REPORTS

OF THE

SELECTMEN AND OTHER OFFICERS,

OF THE

TOWN OF ACTON,

FROM

FEBRUARY 26, 1864, TO FEBRUARY 26, 1865,

INCLUDING THE

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS IN 1864.

ALSO,

The Report of the School Committee.

CONCORD : PRINTED BY BENJAMIN TOLMAN. 1865.



SELECTMEN'S REPORT.

RECEIPTS.

Amount received,

\$19,532 74.

EXPENDITURES.

SUPPORT OF SCHOOLS.

Paid.

Daid

Paid.

George C. Wright, for West School,	\$377	04
James E. Harris, for South School,	377	04
William W. Davis, for Centre School,	377	04
Daniel Fletcher, for South East School,	224	19
Isaac T. Flagg, for North School,	224	19
Joseph Estabrook, for East School,	224	19
Town of Littleton,	5	50

\$1,809 19

REPAIRS ON SCHOOL HOUSES.

Laiu.		
George C. Wright, for repairs on West school		
house,	\$9	86
James E. Harris, do. do., South do.,	82	97
William W. Davis, do. do., Centre do.,	1	48
Isaac T. Flagg, do. do., North do.,	19	64
Joseph Estabrook, do. do., East do.,	34	90

\$148 85

BOOKS AND PRINTING.

Harris	Cowdry,	for books delivered to the town,	\$4	00
66	66	do. do., to poor families,	9	12
Daniel		o. do., J. Whitney's children,	1	21

Willi	iam D	. Tuttle, for highway tax book,	1	08		
		ng dog notices,	1	75		
66	66	town warrants,	5	00		
66	66	voting list,	7	50		
"	66	• selectmen's report,	9	50		
"	66	pamphlet reports	74	79		
66	"	notices to road builders,	1	25		
		,			\$115	20

DISCOUNT ON TAXES.

\$510 23

P	aid	John	E.	Cutter,	discount	ton	taxes,
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ROADS AND BRIDGES.

Paid.						
E. C. Parker, for repairs on l	highway	in '62,	\$3	34		
Isaac Barker, "	66	'63,	5	38		
Luther Conant, Jr., "	66	'63,	6	00		
Francis Kinsley, "	66	'64,	19			
" " grading hill	in West	Acton,	1,385	00		
" " building slu	lice on	gravel	pit			
road,			5	00		
William W. Davis, for repair	s on high	hway,	6	55		
Nehemiah Curtis, "		"	13	07		
Silas Conant, Jr., "		"	3	00		
" " breaking	roads,		1	67		
James E. Billings, "	66		3	33		
					\$1,451	47

APPROPRIATIONS FOR SOLDIERS AND FAMILIES. Paid. For State Aid. \$1,858 69

For State Aid,	\$1,858	69
Recruiting twenty-two men,	4,499	67
Entertaining Co. E, April 19,	'64, 50	00
U , 1 ,	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	\$6 408 36

SUPPORT OF POOR.

James	E. B	illings, journey to Boston respecting		
	Sara	h Childs,	\$1	50
James	E. B	illings, journey to Waltham respect-		
	ing J	John H. Whitney,	3	00
For su	pport	and burial expenses of Wm. Kendall,	20	00
"	- GG	of Thomas Law,	3	57
"	"	" Catherine Chaffin,	11	22
66	66	"William Murphy,	13	94
66	66	" Clarissa Nutting	52	00

Paid.

For support of Sarah Childs,	12 00
" " Mrs. J. W. Fitzpatrick	., 11 11
wood for Widow Knapp,	7 00
Dr. Harris Cowdry, for attending	Catherine
Chaffin,	36 00
Dr. Isaiah Hutchins, do. do., William	Murphy, 29 12
	\$200 46

NOTES AND INTEREST.

T COLUEO				
Ebenezer Conant,	note	and interest,	\$1	,077 30
Daniel L. Veazey,		66		107 21
Charles H. Blood,	66	"		113 17
Augustine Conant,		66		240 00
Frederick Rouillard	.,	66		90 00
Daniel Harris,		66		46 32
Isaac T. Flagg,		66		6 00
Joel Hanscom,		"		40 80
Elbridge J. Robbin	s,	44		25 00
Silas P. Blodgett,		66		72 67
David M. Handley,		66		$12 \ 00$
· ·				

Paid.

Paid.

TOWN OFFICERS.

T COLCEO					
Edward F.	Richards	son,	for examining teachers, superin-		
tending	g schools	and	l making report,	\$50	00
Samuel Hos	smer, for	tak	ing inventory and making taxes		
ten day			0 0	25	00
Samuel Hos	smer, for	cop	ying valuation,	7	00
			inventory and making taxes,		
	id one-ha			23	75
			taking inventory and making		
			taxes,	18	75
66	66	"	copying assessors' valuation book,	7	00
66	66	64	" taxes,	3	12
66	66	66	two days making money tax,	5	00
66	66	"	distributing tax books,	1	00
66	66	66	collecting and recording 29 births,	, 5	80
"		"	recording 43 deaths,		30
"	66	"	" 26 marriages,	2	60
66-		"	services as town clerk,	20	00
John E. Cu	tter, for	colle	ecting taxes for '63,	75	00
James E. B	Billings, f	or s	ervices as selectman,	- 38	00
Jonas K. P			"	12	00
J. K. W. W	Vetherbe	е,		30	00
				\$330	32

^{\$1,830 47}

MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES.

Paid.		
Luther Conant, Jr., for meeting County Commissioners,	\$1	50
Daniel Tuttle, """""""	1	50
Daniel H. Wetherbee, for labor at the East Cemetery,	49	00
Zoheth Taylor, """""		50
William D. Tuttle, """""		00
" for material and fencing do.,		24
Phineas Wetherbee, labor at West Cemetery,		$\tilde{0}0$
	8	50
Francis Conant, for repairing town hall chimney,	0	00
William D. Tuttle, services in letting out hill at West	9	00
Acton,	3	00
Daniel Fletcher, for building wall at cemetery,	27	00
Dr. H. A. Barrett, professional services rendered Dixon	~ ~	~ ~
and Ogle,	-	00
George W. Todd, for transporting firemen to Acton,	6	00
John E. Cutter, for summonsing 21 persons to take oath		
of office, March 5, '63,	2	62
" " " do. do., 7 persons, April 10, '63,		88
" " do. do., 22 persons, March 4, '64,	2	75
" " getting dogs licensed,	1	00
" " stamps on notes,	2	58
For set of measures,	1	50
Moses Taylor, for services in reducing number of en-		
rolled militia,	3	00
Varnum B. Mead, do. do.,	8	75
Daniel Wetherbee, do. do.,		00
J. K. W. Wetherbee, do. do.,	-	25
James E. Billings, do. do.,	10	
George Prouty, for tolling bell for 5 deaths,		00
	-	20
George Harris, do. do., 1 do.,	A	60
Quincey A. Fletcher, do. do., 23 do.,		60
Hiram J. Hapgood, do. do., 8 do.,	22	
For table for town hall,		
" wood do. do.,	6	06
George M. Brooks, for advice respecting grading hill at	0	00
West Acton,	2	00
George Harris, for opening town hall 77 times,	60	
For 33 gallons oil and 1 pint fluid,	29	30
2 dozen lamp wicks,		72
coal for town hall,	31	39
two dampers for stove in town hall,	1	25
seven lamp chimnies for town hall,		87
one chimney brush for town hall,		17
one broom,		25
cleaning and leveling cellar of town hall,	1	50
repairing and putting up pump,		50
glazing at town hall,		15
repairing clock and taking care of same,	24	26

Fletcher and Tarbell, for bu	rial of 40 persons, 80	00
" " ree	cording 45 deaths, 4	50
" " co	ffin for state pauper, 9	85
Levi Dow, for damage to slo	eigh on highway near John	
Hapgood's,	11	00
For rope for monument,	2	25
lamps for town hall,	• 34	00
express, postage and st	tationery, 7	10
	• \$527	45

CONDITION OF THE TREASURY FEBRUARY 26, 1865.

RECEIPTS.

Balance in Treasury Feb. 26, 1864,	\$2,286	66
State Tax for 1864,	2,424	00
County Tax for 1864,	746	10
Town Grant for 1864,	5,000	00
" " for schools,	1,700	00
Highway Deficiencies,	57	
Overlay on Taxes,	127	76
Corporation Tax,	479	40
State Aid to Jan. 1st, 1864,	2,431	21
School money from town of Concord,	20	
Borrowed money,	3,893	30
Cash of E. F. Richardson, for school books,	29	
State School Fund,	83	72
Cash from town of Groton, for support of		
Clarissa Nutting,	52	00
Received for use of Town Hall,	122	50
Cash from Almshouse,	10	79
For lumber, oil, &c.,	68	

EXPENDITURES.

For support of schools,	\$1,809 1	
repairs on school houses,	148 8	35
books and printing,	115 2	20
discount on taxes,	-5102	23
roads and bridges,	1,451 4	17
appropriation for soldiers and families,	6,408 3	36
support of poor,	200 4	6
Town Officers,	330 3	32
notes and interest,	1,830 4	17
miscellaneous expenses,	527 4	15

For State tax, County tax,	$2,424 00 \\ 746 10 \\ $16,502 10$
Balance in Treasury Feb. 26, 1865.	\$3,030 64
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
FINANCIAL CONDITION OF THE TO DR.	OWN FEB. 26, 1865.
To balance as per report, Feb. 26, 1865, amount due from the State for aid	\$3,030 64
furnished families of soldiers,	2,188 47

AMOUNT DUE ON NOTES.

CR.			
By Cash of	Jonas K. Putney,	\$1,077	30
v	John R. Whitcomb,	500	00
	Calvin Harris,	200	00
	James A. Billings,	• 200	00
	Daniel Harris,	805	34
	Frederick Rouillard,	1,700	00
	David M. Handley,	200	00
	Mathew McKinney,	100	00
	Joel Hanscom,	680	00
	Augustine Conant,	4,000	00
	Eben Conant,	3,500	
	Silas P. Blodgett,	1,211	27
	James Keyes,	600	00
	John Wood,	500	00
	Elbridge J. Robbins,	500	00
	Daniel Wetherbee,	1,500	00
	Isaac T. Flagg,	100	
Interest on		· 823	00

Balance against the Town Feb. 26, 1865, without	
including the balance due as per Overseers'	
report for 1865,	\$12,977 80

AMOUNT OF STATE AID PAID EACH PERSON. Paid.

Mrs. Betsey M. Sawyer,	\$144 00
Charlotte M. Pike,	144 00
Maria Fisk,	144 00

Mrs. Betsy Shehan,	$144 \ 00$
S. H. Wetherbee,	$144 \ 00$
Catharine Dwelley,	. 144 00
· Margaret Moore,	132 00
Sally Veazey,	103 20
Margaret Fitzpatrick,	98 80
Mr. Thomas Kinsley,	96 00
Miss Henrietta Goss,	60 00
Mrs. Joanna Moulton,	$54 \ 00$
Elvira Young,	$52 \ 00$
Annie Dole,	$52 \ 00$
Martha Wayne,	$52 \ 00$
Anna Whitney,	$44 \ 28$
Fannie Stevens,	$42 \ 42$
Sarah J. Skinner,	36 00
Charlotte Blood,	$35 \ 00$
Hattie S. Jackson,	. 35 00
Anna E. Robbins,	33 57
Sarah J. Taft,	$31 \ 00$
Johanna Colman,	$19 \ 28$
Nancy Huggins,	17 00
Mary Hurley,	$13 \ 14$
	\$1,870 69

JAMES	E.	BILLINGS,	Selectmen
JONAS	Κ.	PUTNEY,	of
J. K.	W.	WETHERBEE,	Acton.

Acton, Feb. 26, 1865.

REPORT OF THE

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES,

AT THE

ALMSHOUSE, IN ACTON,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING APRIL 1st, 1865.

ARTICLES ON HAND, APRIL 1st, 1865.

1 pair oxen, \$210, 1 horse, 70,00,	\$280	00
9 cows, 360, 2 shotes, 35,00,	395	00
3 1-2 tons hay, 105, 12 bush. corn, 18,00	123	00
7 bush. rye, 12,25, 8 bush. oats, 6,40,	18	65
47 bush. potatoes, 37,60, 10 fowls, 5,00,	42	60
300 lbs. pork, 60,00, 100 lbs. beef, 15,00,	75	00
76 lbs. ham, 16,72, 25 lbs. butter, 7,50,	· 24	22
18 lbs. lard, 3,78, 15 lbs. candles, 3,00,	6	78
4 lbs. tallow, .56, 26 lbs. dried apple, 5,20,	5	76
1 lb. tea, 1,50, 3 lbs. coffee, .39, 2 lbs. sugar, .40,	2	29
3-4 bbl. flour, 9,00, 3 bush. beans, 6,37,	15	37
55 M. skewers, 27,50, skewer timber, 4,00,	31	50
1 bbl. soap, 4,00, 1 bbl. pickles, 2,00,	6	00
1 bag salt, 3,00, 10 bush. ashes, 1,25,	4	25
1 bush. rye meal, 1,75, 1 bush. Indian meal, 1,50,	3	25

\$1,033 67

RECEIPTS.

For	milk, \$422,85, oxen, 713,	\$1,135 85
	apples, 125,07, pork, 73,19, eggs, 9,20,	207 46
	skewers, 61,40, poultry, 25,73,	87 13
	calves, 24,50, labor, 17,00, shote, 8,00,	49 50
	boarding E. C. Brown, 4,00, squashes, 2,50,	6 50
	keeping pedlers, 4,00, hide, 5,51,	9 51
	straw, 21,70, peaches, 12,00, peas, .33,	$34 \ 03$
	old iron, 2,25, pasturing calf, 1,10,	3 35

For use of horse, .25, use of oxen, .75, eash of P. Smith, .58, hat, .30,	1	00 88
potatoes, 3,25, work at cemetery, 10,25,	13	00
work on road,	11	33

\$1,560 04

EXPENDITURES.

Flour, \$47,25, butter, 89,71, cheese, 14,98,	\$151	94
Molasses, 42,94, sugar, 15,89, tea, 11,50,	70	33
Coffee, 13,57, meat, 81,99, fish, 7,00, tripe, 3,36,	105	92
Rye, 26,80, meal, 79,90, salt, 8,23,	114	93
Cloth and clothing, 60,70, shoes, 1.10, bread, 2,58,	64	38
Spices, 5,24, saleratus, .12, starch, .24, sage, .42,	6	02
Cream of tartar, .40, soap, .21, yeast, 1,00, oil, 3,53,	5	14
Soda, .34, saltpetre, .50, spirits, .17, seeds, 4,29,	5	30
Camphor, .24, potash, 7,03, matches, .60,	- 7	87
Sour milk, 7,20, medicines, 1,12, tobacco, 7,66,	15	98
Grass, 2,00, hay, 34,27, plaster, 2,00,	38	
Scraps, 12,18, skewer timber, 9,75, sink, 2,50,	24	43
Tools, 8,58, earthen ware, 5,59, tin ware, 2,50,	16	
Glass and putty, .90, nails, 1,62, castings, 1,26,		78
Grafting, .75, repairing pump, 5,00, ropes, 1,42,		17
Brooms, 1,50, whips, .42, oil cloth, .80, shot, .36,		08
Coffin and robe, 7,50, cash to paupers, 1,85,		35
Grape vines, 2,00, twine and wicking, .62,		62
Newspaper, 2,70, use of winnowing mill and cradle, 1,00,	3	70
Use of bull, 2,00, use of pasture, 20,00,	22	
Shotes, 16,50, blacksmith's bill, 16,40,	32	
Stove, 15,00, Dr. Cowdry's bill, 5,25,	20	
Cows, 44,00, oxen, 525,45, barrels, 5,25,	574	
Use of wagon and cart, 8,00, expenses to Boston, 7,99,	15	
Weighing oxen,	10	24
Services of Mr. and Mrs. D. H. Wetherbee,	300	
James E. Billings' services,		00
Jonas K. Putney's services,		00
J. K. W. Wetherbee's, services,		00
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	1,640	96
Amount of inventory, April 1, 1864, \$891 82	,	
Interest on farm, 239 40		
,	1,131	22
\$	2,772	18

RECAPITULATION.

Amount of expenditures,		\$1,640	96
Amount of receipts,	\$1,560 04		
Cash from town treasury to balance account	, 80 92		
	·	\$1,640	96
Total amount of expenditures,	\$1,640 96		
Amount of inventory, April 1, 1864,	891 82		
Interest on the farm,	239 40		
, ,		\$2,772	18
Total amount of receipts,	\$1,560 04		
Amount of inventory, April 1, 1865,	1,033 67		
<i></i>	·	\$2,593	71
		\$178	
Expense of victualing foreigners,		10	40
Total amount of supporting poor in Almsho	use,	\$168	07

Whole number of persons (exclusive of foreigners) supported in the almshouse, 5; average number, 4; present number, 3; cost per week, 81 cents.

JAMES	Е.	Billings,	Overseers
JONAS	К.	PUTNEY,	of
J. K.	W.	WETHERBEE,	Poor.

Acton, April 1, 1865.

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT.

BIRTHS RECORDED IN ACTON, FOR THE YEAR END-ING DEC. 31st, 1864.

Names of Children.

Names of Parents.

 Jan. 4, In Concord, Eunice Elizabeth Malloy, daughter of Thomas and Fanny Malloy.
Jan. 6, Frank Marion Shurtleff, son of Isaac M. and Sarah E: Shurtleff.
Jan. 20, Estella L. Hosmer, daughter of John E. and Emma E. Hosmer.
Feb. 28, Alice Gertrude Gardner, daughter of George and

No. Date of Birth.

- 7. March 19, Albertie S. Tuttle, daughter of Varnum and Sarah L. Tuttle.
- 8. May 2, Herman Otis Hartwell, son of Henry and Augusta H. Hartwell.
- 9. May 10, Frank Lovell Hosmer, son of David W. and Harriet C. Hosmer.
- 10—11. June 4, Helen Lizzie Davis; and Freddie Warren Davis, twin children of William W. and Martha Davis.
- 12. June 11, Carrie Estella White, daughter of John and Sarah A. White.
- 13. June 26, Abbie McDonald, daughter of Walter and Louisa G. McDonald.
- 14. July 12, Alice Marion Lamb, daughter of Charles B. and 'Marion M. Lamb.
- 15. July 15, Edgar Horace Johnson, son of George E. and Mary L. Johnson.
- 16. July 16, Patrick Powers, son of John and Eliza Powers.
- 17. Aug. 1, Mary Ann Hammond, daughter of Thomas W. and Mary Alice Hammond.

^{4.} Feb. 28, Alice Gertrude Gardner, daughter of George and Violetta F. Gardner.

^{5.} Feb. 28, George Frank Kendall, son of George M. and Henrietta Kendall.

^{6.} March 5, Hiram Edward Gates, son of George W. and Mary Gates.

- 18. Aug. 23, A son to Daniel and Mary McCarthy.
- 19. Sept. 8, Charles Lincoln Wood, son of Winthrop E. and Lydia A. Wood.
- 20. Sept. 18, George Robinson, son of Charles and Percis V. Robinson.
- 21. Sept. 21, Horace Frederic Tuttle, son of William D. and Elizabeth B. Tuttle.
- 22. Oct. 8, Rosella Estabrook, daughter of Joseph and Nancy Estabrook.
- 23. Nov. 13, Arthur B. Robbins, son of Simon and Nancy D. Robbins.
- 24. Dec. 1, Samuel II. Tuttle, son of Francis 2d and Sarah E. Tuttle.
- 25. Dec. 11, Arthur Edwin Holman, son of Nelson and Charlotte A. Holman.
- 26. Dec. 12, Arthur B. Weld, son of Marcellus and Maria L. Weld.
- 27. Dec. 24, A daughter to Warren and Lydia A. Houghton.
- 28. Dec. 24, Albert Henry Smith, son of Henry M. and Abbie B. Smith.
- Aug. 20, 1863, Mary Elizabeth Cash, daughter of Hugh and Rebecca B. Cash.

MARRIAGES RECORDED IN ACTON, IN 1864.

No. Date of Marriage.

Names of Parties.

- 1. Jan. 2, Augustus B. Clarke, of New York City, and Miss Helen E. Cowdrey, of Acton.
- 2. Jan. 2, Nelson Holman, of Harvard, and Miss Charlotte A. Conant, of Acton.
- 3. Jan. 7, Charles II. Kidder, of Acton, and Miss Frank S. Fiske, of Saco, Me.
- 4. Feb. 2, Justin Brigham, of Acton, and Miss Ann McGurty, of Stow.
- 5. March 13, John F. Blood, Jr., and Miss Emma F. Robbins, both of Acton.
- 6. March 22, Norman Chaplin, of Acton, and Miss Lucinda A. Bride, of Berlin.
- 7. April 6, Henry L. Sawyer, and Miss Lucy A. Fuller, both of Acton.
- 8. April 20, William F. B. Whitney, of Acton, and Miss Annie McNernie, of Boston.
- 9. April 21, Silas P. Blodget, and Miss Anna E. Jones, both of Acton.
- 10. March 31, Cyrus Hosmer, of Acton, and Miss Mary E. Hutchins, of Westford.

- 11. April 28, Joseph Noyes, of Acton, and Mrs. Dolly Piper, of Boston.
- 12. April 30, Jeremiah Sheahan, of Acton, and Miss Hannah Collins, of Concord.
- 13. July 10, Francis E. Harris, and Miss Mandana S. Robbins, both of Acton.
- 14. Sept. 6, Francis E. White, of Needham, and Miss Sarah E. Knight, of Framingham.
- 15. Sept. 1, Albert T. Edmonds, of Acton, and Miss Mary M. Garfield, of Wayland.
- 16. Sept. 7, Edwin C. Parker, of Acton, and Miss Hannah H. Barry, of Ovid, N. Y.
- 17. Oct. 8, Patrick Maloney, of Acton, and Miss Catherine Love, of Concord.
- 18. Oct. 19, Lewis E. Fletcher, and Miss Lucy E. McCraken, both of Acton.
- 19. Oct. 30, George F. Proetor, of Littleton, and Miss Susannah C. Chaffin, of Acton.
- 20. Nov. 20, Walter A. Gilmore, and Miss Emeline A. Robbins, both of Acton.
- 21. Nov. 20, Warren B. Ball, and Miss Sophia L. Chaplin, both of Acton.
- 22. Nov. 27, Allen G. Smith, of Westford, and Miss Harriet E. Robbins, of Acton.
- 23. Dec. 4, Henry Brown, of Acton, and Miss Carrie A. Brooks, of Stow.
- 24. March 7, Marcellus Weld, of Acton, and Miss Maria L. Goldsmith, of Andover.
- 25. Dec. 18, Charles H. Edmonds, and Miss Annie Briggs, both of Acton.
- 26. Oct. 10, Peter Lynch, of Acton, and Mrs. Joanna Ogle, of Stow.

DEATHS RECORDED IN ACTON, IN 1864.

No. Date of Death.

Name and Age of Deceased.

- 1. Jan. 5, Elmer Ellsworth Jackson, son of Loring M. and Harriet Jackson, aged 1 year, 9 months.
- 2. Jan. 11, Mrs. Louisa Fredericks, aged 65 years.
- 3. Jan. 14, Livonia W. Thomas, daughter of Henry C. and Amanda M. Thomas, aged 4 yrs. 8 mos. 27 days.
- 4. Feb. 11, John Murphy, son of Daniel and Elizabeth J. Murphy, aged 2 yrs. 7 mos. 26 days.
- 5. March 17, Mr. Benjamin F. Hapgood, aged 58 yrs. 4 mos, 14 days.
- 6. March 17, Mr. Nathaniel Hapgood, Jr., aged 47 yrs.
- 7. March 20, Mr. Lewis Rouillard, aged 80 yrs. 4 mos.

- 8. April 3, Mr. Richard Moulton, aged 65 yrs. 6 mos.
- 9. Feb. 22, Mr. William Kendall, of Dracut, aged 56 yrs.
- 10. April 27, Mrs. Sally Hosmer, wife of Mr. Jonathan Hosmer, aged 81 years.
- May 8, Everett Giles, son of Israel II. and Lucy Giles, aged 12 yrs. 8 mos. 8 days.
- 12. May 28, John Nye, son of John and Clara F. Nye, aged 2 yrs. 9 mos.
- 13. June 8, Mrs. Clara B. Nutting, aged 44 yrs.
- 14. June 16, Mrs. Julia L. Edmonds, aged 46 yrs.
- 15. June 24, Miss Patty Smith, aged 86 yrs.
- 16. June 27, David T. Kinsley, son of Richard and Eliza Kinsley, aged 3 yrs.
- 17. June 28, Hattie E. Teel, daughter of William H. and Mary E. Teel, aged 1 yr.
- 18. July 6, Mrs. Lucinda W. Robbins, aged 59 yrs. 10 mos. 12 days.
- 19. July 15, Albert F. McDonald, son of George and Mary Mc Donald, aged 1 yr. 2 mos. 24 days.
- 20. July 17, Abbie McDonald, daughter of Walter and Louisa G. McDonald, aged 21 days.
- 21. July 31, Mrs. Catherine E. Chaffin, widow of Lewis Chaffin, aged 39 yrs.
- 22. Aug. 1, Robert H. Todd, son of James and Margaret C. Todd, aged 1 yr. 1 mo. 18 days.
- 23. Aug. 15, Lyman Edwards Conant, son of Luther Jr., and Celeste J. Conant, aged 2 yrs. 6 mos. 21 days.
- 24. Aug. 24, An infant child of Daniel and Mary McCarthy, aged 1 day.
- 25. Sept. 7, Mrs. Dolly H. Wright, widow of Mr. Joel Wright, aged 70 yrs. 11 mos.
- 26. Sept. 8, Herbert Augustine Conant, son of Luther Jr., and Celeste J. Conant, aged 1 yr. 1 mo. 7 days.
- 27. Sept. 11, Mary A. Kinsley, daughter of Richard and Eliza Kinsley, aged 13 yrs. 3 mos.
- 28. Sept. 17, Mr. Simon Tuttle, aged 71 yrs. 7 mos. 10 days.
- 29. Sept. 19, Martha C. Cutler, daughter of Elisha H. and Mary E. Cutler, aged 5 yrs. 6 mos. 24 days.
- 30. Sept. 20, Mr. James Keyes, aged 89 yrs. 7 mos. 7 days.
- 31. Oct. 9, Freddie W. Davis, son of William W. and Martha Davis, aged 4 mos. 5 days.
- 32. Oct. 16, Dora E. Curtis, daughter of Nehemiah and Martha C. Curtis.
- 33. Oct. 30, Mrs. Hannah McCarthy, aged 84 yrs.
- 34. Nov. 10, Mr. Jonas Handley, aged 57 yrs.
- 35. Nov. 25, Mr. Artemas M. Rowell, aged 42 yrs. 1 mo. 8 days.
- 36. Dec. 14, Mr. William Reed, aged 83 yrs. 4 mos. 14 days.
- 37. Dec. 22, Mr. John Putnam, son of Cyrus and Eliza Putnam, aged 30 yrs. 8 mos. 20 days.

38. Dec. 27, Mr. Charles H. Moulton, son of Richard and Joanna Moulton, aged 22 yrs. 2 mos. 9 days.

SOLDIERS IN U. S. SERVICE.

No. Date of Death.

Name and Age of Deceased.

- 1. April 10, Francis Kinsley, 2d, Co. E. 26th Regt., aged 21 yrs. 6 mos. 20 days, son of Thomas and Maria Kinsley, died in Acton, while on furlough.
- 2. Nov. 10, Thomas Kinsley, Jr., Co. E. 26th Regt., aged 16 yrs. son of Thomas and Maria Kinsley, died at Camp Fry Hospital, in Washington, D. C., of disease contracted while in service.
- 3. Dec. 8, John A. Brown, color bearer in Co. E, 26th Regt., aged 25 yrs., died in hospital, at Winchester, Va., of a wound received in the battle of Winchester.
- 4. Sept. 19, Eugene L. Hall, Co. E, 26th Regt., aged 19 yrs. 6 mos. 8 days, son of Enoch and Emeline Hall, was killed at the battle of Winchester, Va.
- 5. May 13, Cyrus H. Stockwell, son of Ira and Maria Stockwell, aged 31 yrs. 10 mos., died at New Orleans, La., of a wound received at the battle of Sabine Cross Roads.

WILLIAM D. TUTTLE, Town Clerk.

Displangal 10-2711

Acton, March 25, 1865.

REPORT OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE,

FOR THE YEAR 1864-65.

To the Citizens of Acton:

The School Committee respectfully submit their annual report.

As we review the character of our schools the past year, we believe we can truly say that they have, in a good degree, been successful. To be sure they have not attained that excellence at which we aim, but have made general progress. We see not a few imperfections in them, but these are to be found in every department of human effort. Although what the common schools accomplish for our youth is invaluable, yet many might improve the advantages they afford much better. There are scholars in town who possess a tolerably good knowledge of the common branches, and have more or less acquaintance with some of the higher ones, but these are comparatively few. We believe our schools furnish the opportunity, for every scholar of common abilities, of acquiring a fair knowledge of the common branches before they become of proper age to leave school.

We think, as a general thing, parents feel a commendable degree of interest in the prosperity of the schools. This is evinced by their occasional visits and large attendance at examinations. Every parent should feel that he has a great personal interest in the district school; that when it is in successful operation he is being greatly benefited, but when it is going wrong he is a great loser. The common school has done a great deal for Massachusetts. While in point of territory she is but a scrap of the country's surface, and while other states are outstripping her in population, almost rivalling empires, Massachusetts is heard and honored in the councils of the nation. If we would have her continue to occupy her distinguished position; if we would not have her sink unseen and unheard among majestic states, we must nurse, with a mother's affection and much expense, her common school system. It is said that nothing develops the talents of a people like war, and doubtless the North is indebted in no small degree to the success she has already achieved in her conflict with the South, to the general diffusion of knowledge among her people. Knowledge enables a people to avail themselves of the appliances of war, and to employ with discretion the resources of the land.

As we have already remarked, our schools are not free from imperfections, to some of which we would call the attention of the town. We refer to them in a general manner, not wishing to be personal.

Attendance. Considerable time and money are thrown away by scholars being tardy and absent. The average attendance in some of the schools seems much below what it need to be, some terms it being but little more than seventyfive per cent. If this were the case with all our schools, several hundred dollars of the sum appropriated by the town would be absolutely lost. This shows that there are not a few parents who either do not know where their children are during school hours, or else do not appreciate education as they ought. Parents can in a great measure correct this evil. If our schools are what they should be, scholars are made both wiser and better by being punctual and regular, and the rising generation of men and women will be more or less cultivated and accomplished according to the improvement of the privileges the common schools afford. It presents a bad omen for the future prospects of a lad to hear of his playing truant. If parents would save their children from degradation and perhaps crime, they must not suffer it. If a youth is so indifferent to study as to run away from school, there is reason to fear he may be engaged in some vicious employment while absent. A scholar not only loses the hours he is absent, but discourages the teacher's efforts

in his behalf, is thrown off the track with regard to his studies, and thereby mortifies and discourages himself. The money and time devoted to our schools is more precious than diamonds, and the children of parents who lightly esteem them are to be pitied. Not a few children receive all the opportunities for education they ever enjoy in the common schools, and such certainly have no school hours to idle away. We think some of the children of this town are taken out of school quite too young. The services of those who are made to forego the privileges of school in so early youth must be very valuable.

Thorough Instruction. In some of our schools we witness a lack of thorough teaching. A sufficient amount of ground is passed over, but only the surface is touched. Half understanding a principle does not give a scholar a practical knowledge of it. We desire that our children may possess such an education as they can employ in the various transactions of life. Merely committing rules to memory does not furnish such an education. The scholar needs to become acquainted with the principles upon which the rules are founded. To acquire this knowledge requires thorough instruction and close application, but when attained it is invaluable. When explaining a principle, the teacher must aim to get the attention of his pupils. It amounts to but little to talk to sleepy or inattentive scholars. Children often need more than is found in the text book to animate them. Almost any one can read off questions, but to elucidate principles in an attractive manner requires talents of a high order. A good deal of oral instruction may be given in connection with every branch of study, and should be, even if quite so many questions are not put out from the book. The eye may be made to assist the understanding in no small degree. One knows what he sees with his own eyes. By means of the blackboard, maps, charts and globes, a great deal of knowledge may be presented to the eye which helps to a ready comprehension of the subject. A good teacher will seek as many channels as possible through

which to impart instruction. It should be required of the pupils to answer correctly. A mistake of a word or two may perhaps altogether destroy the sense, so that not getting it all right may render useless what is acquired. To write compositions is a very profitable exercise. It learns one to spell correctly, to think comprehensively, to argue sensibly, and converse elegantly. It assists in acquiring a knowledge of grammar, and cultivates a power of thought and expression very desirable in life. Scholars should be encouraged by parents and teachers to write compositions. We believe many of our pupils are inclined to drop the study of Mental Arithmetic much too soon. Children should be put into this branch of study early, and not dismiss it until they have mastered the series now in use in our schools.

Character and Manners. It is not right for a teacher to be indifferent to the moral conduct of his scholars. Some may think it none of their concern if their scholars do quarrel, use profane language, and trespass on neighboring fields and orchards, but this is a wrong view to take of the subject. A good character in a child is of the first importance; unless he possesses it, whatever intellectual attainments he may arrive at, his life will doubtless be fruitful of more evil than good. It is the duty of teachers to see, so far as they are able, that nothing inconsistent with strict morality transpires in or about the school house. To instruct children "to love the Lord their God with all their hearts," and "to do unto others as they would that others should do unto them," commends itself to all good people.

Scholars should be taught good manners also. Ill manners appear worse in an intelligent person than in one who is ignorant; whereas virtue and affability often hide a good deal of ignorance, and make many friends. True politeness is a virtue and pleases everybody.

Employing Teachers. The Local Committee occupy positions of much responsibility. It may sometimes be thought that it is of no very great consequence whom they engage, as the Examining Committee can reject the candidate if found incompetent; but the best way is to start right. When a good teacher is employed the success of the school may be considered almost certain.

It is indispensable that a teacher be well acquainted with the branches he is expected to teach, for there is no object in sending a scholar to school unless he can learn something after he gets there. He should have an excellent character, for we wish our children placed under correct influences. He should be a person of discretion, so that he may take no unjustifiable steps. He should be patient and amiable. If he is constantly finding fault, not satisfied with the performances of his scholars when they do the best they can, they will lose their respect for him and not try to do anything. He must be of diligent habits as there is always work enough to do in the school room.

A few dollars extra expense must not be taken into the account. A good school of six weeks is worth more than a decidedly bad one of any length. We should think more of the character of the school than of its length. What benefit can an incompetent teacher be to a school? The pay he receives is in part or wholly thrown away, and time, which can never be recalled, runs to waste. Idleness and bad habits are engendered, and years may not obliterate their evil effects.

Appropriation. By the additional appropriation of two hundred dollars to the sum granted last year, we have been able to maintain our schools the usual length. This addition has proved just about an offset for the increase of teachers' wages, and other expenses incident to our schools. Had it not been made, the educational interests of the town would not have been properly cared for. We think the town may consider itself fortunate in having its school system carried on to the usual extent these times, at only an eighth additional expense. It is very certain this cannot be done the ensuing year, even with no more schools than at present. The more attention we pay to education, the better able we shall be to cancel the debt into which the war and other mis-

fortunes have plunged us. It seems as though so long a time ought not to elapse between the winter and spring terms, as is the case in some of the districts. It is also evident to all who are in any wise acquainted with the schools in the South and West Districts, that they each very much need an additional department. Sixty scholars crowded into one school room, under one teacher, is quite too many. In so large a school, consisting of pupils differing so much in their attainments, there must necessarily be a good many classes; but a few minutes can therefore be devoted to each class, and the opportunities for instruction must be limited. We think, if these districts desire it and accommodations can be had to carry them on, the town should not hesitate to appropriate money to supply each of them with another school. If they are increasing in population the town can well afford to educate the children.

School Houses. The town may not think it judicious just at present to engage in erecting new school houses, or remodelling old ones; but this is a subject that should claim our earnest attention at the earliest practicable time. To be sure a good school house is not everything; a good teacher is of more importance. If a scholar is determined to excel, he will most likely do so whether he goes to school in a good or bad school house; but we think, to make the place where our children pass so much of their time, healthy, commodious and attractive, would give a new impulse to the cause of education, and be an honor to the town.

District System. This town is fortunate in never having had the District System to contend with; but now that the subject of new school houses is about to be considered, we find there are those who are in favor of it. We regret there are any disposed to advocate such a measure. So far as we are aware, this system has been fought against by all educators of note who have said anything upon the subject, for a long time. The Hon. HORACE MANN, HON. BARNUS SEARS, and the HON. GEORGE S. BOUTWELL, as well as the present learned Secretary of the Board of Education, have done all they could, for the last twenty-five years, to eradicate it from the state. One town after another has given it up, until it only remains here and there, and that to be deprecated. The idea of popular education is, to see that all the children have an equal opportunity of acquiring a common school education; not that the children of the rich may enjoy it, and those of the poor go uncared for, or that a rich and populous district may erect an elegant school house, while a poor and thinly populated one may have only a miserable apology for one. In this matter it is hoped that the friends of education in all parts of the town will exercise a liberal spirit, rather than adopt a narrow or sectional policy. Instead of now being the time to set it aside, if it existed.

High School. We hope the town will soon regard it for its interest to raise money to sustain a High School a part of the year. Until it does, we would recommend to those more particularly interested, to sustain one during the fall months for their individual benefit. The Selectmen have judiciously offered the lower room in the Town Hall for the purpose, and we hope another autumn may witness a High School in successful operation. Most certainly our more advanced scholars ought to have an opportunity to pursue branches of learning which cannot be sufficiently attended to in our common schools. Several of our young ladies are now attending the Normal School in Framingham. We wish more might attend this or a similar institution. It would be an excellent thing for our teachers, so far as they are able, to attend Teachers' Institutes. Unless we do more for the cause of education in town, or send more of our scholars out of town to school, Acton cannot furnish her own teachers. Private schools are now going on in the South and West Districts.

CENTRE DISTRICT .-- UPPER DEPARTMENT.

MISS S. AUGUSTA DAVIS, MR. LUTHER CONANT, JR., } Teachers.

This school has had experienced teachers the past year. Miss Davis is a good scholar and gives practical instruction. She had no large scholars, so that we could not look for that proficiency which we might otherwise expect. Her examination, however, showed that she had been faithful and industrious. The classes, particularly in Reading and Intellectual Arithmetic, showed good improvement. The singing was pronounced by good judges to be very fine.

Mr. Conant, who had taught this school several successive winters, consented to take it another winter. His reputation as a teacher, and his interest in the cause of education, are well understood. He is energetic and well qualified, and frequently labored with his scholars beyond the usual hours. At his examination, although the recitations were lengthy, so thorough had been his instructions, that but few questions were missed. A large class in Written Arithmetic performed all the examples put them. The compositions and rehearsals were good, and the singing, as at the close of the fall term, delightful.

PRIMARY DEPARTMENT.

MISS ANGENETTE WHEELER, Teacher.

This school has been a successful one. No child, for whom nature has done anything, can grow up a dunce under Miss Wheeler's instruction. She is fertile in her expedients to make the children learn, and accomplishes her object. We think the parents have much reason to feel gratified at the appearance of their children at both her examinations. If these pupils continue to improve as they have commenced, many of them must make fine scholars. Their gymnastic exercises were useful and pleasant, and their recitations evinced an unusual understanding of what they had been over.

WEST DISTRICT .--- UPPER DEPARTMENT.

MISS ELIZABETH H. LAWRENCE, MR. B. F. MARTIN,

This is a very large, forward, and interesting school. The teacher has a vast amount of labor to perform, and it is only by pursuing her duties with steadiness and patience that she

can satisfactorily succeed. In order to go through with all the recitations each day, but a few minutes can be allowed to each class. Miss Lawrence was extremely thorough in her instructions, and laborious in her efforts. Her examination was one of interest. The exercises in Reading and Mathematics showed that these branches had been thoroughly taught. We think the district fortunate in securing for the winter term Mr. Martin, of Tuft's College. He possesses talents well adapted to the school room, dispatching business with ease and celerity. The Reading, Writing and Drawing of Maps-indeed, the improvement in all the branchesshowed that the school had been a busy one. The recitation of an extract from a discourse by Dr. Nott, and a composition on Liberty, deserve to be noticed. Geometry, and several of the higher English branches, are pursued in this school.

PRIMARY DEPARTMENT.

MISS SUSAN C. HUGGINS, Teacher.

In a school composed of so many small scholars, the teacher needs to be calm and diligent. The exercise of an uneven disposition, or an indifferent feeling toward the school, would have a very bad effect. Miss Huggins is of gentle habits and always at work. There are a great many recitations to hear in this school, if the children are small. We thought when we first visited it the classes read without much regard to sense or inflection, but at the last examination we observed a marked improvement in this important branch; also in spelling and defining words. The classes generally recited with promptness, and what is quite desirable, spoke so that they could be understood.

SOUTH DISTRICT .-- UPPER DEPARTMENT.

MISS JENNIE M. HARRIS, MR. N. C. SCOVILLE, Teachers.

The activity and experience of Miss Harris, combined with her other qualifications, render her well qualified to take charge of a large school. A person of a dull temperament should never be found in such a place. She gives every class and every scholar a fair chance. Although she had more to do than should be required of any one teacher, yet she divided her efforts so judiciously that the improvement in all the branches was very evident. We found most of the school in Robinson's Mental Arithmetic, which pleased your Committee very much. At the close of the fall term, the scholars manifested their attachment to her by the presentation of a handsome gift.

Mr. Scoville, the winter teacher, was a Cambridge student. Several large boys were dissatisfied with some of his arrangements the first of the term; farther than this, both parents and scholars were well pleased with him. He had several good classes in Reading and Geography, and some fine scholars in Arithmetic; a number pursued Algebra.

PRIMARY DEPARTMENT.

MISS MARTHA M. WETHERBEE, MISS LOTTIE C. FAULKNER, MRS. ELIZA O. DANIELS,

This school has had a new teacher each term. Miss Wetherbee taught the spring term. She was devoted to her business, beloved by her pupils, and respected by the district. Much to our regret, during the succeeding vacation, she was seized with a violent illness, of which she has recently died, mourned by scholars and friends.

The district was very fortunate in being able to procure Miss Faulkner as her successor. She had taught the school many successive terms, and was therefore able to commence where Miss Wetherbee left off. She is an excellent teacher, always contriving something new to interest the children. She infuses an active spirit into her pupils, and makes them understand their lessons. Her examination was an interesting occasion, every class answering promptly and appearing well. Among the Declamations was one in which the echo was imitated in a charming manner.

Miss Faulkner declining to teach the winter term, was succeeded by Mrs. Daniels. She taught the elementary principles faithfully. This is the kind of teaching primary schools require. Punctuation was considered a subject of importance, and Orthography was practically taught.

SOUTH EAST DISTRICT.

MISS NELLIE J. FLETCHER, } Teachers.

MR. EDWARD F. RICHARDSON,

We thought when we first visited this school in the spring, that the scholars seemed to possess but a limited knowledge of their books; but, as we afterwards visited it from time to time, we found it assuming a more encouraging aspect. The discipline of the school was good. The scholars seemed attached to their teacher, and advanced step by step until the close of the fall term, when the improvement became very evident.

Under the instruction of Mr. Richardson, a well-known and successful teacher, the school continued to make progress during the winter term. The classes at examination recited very well in Intellectual and Written Arithmetic, and showed a decided improvement in Reading and Writing. We think as much has been accomplished during the year ascould reasonably be expected.

EAST DISTRICT.

MISS AMELIA D. COMSTOCK, Teacher.

Whenever we visited this school we found the scholars respectful and well behaved. During their recitations, whether the questions were put by the teacher or the Committee, they usually gave good attention. We always found the teacher industrious, and interested in the prosperity of the school. She evidently made considerable use of the blackboard in the Mathematics and Geography. The scholars were able to put fine maps upon the board. At her examinations some very good problems were wrought in Arithmetic and Algebra. We think the school advanced considerably during the year.

NORTH DISTRICT.

MISS EMILIE W. LOKER, Teachers.

MISS L. A. MCCUTCHINS,

The summer term was taught by Miss Loker. The school was small, and the children for the most part young, so that we could not reasonably look for great attainments. The teacher, however, was faithful and industrious, and the school advanced under her instructions.

The winter term was commenced by Miss Flagg. When engaged she was well known to be a person of superior education, and an unusually successful teacher. After teaching one month an opportunity presented itself, and being prompted by a sense of duty, she left for a more extensive field of usefulness among the contrabands in Washington.

She was succeeded in her office by Miss McCutchins, also a fine scholar. She won the affections of her pupils and the admiration of the district, and did much to elevate the school. At her examination it was evident that she had performed a good deal of labor, and enjoyed the co-operation of her scholars. The singing was fine, and a rehearsal, in which the loyal states were represented, was especially pleasing and attractive.

SCHOOL CHILDREN AND APPROPRIATION.

The number of children in town between the ages of five and fifteen, as ascertained on the first day of May last by the Assessors, was 378.

Appropriation for the support of schools, 1864–5, \$1,700 00Appropriation from State School Fund,83 72

Total amount,\$1,78372Sum appropriated by the town for each scholar
between the ages of five and fifteen,\$449

Respectfully, in behalf of the School Committee,

WILLIAM W. DAVIS, Chairman.

Centre I	District,	WILLIAM W. DAVIS,
West	66	GEORGE C. WRIGHT,
South	66	J. E. HARRIS,
So. East	66	DANIEL FLETCHER,
East	66	JOSEPH EASTERBROOK,
North	66	ISAAC FLAGG,

School Committee.

FINANCIAL.

Centre School.			
Appropriation,	\$377	04	
Balance from last year,	21		
		- \$398	8 48
Amount of teacher's wages,	\$346	75	
Paid for fuel,	24		
Incidentals,	- 6		
Balance to new account,	20		8 48
March 18, 1865. WM. W.	DAVIS,	Committe	ee.
WEST SCHOOL.			
Appropriation,	\$377		
Deficiency of last year,	7 .		
) 59
Amount of teacher's wages,	\$335		
Paid for fuel and incidentals,	37		2 50
Deficiency this year			2 50 2 91
Deficiency this year,			
March 18, 1865. George C. V	VRIGHT,	Committe	ee.
and the second sec			
South School.			
Appropriation,	\$377	04	
Balance from last year,	10		
Received of Frank Brown,	5		
		- \$393	3 12
Amount of teacher's wages,	\$361		
Paid for fuel,	25		
Incidentals,	9		3 23
Deficiency this year,			$3 23 \\ 3 11$
	T		
March 18, 1865, J. E. J	TARRIS,	Committe	e.

SOUTH EAST SCHOOL.

14

Appropriation, Balance from last year,	\$224 19 12 80	\$236 99
Amount of teacher's wages, Paid for fuel and incidentals, Balance to next account,		
barance to next account,		\$236 99

March 18, 1865.

DANIEL FLETCHER, Committee.

EAST SCHOOL.

Appropriation,				\$224 19
Amount of teacher's wages,		\$180	00	
Wood and incidentals,		14	25	
Balance to new account,		29	94.	
				\$224 19
March 18, 1865,	JOSEPH	EASTERBROOK.	Com	mittee.

NORTH SCHOOL.

Appropriation,	\$224 19
Balance from last year,	1 84
Amount of teacher's wages,	\$201 50
Paid for fuel,	14 00
Incidentals,	7 26
Balance to new account,	3 27
	<u> </u>
March 18, 1865.	ISAAC T. FLAGG. Committee.

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