>John Ward</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>Softening of Brain</td>
<td>Simon and Kate.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>John Ward</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>Heart Disease</td>
<td>Ansell and Hannah Barrows.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>John Ward</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>Consumption</td>
<td>Jonathan and Jennie.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>John Ward</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>Killed by Railroad Accident</td>
<td>Charles and Hannah Holmes.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>John Ward</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>Killed by Railroad Accident</td>
<td>James and Catherine.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Month</td>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Age</td>
<td>Cause</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug. 5</td>
<td>Rebeccas Witherell Bruman</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>Cancer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug. 15</td>
<td>Terrance Lynch</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Sept. 3</td>
<td>Cynthia Hayward</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>Paralysis</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Sept. 6</td>
<td>Luther Fernald Barney</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>Heart Disease</td>
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<td>Sept. 16</td>
<td>Harriet S. C. Wright</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>Consumption</td>
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<td>Sept. 17</td>
<td>Sylvia Williams</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>Heart Disease</td>
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<td>Sept. 20</td>
<td>Aubrey Benson</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>Diphtheria</td>
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<td>Sept. 22</td>
<td>Colista Sloan</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>Dropsey</td>
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<td>Sept. 23</td>
<td>Lucinda Pratt</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>Paralysis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 25</td>
<td>Joseph Ames Hyde</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 27</td>
<td>John Thomas Keith</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>Consumption</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Oct. 22</td>
<td>George B. O'Connor</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>Consumption</td>
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<td>Nov. 1</td>
<td>David Hall, jun.</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>Paralysis</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Nov. 3</td>
<td>Jonathan Cushing</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>Consumption</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 13</td>
<td>William Young Tuttle</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>Consumption Bowels</td>
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<td>Nov. 24</td>
<td>Anna H. Kingman</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>Consumption</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 29</td>
<td>Elizabeth Kirmeyer</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>Consumption</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 20</td>
<td>Ellen Amelia Barry</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>Congestion of Lungs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 29</td>
<td>Aaron Perkins</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>Heart Disease</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 25</td>
<td>Abigail Robbins</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>Old Age</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Number of deaths, 57.
Number of births registered in Bridgewater in the year 1877: — of American parentage, 36; foreign parentage, 33. Total, 69.

HENRY T. PRATT, Town Clerk.
TOWN WARRANT.

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, March the eleventh inst., at ten 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 of 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 hear and act upon the report of any committee raised by the Town.
8. To choose all necessary Town Officers for the year ensuing.
9. 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.

10. 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.

11. To see if the Town will accept the list of Jurors reported by the Selectmen.

12. To see if the Town will authorize the Treasurer to borrow money in anticipation of the taxes of the current year.

13. To see if the Town will take any action to enlarge, alter, and improve the Town House and make an appropriation for the same.

14. To see if the Town will appropriate any money for Decoration Day. (By request.)

15. To see if the Town will accept of the property of the Fire District of the Town of Bridgewater, upon the consideration that the Town maintain a Fire Department.

16. To see upon what condition the Town will accept, of the Fire District, a piece of their land in the rear of the Town House.

17. To see if the Town will authorize the Treasurer to borrow money in anticipation of the taxes of the current year.

18. To see what action the Town will take to determine the place to take alewives in Town, and make any other regulations concerning the taking of said fish.

19. To see if the Town will take any measures to pay the land damage on Central Square and South Street.

20. To see what the Town will do for Washington L. Ames, in regard to moving his house. (By request.)

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 first day of March, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventy-eight.

VAN R. SWIFT, SPENCER LEONARD, I. SANFORD WILBAR, Selectmen of the Town of Bridgewater.
ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

OF THE

TOWN OF BRIDGEWATER

FOR 1877.

BOSTON:
FRANKLIN PRESS: RAND, AVERY, & CO.,
117 FRANKLIN STREET.
1878.
As another school-year draws towards its close, we are reminded of our obligation to present an Annual Report of the condition of the Public Schools in Bridgewater, together with such suggestions as we think may help promote the welfare of the same.

Although the past year has been one in which many of the schools have given evidence of a steady and healthy progress, still a few have not fulfilled the expectations of your Committee. Many of our teachers have had considerable experience in their profession; and to that fact we attribute a good share of the success with which we have been favored, and to inexperience and lack of adaptation the failures that have occurred.

Those who have the capacity and aptness to impart instruction, and at the same time use proper disciplinary means, so that all will move harmoniously, are our successful teachers. It would be remarkable, were we so fortunate as to find, in any one year, all our instructors possessing these gifts in a marked degree. We think it has been the desire of the most, if not all of those directly interested, to make our schools better than they ever were before. To what extent they have succeeded, time alone can determine.

To raise the standard of excellence in the schools, and
bring them all up to that standard by the best methods of teaching, should be the aim of those who have the educational interests of the young under their control. Although we have many excellences in our methods of teaching, we can never have such completeness as to silence the inquiry, "How can we improve our present methods, so as to accomplish the greatest amount of good for the greatest number?"

Much has been done, and much remains for us to do, and we shall, if we aim sufficiently high, approach perfection, if we cannot reach it. Our system is not perfect, and never can be; but the foundation is an excellent one. For this we are indebted to our forefathers, who had hardly landed upon the shores of Massachusetts before they began to make provision for the education of the young; at first it was a mere voluntary act on their part, but later it became the subject of legislative enactment, so that the church and schoolhouse were seen to rise side by side, as fast as the current of civilization cleared the way.

Many of the early settlers were men of liberal education, and they showed it by the wisdom which they displayed in foreseeing the necessity of a general diffusion of knowledge; to obtain that result they established the Public School, by means of which they sowed the seeds of prosperity, which were to germinate and form a broad and sure foundation for a great and growing republic.

They founded a system that gives to all, without distinction of color, the privilege of going to the same fountain to slake their thirst; a system that has a tendency to obliterate those social distinctions existing between the poor and rich; a system that will ever stand as a solid foundation for that form of government which is best suited for the highest development of mankind.

Fully acknowledging our great obligation to those who
labored so earnestly and persistently to secure universal education, let us carefully preserve, and, if possible, add to the great inheritance handed down to us, resting assured that the common schools of this land will ever present an abundance of salient points for her protection and defence.

A little more than two and a half centuries ago, not a sign of civilization was visible in this Commonwealth—of which we now so justly feel proud—where we now see nineteen cities and three hundred and twenty-three towns, the most of which are studded with comely school-buildings, positive evidences of the wisdom and willingness of our tax-paying community to provide all necessary means for the education of the rising generation. We are better able to erect these comely school-buildings and furnish them with necessary school appliances, than our forefathers were to build the rude huts in which their children were to receive their common-school education.

It is said by those who have had the means of knowing, that in school-buildings and furniture we excel all other nations, but not in apparatus and appliances.

Our inferiority in this respect cannot be attributed to a lack of text-books, for the country is flooded with them, many of which are little superior to those of more ancient date. Text-books have their legitimate uses, and we could not well get along without them. They are an aid to the pupil, requiring him to do much of his own work, instead of having it done for him. They are a help to teachers, but they must avoid the abuse of them. Before the Revolution, arithmetic as a text-book was not put into the hands of pupils, and sometimes we think it would be better if it were not now if teachers will never venture outside of its covers for arithmetical problems; too much cramming has been done, and too little of what is practical has been taught. We have been glad to notice an improvement in this; teachers and others interested are creating a reform, and, with the help of good school appliances and modern
methods, are giving to us, as they ought, improved teaching and better schools.

As we make progress in mechanical and fine arts by constant and perserving effort, so must we continue to advance in teaching, which forms no exception to that law which governs all human effort.

Our State, by her liberality and systematic efforts for universal education, has gained an envied reputation among her sister States, which are glad not only to copy her methods, but to draw from her many of her best teachers.

This liberality has been kept up, for the last few years, only by a strong effort on the part of the public, which has, and is still, sensibly feeling, the effects of hard times. Extravagance in State and National matters, as well as in public and private affairs, has had a tendency to bring about a stagnation in business and a financial depression, which has left us, as the trade-winds do the sailor, fairly in the "doldrums" waiting for that ripple on the water which foretells the coming of that breeze which is to carry us beyond this "zone of calms."

Every town in the Commonwealth is obliged to provide means for the education of all persons between the ages of five and fifteen; the same power that makes it obligatory for the towns to do this, gives them the right to demand that all of suitable age—unless physically incapacitated or otherwise provided for—shall be in their places where they can receive that instruction which will develop their faculties and help them to become free and useful citizens.

If our children are not apt to learn, we should see that they are punctually and constantly at school, remembering that what they lack in natural ability and quickness to learn, may be made up by close application and regular attendance.

Irregularity of attendance induces habits of neglect.
The scholar that is often tardy or absent, loses what little interest he ever had in his studies, and fails to do the work assigned him. He retards the progress of his class, until he is dropped from it, or leaves school because he cannot be promoted with his classmates, who have been not only more punctual and regular in their attendance, but more devoted to school duties. The parents of such a child are usually the ones to complain that their child learns little or nothing under the instruction of his teacher. The loss of a day is a serious loss to any pupil; each hour has its allotted task, and it is difficult enough for the pupil to do what is expected of him when he is present at every recitation.

The best scholars are those who are regular and punctual in their attendance; we shall ever find it so. Attendance has very properly been termed the thermometer, which shows the degree of excellence attained in school-work. Could these truths be more fully impressed upon the minds of some pupils and parents, together with the fact that there must necessarily be much hard labor performed, both on the part of the pupil as well as teacher, we should see our schools holding a higher rank than they do at the present time.

Some scholars are so adverse to study that they will do as little as possible; the parents of such must not expect that their children will find every thing "perfectly lovely;" for the conscientious teacher will expect and require that such shall do a reasonable amount of school-work.

Society has so changed, that what was formerly considered as a sufficient education for the practical purposes of life, will hardly suffice in these days. The time has been when relations were so simple that a person who could read and write and understand a little of arithmetic was educated beyond immediate necessities.

Before the country towns were brought so near the cities, to each other, and each to all, by our facilities for
seeing and knowing, individuals lived more isolated and with less complex relations.

Now the demands upon each individual are different. The construction of seventy-five thousand miles of railroad, with its accompanying telegraphic wires, and the invention of labor-saving machines,—by means of which one man can do an amount of work which formerly required several,—has wrought, and must continue to work, a decided change, not only in our relations to each other, but our character and occupations. These new demands can be met, in part, by our taking a more lively interest in the cause of education.

At the annual meeting, in March, the town, by vote, reduced the appropriation for common schools five hundred dollars. The yearly cost for the schooling of each scholar in them is about ten dollars, and in the High School upward of thirty.

Were it necessary to make any deduction in the appropriations, it is questionable whether it should be made in the amount appropriated to those schools in which nine-tenths of our children receive all the school education they will ever obtain.

No one can properly judge of the "wear and tear" of a teacher's life, who has had little or no experience in teaching. That there is a great difference in teachers, as regards the ease and facility with which they accomplish their school-tasks, we do not deny; probably there is as much difference in the amount of work accomplished, as between mechanics of the same trade. A slow teacher will have a slow school; a very still school may be a busy one; the necessary hum of pupils, where all are busy and interested, is not to be regretted; but the deadness of a school in which there is little life, and as little study, is to be deplored. It is surprising to see what a change has taken place in a few of the schools during the last twenty years; the elements of which they are composed are so totally
changed, that, where we then found our most promising ones, we now find the most unpromising. We do not attribute the fault to lack of good teaching.

**HIGH SCHOOL.**

The number of applicants for admission to the High School during the past year was about forty. As the test of the qualifications was made more difficult than at previous examinations, but a small number gained admission. Two examinations were held; the first in July, and the second in August.

The following named scholars were admitted:

- **School No. 1.** — Annie Crane, Rachel Crocker, Mary Morrill, Lulu Rogers.
- **School No. 3.** — Hannah Brennan.
- **School No. 4.** — Carrie Mitchell.
- **School No. 5.** — Ellen Benson.
- **School No. 7.** — Bertha Mason.
- **School No. 9.** — W. Herman Waterman, George Witherell, William R. Williams, Alice Frances Barney.
- **School No. 13.** — Mary Neville.
- **School No. 14.** — Daniel Kelliher.

Hyde Alden, from School No. 1, and Henry Strann, from School No. 9, passed examination; but were rejected on account of age.

- Girls examined, 21. Average age, 14½.
- Girls admitted, 10. Average age, 14½.
- Boys examined, 20. Average age, 14½.
- Boys admitted, 4. Average age, 15½.

The following graduated at the close of the spring term:

- MARY COPELAND.  
- CAROLINE M. JEWETT.  
- CAROLINE B. THACHER.  
- ARTHUR C. DYKE.  
- LUCIA S. CARVER.  
- HESTER B. THACHER.  
- ANNIE R. WADSWORTH.  
- HERBERT E. WENTWORTH.  
- GEORGE W. GARDINER.

We cannot ignore the fact that it is desirable, and for
the good of all, that the standard for admittance be raised gradually from year to year, as it has been, until little or no time shall be spent in the High School on those branches which are usually taught in our grammar schools. Let us not sap the life from these by the premature withdrawal of such as give some character to them, but make little or no addition to the High School.

This school, under the wise and judicious management of its principal, has been conducted in such a manner as to give the greatest satisfaction to pupils, parents, and all others who feel an interest in its success. The necessity of his temporary withdrawal was a matter of deep regret, not less to the Committee than to the community. His recovery from ill-health and return to his labors has been anxiously looked forward to, by those who fully appreciate the services of a good teacher.

To follow so popular a teacher and expect to give satisfaction, is a responsibility which many an expert would shrink from undertaking.

The advisability of making some changes in the course of study to accommodate those preferring to pursue the popular sciences rather than the classical studies, seems apparent. It is the desire of the Committee to make the course serve the best interests of the majority and meet the demand of the times.

TEXT-BOOKS.

Thinking that a portion of the community may suppose the changes in the text-books to be more frequent than is actually the case, we will state that there has been no thorough change made for the last six years, excepting in readers. During the present year the Franklin Series of readers were introduced; the change was effected by the pupils giving up their old books — many of which were badly worn — and paying a mere nominal sum.

Personally, we regard change as something to be