

Annual Reports

OF THE

SELECTMEN

AND

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

OF THE

TOWN OF HATFIELD,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING

MARCH 12, 1861.

NORTHAMPTON:
PRINTED BY METCALF & COMPANY.

1861.

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

RECEIVED

RICHARD JOHNS

LIBRARY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

1911

1911

UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO PRESS

SELECTMEN'S REPORT.

TO THE INHABITANTS OF HATFIELD:—

In presenting to you the annual Report of the Receipts and Expenditures of the town for the past year, we are happy to be able to do so with a balance in favor of the town in the Treasury, and, consequently, not having been obliged to avail ourselves of the vote of the town at the meeting in November last, to borrow a sufficient sum of money to meet any deficiencies of the Treasury which it was feared might occur by reason of the unusual number of poor persons that had been thrown upon the town for relief since the last annual meeting and for whom no appropriations had been made.

The system which has so long been adopted by this town, in their corporate capacity, of "paying as they go" and avoiding all debts or obligations for future years or generations to cancel, is one that commends itself to every sound business man as the safest and wisest course to be pursued.

The large amount of snow that has fallen during the past winter has rendered necessary the expenditure of more money than usual at that season of the year, to render the roads safe and convenient; although some of the roads were temporarily obstructed, as must always be the case during a winter of deep and heavy snow, yet our surveyors have ever held themselves in readiness to use all the means at their command for the removal of this and every other impediment of free and unobstructed travel, thereby protecting the town from complaint and prosecution, and the traveller from delays and injury.

The bridges of the town have been under the care of the same Committee for the past two years, who have discharged their duties to the general acceptance.

Israel G. Dickinson has performed his duties as Liquor Agent, with the faithfulness which he has exhibited in that office in former years; he will report the condition of the Agency, at the annual meeting.

We have caused guide boards to be prepared for the most important roads of the town, which will be erected as soon as the ground and weather will permit.

In conformity to the vote of the town at the last annual meeting, we have procured an insurance upon the town hall, in the Farmers & Merchants Mutual Insurance Company of Worcester, for five years from the first day of May last, for fifteen hundred dollars.

The town are now supporting, wholly or in part, seven individuals whose legal settlement is in this town: these are Sarah Green, Calvin Morton, Theodore Wells, Asa Wells, Anna Dickinson, Sophronia Vining and Oliver Bardwell. There is also a person, by the name of Lydia Potter, who resides in Boston, for whom we are obliged to pay about ten or twelve dollars per year, to provide her with fuel. Besides these, the family of James Billings, whose legal settlement is in Shrewsbury, have been relieved, and are now at no farther expense to this town. Bathsheba Shumway, whose legal settlement is in Belchertown, is now supported by this town: the Overseers of the Poor of Belchertown having been legally notified, have agreed to assume the expense of her support.

Phileta P. Partridge, in June last, made application to us for relief, being sick and nearly helpless; this individual is a native of the State of Vermont, as is also her father; the town, at the last November meeting, instructed us to make an investigation to ascertain whether she had a legal settlement in any town of this Commonwealth; in pursuance of these instructions, we have searched the records of Worcester county, and found that Jasper Partridge, the great grandfather of Phileta P., was a native of Medway, Mass., born in the year 1732, and that his father's name was Jonathan; that in 1758, Jonathan Partridge, then an inhabitant of Rutland District, now called Barre, conveyed a tract of land containing 52 acres and 88 rods, to Jasper Partridge, who is also described as of Rutland District. In 1762, Jasper Partridge conveyed a tract of land containing 52 acres, (supposed to be the same he received from his father,) to one Robert Patrick of Rutland; also another tract, described as lying across Ware river, of 6 acres; in the deed of conveyance to Patrick,

a dwelling house is mentioned as standing on the 52 acres. From these facts, it would seem that there could be no mistake, but that the legal settlement of Phileta P. Partridge is in the town of Barre; the early records of Rutland District having been burnt, we are unable to prove any thing from that source: the facts hereinstated have been placed before the Overseers of the Poor of Barre, who requested time to examine the facts in the case, and then they would inform us of their determination; this pauper is the most expensive of any now supported by the town, her board alone costing two dollars and fifty cents per week. We suppose there are other facts that can be ascertained in reference to the case, if it should be thought advisable by the town to enforce by law their claim for remuneration for the expense incurred for her support against the town of her settlement; but we thought it not best to be at any more expense in the search for evidence until the determination of the town of Barre was known.

A second complaint was entered by us, as Selectmen, to the Grand Jury of the county, at their session last June, against James Morton, for enclosing certain portions of highways near the mills of Harvey Moore: a bill of indictment was found against him, for fencing up a portion of the Deerfield road adjoining the north abutment of the mill bridge. The case was continued to the December term of the Superior Court: at that time, the District Attorney desired to have the trial of the indictment delayed, in order that he might obtain the decision of the Supreme Court in the case of James Morton against Harvey Moore, in which it is alleged by the counsel for the Defendant, that it has been decided that Morton's fence for which he was indicted, is the bound of the highway. The case now stands continued to the criminal term of the Superior Court for next June. In order to ascertain as nearly as possible the true boundary of the highway at the point in controversy, we have procured from two competent surveyors a survey of the road beginning at the terminus of the Deerfield road near the dwelling house of the late John Hubbard, and running northerly to a point near the house of Lewis Covill. From this survey, it scarcely

admits of a doubt, that the individual complained of, has enclosed a portion of the highway which, so far as the town is concerned, is of considerable value for the purpose of building and repairing the mill bridge, which is the most expensive structure of the kind in the town. For any agricultural purpose whatever, this small piece of land is but of nominal value—we think that the interests of the town imperatively demand that their rights to the locality in question should be rigidly enforced, for if the claim of the defendant, as we understand it, is admitted, then it is only at great inconvenience and difficulty, that access can be had to and from the foundations of this bridge, without trespassing upon his land; and although it has been suggested by some persons that James Morton is willing to give the town a right to pass over this land for the purpose above mentioned, yet we apprehend that the town will never consent to part with a right which is as old as the road itself, and which no adjoining owner before the present one ever presumed to question, and accept in its stead a simple permit to pass over this piece of ground, which may be at any time abrogated or made the foundation of future controversy and litigation.

We have paid all the bills against the town now due, that have come to our knowledge. The school in district No. 5 not having closed, the money due that district has not been drawn from the treasury. There will also be due in the month of April, about one hundred dollars for the support of the poor; besides these, there will also be bills for printing, and for guide boards; and also the Selectmen's bills for services, which will be presented to the annual meeting. The bill against the town of Belchertown for the support of Bathsheba Shumway, will probably be paid soon after the first of April. The claim of the town against the town of Barre now amounts to nearly one hundred and twenty dollars, which we hope will be paid without litigation.

GEO. W. HUBBARD, } *Selectmen*
 JAMES SCOTT, } *of*
 ELISHA HUBBARD, } *Hatfield.*

HATFIELD, March 12, 1861.

RECEIPTS.

Balance in the Treasury March 12, 1860,	\$357 21
Amount of taxes assessed,	3971 69
Received from State School Fund,	49 82
" for rent of Town Hall,	29 00
" " Dog licenses,	7 00
" " grass in cemetery,	4 00
" " sale of lots in cemetery,	3 00
" from Overseers of the Poor of Greenfield,	10 00
" " " " " " Shrewsbury,	10 00
C. D. Bartlett's order, included accidentally in last Report,	14 00
	<hr/>
Amount,	\$4455 72

EXPENDITURES.

OLD BILLS.

Paid amount of old bills for 1859, not included in last Report,	9 60
" Daniel A Vining, overwork on highways,	4 58
" Metcalf & Co., for printing,	20 00
" J. Lewis, for services as teacher in District No. 1,	35 00
" J. S. Graves, for boarding teacher,	14 00
	<hr/>
	\$83 18

SCHOOLS.

Paid H. L. Russell, for services as teacher in Dist. No. 1,			\$70 00
“ J. Lewis,	do.	“ 1,	96 00
“ A. F. Cook,	do.	“ 2,	75 00
“ Mary E. Lyon,	do.	“ 2,	75 00
“ J. A. Leach,	do.	“ 2,	91 50
“ Mary F. Pomeroy,	do.	“ 3,	50 80
“ A. S. Hardy,	do.	“ 3,	60 53
“ Laura E. Bartlett,	do.	“ 3,	36 00
“ A. A. Crafts,	do.	“ 4,	18 18
“ L. H. Whitman,	do.	“ 4,	33 00
“ Helen M. Shepard,	do.	“ 5,	63 00
“ Jona. S. Graves, for boarding school teacher,			81 00
“ Temperance Morton,	“	“	53 25
“ Moses C. Porter,	“	“	90 00
“ Sam'l D. Bartlett,	“	“	56 00
“ Foster C. Anderson,	“	“	39 75
“ Henry Dwight,	“	“	47 25
“ L. G. Curtis, for wood and cash paid for Dist. No. 1,			19 31
“ Moses C. Porter, for	“	“	2, 22 11
“ C. M. Billings,	“	“	2, 7 66
“ Sam'l D. Bartlett,	“	“	3, 19 50
“ Foster C. Anderson,	“	“	4, 1 46
“ Caleb Dickinson,	“	“	2, 3 97
			\$1110 27

POOR.

Paid Horace Wait, for keeping Sarah Green,			\$ 137 66
“ H. Anderson,	“	Calvin Morton,	22 50
“ H. Anderson,	“	Anna Dickinson,	37 50
“ F. C. Anderson,	“	Theo. Wells,	19 00
“ O. S. Vining,	“	Sophonria Vining,	31 50
“ P. Chapin,	“	Asa Wells,	20 00

Paid Rodolphus Graves, for keeping Phileta P. Partridge,	80	00
“ Silas Bardwell, “ Oliver Bardwell,	75	00
“ O. Marsh, “ transient paupers,	4	75
“ James Morton, “ James Billings and family,	15	00
“ Helen Shumway, for nursing B. Shumway,	7	50
“ Roswell Hubbard, “ wood furnished B. Shumway,	9	00
“ D. F. Wells, “ merchandise “ “	16	65
“ H. P. & W. D. Billings, for boots furnished W. Wells,	3	00
“ Overseers of the Poor of Greenfield, funeral expenses of Lewis Harris,	12	17
“ Dr. D. Thompson, medical advice for P. P. Partridge,	5	00
“ Dr. C. N. Chamberlain, “ “ “	21	75
“ Dr. S. A. Fiske, “ “ B. Shumway,	2	00
		<u>\$519 98</u>

CONTINGENCIES.

Paid Harvey Kirkland, for Insurance on Hall,	\$38	50
“ Densmore & Field, “ repairing Hall,	1	75
“ J. T. & G. C. Fitch, “ plank,	75	00
“ Geo. Wait, for services as Assessor,	54	13
“ Leander Cooley, “ “	57	30
“ John T. Fitch, “ “	54	50
“ J. T. Tower, for labor on Hall,	42	93
“ Edwin Graves, “ “ and cash paid,	38	02
“ A. M. Peck, overwork on highways,	25	17
“ A. M. Peck, labor on cemetery fence, &c. and cash paid,	2	03
“ Edwin Graves, for services in surveying,	29	25
“ Lemuel Cooley, “ labor on Hall, and cash paid,	35	16
“ Z. W. Bartlett, for building West Brook bridge,	75	00
“ Dexter Allis, for services as committee on bridges,	3	50
“ Geo. Wait, “ “ “ “	4	00
“ E. F. Cooley, overwork on highways, and lumber,	12	00
“ H. P. Billings, for services as Treasurer,	15	00
“ Wm. D. Billings, “ Clerk, and cash paid,	24	95
“ H. S. Porter, for mowing old cemetery,	1	50

Paid J. Porter, for services as School Com. in 1859-60,	30 00
“ E. L. Hastings, “ “ “	17 25
“ Adm’r of J. H. Knight, dec’d, “ 1859,	14 50
“ A. E. Strong, for overwork on highways,	15 51
“ Wm. P. Allis, “ “ “	11 38
“ R. Turner, “ services in surveying,	9 50
“ Forbes & Spaulding, legal advice,	8 00
“ S. G. Hubbard, services surveying,	2 00
“ E. N. Sampson, collecting taxes, &c.,	43 88
	<hr/>
	\$741 71

Abatement of taxes,	\$23 27
Paid County Tax,	997 82
“ State “	297 50

RECAPITULATION.

Receipts into the Treasury, \$4455 72

PAYMENTS BY THE TOWN.

For Old Bills,	\$83 18
“ Schools,	1110 27
“ Poor,	519 98
“ Contingencies,	741 71
“ County Tax,	997 82
“ State “	297 50
“ Abatement of taxes,	23 27
	<hr/>
	\$3773 73

Amount in hands of Treasurer March 12, 1861,
to new account, \$ 681 99

GEO. W. HUBBARD, } *Selectmen*
JAMES SCOTT, } *of*
ELISHA HUBBARD, } *Hatfield.*

H. P. BILLINGS, *Treasurer.*

MARCH 12, 1861.

REPORT OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

OF THE TOWN OF HATFIELD, 1860-61.

YOUR Committee, in reviewing the year that is past, take pleasure in reporting, that the Schools in this town have made in many material respects, marked advances.

Good order, with a mild system of discipline, under thorough teachers, has enabled all the schools to exhibit a creditable degree of progress, in the various studies pursued. At the same time, unavoidable causes have operated to produce a marked difference in the degree of progress. Some schools have been under the instruction of the same teacher throughout the year, while others have changed teachers every term — some have had too many scholars, some too few — some schools have been graded in such manner as to add to the interest of teacher and pupil, while in others, the teacher was expected to turn his attention, at any moment, from the a-b, ab, of an infant scholar, to abstruse questions in the higher mathematics. Your Committee feel confident that part at least of these evils can be remedied in the future.

A teacher, in the course of a term, becomes acquainted with, not only the face, but the mind and disposition of each pupil, so that at the commencement of a second term both are prepared to commence, and go forward from the point where the end of the previous term left them; whereas, a new teacher has much ground to go over, much time to spend, before he can fairly become an *instructor*. The progress made by the schools under female teachers in the Centre District, was undoubtedly owing in part to the fact that the same teachers have been employed through the year. It cannot be too strongly urged that teachers who have given good satisfaction should certainly be retained for the ensuing term; to

enable the Prudential Committee to do this, it may be necessary, in some districts, to change the time for choosing that officer.

We are aware that in most cases the evils arising from the want of a sufficient number of scholars, and also those arising from too great a number, are incident to our scattered population, and the distance apart of the several districts. Thus District No. 4 has so few scholars that schools cannot be maintained as long as they should, without a burdensome tax upon the inhabitants of the district; at the same time, so remote are they from other districts, that no benefit can be derived from a union with others.

The schools in Pantry district have suffered from a state of things differing somewhat from those in West Brook, there not being scholars enough for two schools, yet so many are crowded into their one small inconvenient room, that it is only through the excellent management of superior teachers, that any thing can be accomplished. We hope that when the new school house, now talked of in that district, shall be decided upon, that a commodious house will be erected, with two rooms,—then if the district cannot support two schools, the teacher seeking assistance from the older pupils, will be able to do better justice to the whole school—a plan similar to the one adopted with such eminent success in the State Normal schools.

The evils resulting from the “mixed” system have been fully exemplified by the Winter school in the Hill district, where, notwithstanding the earnest labors of an excellent teacher, the school has been only partially successful. It is simply impossible for a teacher to give his time and attention to explanations needed by the older scholars, while he is surrounded by a room full of small children, who can only be kept in order, (such is the experience of all teachers,) by being continually interested; equally impossible is it for a teacher to interest and keep in order a school of young scholars, and at the same time give advanced classes the attention and assistance necessary.

The Hill district, by uniting with the Centre, might secure the advantages of a High school for their more advanced scholars, thereby, during the Winter term, relieving their now crowded school room, and rendering unnecessary the employment of a teacher of the eminent literary qualifications of the one employed the past Winter, and, while a female teacher would be amply qualified to take charge of the smaller scholars, the saving in teachers' wages might be applied to the union school: the advantages of a plan similar to this, are so apparent, they need not here be enumerated.

The North Centre and Farms Districts have given to their scholars additional schooling, by a liberal private subscription; this, with the adoption of the "grade system" for the Upper department, and the employment of superior teachers, has enabled the schools in those districts to make rapid advance.

The average of attendance in our schools has not been as high as we could have wished; this has been owing to the prevalence of disease, that by the dispensation of an overruling Providence has prevented many from punctual attendance, while some have been removed by death.

In our haste to advance in school education, there seems to be a tendency to neglect the primary branches; the importance of a thorough education in reading and spelling cannot be too highly appreciated; especially would we call attention to reading, which we find is more apt to be neglected, perhaps because so very few of public instructors are themselves *good* readers. Reading is an art, in which, unless a teacher can instruct by example, he can never hope to make proficient of his pupils. This is a point in the qualifications of teachers that we trust will not be neglected by those who employ them.

We cannot close this report without urging upon parents the importance of frequently visiting the school room; a good school cannot be maintained, without a hearty co-operation of teacher and parent; and you can in no way understand so well what your school is doing, what its requirements are, as by

The town raised by tax, \$1250,00 for Schools. No. of Children between 5 and 15 years of age, 230.

Districts.	School taught by	Length of School in months.		Amount paid.		Whole No. of Scholars.	Average attendance.	No. School-ars under five years.		No. School-ars over 15 years.	
		Sum.	Win.	Sum.	Win.			Sum.	Win.	Sum.	Win.
No. 1, Hill,	Harriett L. Russell.	5		115,00		42	27½	2		2	0
No. 1, Hill,	James Lewis.		3		132,00	46		0	34	0	9
No. 2, S. Centre,	Mary E. Lyon.	3		63,00		33	25½	0	23 ¹⁶ ₁₇	0	1
*No. 2, N. Centre,	Angela F. Cook.	3	3¼	60,00		38	29½	4	15 ¹⁰ ₁₁	4	0
No. 2, Upper Dep't,	Joseph A. Leach.		3		126,00	25		0	23 ¹⁸ ₄₂	0	12
No. 3, Farms,	Mary F. Pomeroy.	4		80,00		35	28½	2		2	0
No. 3, Farms,	Laura E. Bartlett.		3		60,00	33		0	30 ³⁴ ₆₅	0	0
†No. 3, Upper Dep't,	Asa S. Hardy.		3		†130,00	22		0	19½	0	13
No. 4, W. Brook,	Annette A. Crafts.	2¼		37,75		13	10½	3		3	0
No. 4, W. Brook,	Lucretia H. Whitman.		3		57,00	19		0	15	0	7
No. 5, Pantry,	Helen M. Shepherd.	5½		113,25		41	27	0		0	0
No. 5, Pantry,	Elvira A. Elwell.		4		100,00	45	35	0		0	4

* 8 Weeks private school in addition. † \$60,53 of this amount raised by private means.

