

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

CLERK, TREASURER, SELECTMEN,

Assessors, Overseers of the Poor,

AND

SCHOOL COMMITTEE,

OF THE

TOWN OF MIDDLEFIELD,

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING FEBRUARY 1, 1886.



TURNERS FALLS, MASS.:

PRINTED BY CECIL T. BAGNALL, PROPRIETOR OF REPORTER.

1886.

CLERK'S REPORT.

1885.

DOGS LICENSED.

Males, 22 at \$2.00,	\$44 00	
Females, 4 at \$5.00,	20 00	
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Amount received for same,	\$64 00	
Deduct clerk's fees, 20 cents each,	5 20	
Paid to County Treasurer,		\$58 80

BIRTHS RECORDED.

1883, omitted.

April 11. Minnie Alice Clark, daughter to Henry and Rosa Clark.

1885.

Jan'y 25. John Morrison, third son to John J. and Lizzie Morrison.

Jan'y 26. Mary Ophelia Blush, daughter to Charles J. and Kate Blush.

Mar. 25. Winifred Boshan, son to Fred and Rosa Boshan.

Aug. 10. Harriett Adelaide Snow, daughter to Henry A. and Martha K. Snow.

Sept. 4. Delia Flemming, daughter to Thomas H. and Maggie E. Flemming.

Oct. 7. Mary Sayward Friend, daughter to George F. and Mary B. Friend.

Nov. 26. Maude Mabel Clark, daughter to Henry and Rosa Clark.

Nov. 27. Mary Kelly, daughter to Owen and Bridget Kelly.

MARRIAGES RECORDED.

- Feb. 17. Taucret Perry, Middlefield.
Adelaide Gover, Middlefield.
- Feb. 26. James Henry Hendrix, Middlefield.
Anna Agnes Dolman, Middlefield.
- Mar. 4. Levi Burt Blinn, Bridgeport, Ct.
Lottie Lee Beebee, Middlefield.
- Ap'l 28. John Thomas Bryan, Middlefield.
Nora Vesta Ingham.
- May 13. George L. Serriner, Middlefield.
Lilla M. Shaw, Middlefield.
- June 10. George A. Messenger, Middlefield.
Ada E. Crosier, Washington.
- July 14. Fitz James Babson, Gloucester.
May J. McElwain, Middlefield.
- Sept. 24. Henry F. Granger, Middlefield.
Rebecca Smart, Middlefield.
- Oct. 15. Eugene House, Warehouse Point, Ct.
Caroline Dolman, Middlefield.

DEATHS RECORDED.

		YEARS.	MOS.	DAYS.
Jan'y 21.	Dwight E. Graves,	60		
Feb. 23.	James Hendrix,	69		
Mar. 12.	Hiram Leach,	70		
May 24.	Winfred Boshan,		2	
Sept. 3.	John Smith,	69	6	16
Oct. 2.	William Sherman Cross,	69	11	
" 11.	Rufus Hapgood,	72		
Nov. 11.	Daniel Alderman,	86	9	22
" 15.	Emerancy Hawes,	79	11	
Dec. 16.	Mary Mahoney,	84		
" 19.	Mary Sayward Friend,		3	12

JONATHAN McELWAIN,

Town Clerk.

TREASURER'S REPORT

OF THE

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES OF THE TOWN OF MIDDLEFIELD FROM MARCH 1st, 1885, TO FEB. 1st, 1886.

RECEIPTS.

Cash on hand at date of last report,		\$2580 04
By Cash received from Town of Peru for Pauper,		8 00
“ “ “ Reuben Hapgood for care and burial,		25 00
“ “ “ State Treasurer Corporation Tax,		468 19
“ “ “ National bank Tax,		73 06
For State Aid, Ch. 301, Acts 1879,		102 00
“ “ “ 252, “		35 50
“ “ “ From J. L. Bell,		79 46
“ “ “ Revenue Interest,		79 72
“ “ “ From County Treasurer, Dog Fund,		49 20
“ “ “ State Treasurer, Income on School Fund,		307 86
“ “ “ Town of Becket, Schooling Children for 2 years,		150 00
“ “ “ On Taxes of 1885,		2887 12
	Total,	<u>\$6845 15</u>

EXPENDITURES.

To Cash paid, County Tax,		472 51
“ “ State Tax,		285 00
“ “ J. L. Bell,		79 46
“ “ Revenue Interest,		79 72
“ “ Selectmen's Orders,		3069 02
“ “ On hand to balance,		2859 44
	Total,	<u>\$6845 15</u>

LIABILITIES OF THE TOWN.

OUTSTANDING CLAIMS.

Due School Teachers, (estimated,)	\$520 00
“ School Committee, “	45 00
“ Selectmen and Assessors, (estimated,)	55 00
“ Town Treasurer,	25 00
“ For keeping Town Paupers, (estimated,)	30 00
“ For snow bills, (estimated,)	20 00
“ State Aid,	18 50
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Total,	\$713 50

ASSETS OF THE TOWN.

Cash on hand,	\$2859 44
Excess of Assets over Liabilities,	2145 94

Middlefield, Feb. 1st, 1886.

JOHN L. BELL, Town Treasurer.

We hereby certify that we have examined the foregoing account and found the same correct.

ASHER PEASE,	}	SELECTMEN OF MIDDLEFIELD.
JOHN W. CRANE,		
GEORGE S. BELL,		

Middlefield, Feb. 4, 1886.

ASSESSORS' REPORT.

The Assessors report as follows :

Valuation of Real Estate, May 1st, 1885,	\$159005 00
“ “ Personal Estate, May 1st, 1885,	106957 00
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Total,	\$265962 00
126 Polls,	
State Tax,	\$285 00
County Tax,	472 51
Tax rate per thousand	10 00
Property secured by Mortgage,	3600 00
Property unsecured by Mortgage,	18660 00
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Total,	\$22260 00
Stocks in Corporation without the State,	\$11400 00
Total number of horses,	89
“ “ cows,	199
“ “ sheep,	968
“ “ neat cattle other than cows,	415
Dwelling Houses,	114
Total number of acres of land assessed,	14165
Taxes abated as follows :	
Charles J. Blush, annual abatement for lack of road,	\$1 60
Augustus Ducette,	2 00
Henry Goldiner,	2 00
Louis Manniel,	2 00
James Kilroy,	2 00
Andrew Treaskea,	2 00
Error on tax list,	80
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Total,	\$12 40

With respect,

ASHER PEASE,	} ASSESSORS	
JOHN W. CRANE,		OF
GEORGE S. BELL,		MIDDLEFIELD.

REPORT OF THE OVERSEERS OF THE POOR.

Daniel McCarty, Jr., is supported at the Northampton Lunatic Hospital at an expense of \$3.25 per week for board, clothing, etc., extra.

Daniel McCarty, Jr., 52 weeks board,	\$169 00	
Incidental expenses,	20 37	
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Expenses to Jan. 1, 1886,		\$189 37
Mrs. Roxanna Holmes is boarded by Mrs. W. Sherman Cross, at \$2.00 per week, clothing, etc., extra.		
Harry A. Meacham for support of Mrs. Roxanna Holmes, from March 1st to March 26,	8 00	
Mr. W. Sherman Cross, for support of Mrs. Roxanna Holmes, from March 26, to Dec. 17, 1885,	75 00	
Incidental expenses,	4 37	
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Total expense for Mrs. Roxanna Holmes, Mrs. C. A. Cone is partially supported by the town at Mill River.		87 37
Amount paid her to Feb. 1st,		60 00
Mrs. Henry Carn was assisted at her home in Pittsfield under the di- rection of Theodore Bartlett.		
Amount paid during the year,		9 12
Hiram Leach supplied during his sick- ness,	13 01	
Seayen and Parker, coffin and robe,	15 00	
J. McElwain, digging grave,	4 00	
Total expense of sickness and death.		32 01
Paid the town of Hinsdale for supplies and medical attendance for Mrs. Hannah Sullivan,		35 75

John Ryan, supplies furnished,	1 32	
Dr. L. W. Combs, medical attendance,	9 00	
Dr. H. E. Wilson, " "	12 00	
Total expense,		22 32
Paid for Charles Wilson, a tramp, board,	2 00	
Dr. O. J. Sheperdson,	2 00	
Car fare,	1 33	
	<hr/>	5 33
Total expense,		
Paid for care of Rufus Hapgood, a tramp who was hurt on B. & A. R. R. in October. Dr. O. J. Shep- herdson,	2 50	
Care in sickness,	13 75	
Funeral expenses,	8 75	
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Total expense,		25 00
Paid O. R. Wheeler, care of tramp, one night,		50
Whole amount paid during the year,		466 77
Amount reimbursed to the town by the friends of Rufus Hapgood,		25 00
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Net expense,		\$441 77

Respectfully,

ASHER PEASE,	}	OVERSEERS OF MIDDLEFIELD.
JOHN W. CRANE,		
GEORGE S. BELL,		

ROAD ACCOUNT.

HIGHWAYS AND BRIDGES.

Work done after Highway Bills were made :

E. D. Blush, work on highway,	\$76 75
“ “ railings,	15 00
Parsons G. Willey, work on highway,	10 00
Harry A. Meacham, “ “	25 00
H. S. Sawyer, “ “	15 75
E. J. Ingham, “ “	36 30
John T. Bryan, “ “	55 65
Henry A. Snow, “ “	10 25
George W. Cottrell “ “	42 00
John M. Houck, “ “	40 90
M. J. Smith, “ “	52 00
Charles Smith, “ “	3 12
Charles Noble, “ “	55 50
F. A. Osgood, “ “	53 42
“ “ cutting bushes and railing,	16 50
George S. Bell, work on highway,	25 60
Daniel Alderman, “ “	39 10
Jonathan McElwain, “ “	5 00
Henry Ferris, stone sluice and highway,	11 00
Joseph Bennett, cutting brush,	2 50
Albert Ellsworth, on highway and fixing bank wall,	28 00
C. B. Wright, work on highway,	59 85
John W. Crane, work on highway.	21 40
Henry Hendrix, work on highway,	5 25
Total,	<hr/> \$705 84

BRIDGES.

Asher Pease, work and timber for bridge at Factory Village,	\$15 25
John M. Houck, lumber and repairs on bridge,	12 00
F. A. Osgood, lumber and repairs on bridge near O. C. Olds,	18 75
G. H. Miller, lumber for bridge,	19 45
C. B. Wright, lumber and work on bridge,	10 00
John T. Bryan, " " "	2 00
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Total,	\$77 45

BREAKING ROADS.

John Cottrell,	\$7 00
M. J. Smith,	10 20
H. A. Meacham,	5 00
H. S. Sawyer,	6 00
J. T. Bryan,	18 95
J. M. Houck,	3 00
H. H. Prentice,	1 00
Charles Noble,	4 65
F. A. Osgood,	5 00
Joseph Bennett,	4 50
G. W. Cottrell,	2 00
C. B. Wright,	1 50
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Total,	\$68 83

Total expense of roads from February 1885 to February 1st, 1886, \$852 12

MISCELLANEOUS ORDERS FOR BILLS PREVIOUS TO
FEBRUARY 1st, 1885.

George W. Howe, work on roads,	\$1 59
George W. Howe, breaking roads,	8 28
George W. Tinker, " "	5 25
Jennie M. Smith, School Teaching,	66 00
Agnes U. Blush, "	78 00
Minnie A. Smith, "	61 00
Monemia Meacham, "	60 00
Theodore Bartlett, supplies furnished Mrs. Carn,	24 57
Harry A. Meacham, support of Mrs. Holmes,	15 00
Harry A. Meacham, wood for North School,	6 75
Henry Ferris, work on road,	5 00
E. H. Alvord, repairing J. Roger's wagon,	2 50
M. J. Smith, aid for Mr. Butcher in 1884,	3 00
Town of Munson, aid and expenses for F. E. Whitcomb,	24 00
Jarvis Norcott, stove and pipe,	10 75
L. W. Combs, M. D., medical attendance on John Ryan and family,	6 00
R. D. Gear, work on Town Hall in 1884,	3 37
Charles M. Combs, breaking roads,	3 15
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	\$384 21
Orders given previous to March 1st, 1885, but not presented to the Treasurer for payment until after March 1st,	\$172 58

MILITARY AID.

John A. Williams,	\$49 50
George F. Friend,	44 00
James Espy,	48 00
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Total,	\$141 50

SCHOOL ACCOUNTS.

ORDERS GIVEN AS FOLLOWS:

Miss Annie Pease,	for teaching 8 weeks,	\$40 00
“ Mary J. McElwain,	“ “	40 00
“ Minnie A. Smith,	“ “	40 00
Mrs. Laura Knapp,	“ “	40 00
Miss Jennie M. Smith,	“ “	52 00
“ Agnes U. Blush,	“ “	52 00
“ Mattie S. Blush,	for teaching 10 weeks,	50 00
“ Annie Pease,	“ “	50 00
“ Minnie A. Smith,	“ “	50 00
“ Jennie M. Smith,	“ “	60 00
“ Agnes U. Blush,	“ “	60 00
“ Emily S. Rockwood,	for teaching 14 weeks,	70 00
Mrs. Laura Knapp,	“ 12 “	60 00
Clarence Alderman, Evening School,	6 weeks,	12 00
Amount of Summer and Fall Schools,		<u>\$676 00</u>

There will be due for the Winter term of Schools as follows:

Mrs. Laura Knapp,	for teaching 8 weeks,	\$40 00
Miss Annie Pease,	for teaching 12 weeks,	60 00
“ Minnie A. Smith,	“ “	60 00
“ Jennie M. Smith,	“ “	72 00
“ Mattie S. Blush,	“ “	60 00
“ Eva Meacham,		40 00
Jarrold Smith,	for teaching 12 weeks,	60 00
Wilson Smith,	for teaching 14 weeks,	70 00
Clarence Alderman, Evening School,		28 00
Amount of Winter Schools, (due),		<u>\$490 00</u>
Total amount for Teaching,		<u>\$1166 00</u>

North East School for wood,	\$8 00
Centre School, for wood,	11 25
Smith Hollow, (due),	4 00
Factory Village, for wood,	20 00
Pease School, for wood,	8 00
South East, for wood,	10 50
Bancroft, for wood,	20 00
Meacham, (due),	5 00
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Total expense for wood,	\$86 75
For building fires, (due),	7 00
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Total expense,	\$1259 75

Bancroft.—Paid W. Sumner for cleaning school house,	\$4 00
Factory Village.—Paid Wm. Noble for cleaning school house,	4 00
School Sundries. J. T. Bryan,	7 41
School Sundries. J. W. Crane,	7 15
School Books.	162 54
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	\$1444 85

Total amount due at end of school year,

Amount of Orders given up to February	
1st, 1885, is	\$938 85
To become due,	506 00
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	\$1444 85

INCIDENTAL EXPENSES.

C. T. Bagnall, Printing Reports and Express,	\$7 35
Stationery, Tax receipts,	3 35
Running Town lines,	7 00
Lumber for Town Hall,	12 75
R. D. Geer for ringing Bell,	12 00
J. T. Bryan, driving hearse,	9 00
" Sundries,	2 86
" Work on Town Hall,	4 56
J. W. Crane, sundries,	9 09
Abatement of Taxes,	12 40
Asher Pease, Discount on Taxes,	18 10
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Total,	\$98 46

SUMMARY.

Orders given from March 1st, 1885, to Feb. 1st, 1886, as follows :

Roads,	\$852 12
Paupers,	441 77
Military aid,	141 50
Schools,	938 85
Incidental expenses,	98 46
Bills due previous to March, 1885,	384 21
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Total,	\$2856 91

TOWN OFFICERS.

M. J. Smith, services as school committee to February 1st, 1886,	\$22 50
J. W. Crane, services as school committee to February 1st, 1886,	20 75
J. T. Bryan, services as school committee to February 1st, 1886,	4 00
Asher Pease, services as Selectman, Assessor and Overseer of the Poor,	20 00
J. W. Crane, services as Selectman, Assessor and Overseer of the Poor,	19 00
G. S. Bell, services as Selectman, Assessor and Overseer of the Poor,	18 00
J. L. Bell, services as Treasurer,	25 00
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Total,	\$125 25
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Cash in Treasury, February 1st, 1886,	\$2859 44
Due from Becket for 1885,	75 00
“ “ Worthington for 1885,	27 00
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	\$2961 44
Outstanding accounts (estimated)	\$713 50
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Total,	\$2247 94

Number of Voters in in town Nov. 1885, 99.

List of Jurors proposed by the Selectmen for the ensuing year :

M. J. Smith,	Asher Pease,
Clarkson Smith,	Thomas H. Fleming,
Jonathan McElwain,	John M. Lorthrop.
George S. Bell,	Clark B. Wright.

Respectfully submitted,

ASHER PEASE,	} Selectmen	
JOHN W. CRANE,		of
GEORGE S. BELL,		Middlefield.

TOWN WARRANT.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.

Hampshire, ss.

To Asher Pease, Constable of the Town of Middlefield,

Greeting :

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts you are directed to notify the inhabitants of the town of Middlefield, qualified to vote in elections and town affairs to meet at the Town Hall in said Middlefield on Monday, the first day of March next, at ten of the clock in the forenoon, then and there to act on the following articles, to wit :

Art. 1st. To choose a Moderator.

Art. 2nd. To hear the reports of the Selectmen, Assessors, Overseers of the Poor and School Committee, and act thereon.

Art. 3rd. To choose all necessary town officers.

Art. 4th. To determine the manner of repairing the Highways and Bridges for the ensuing year, and pass any vote in relation to the same.

Art. 5th. To determine the manner of collecting taxes for the ensuing year and pass any vote relating thereto.

Art. 6th. To fix the compensation of the collector of taxes.

Art. 7th. Shall Licenses be granted for the sale of intoxicating liquors in this town for the ensuing year.

Art. 8th. To see if the town will accept the list of jurors proposed by the Selectmen and pass any vote relating thereto.

Art. 9th. To see if the town will shut up the road commencing near the Meacham place, so called, and thence over Johnycake Hill, so called, to the road leading from Factory Village to the depot : then commencing at the Loveland place, so called, thence to the first mentioned road.

Art. 10th. To raise such sums of money as may be necessary to defray the expenses of the Town the ensuing year.

Art. 11th. To transact any other business which way legally come before said meeting.

Hereof fail not, and make due return of this warrant with your doings thereon to the Town Clerk at or before the time for holding said meeting.

Given under our hands at Middlefield, this eighth day of February, in the year of our Lord one thousand, eight hundred and eighty-six.

ASHER PEASE,
JOHN W. CRANE,
GEORGE S. BELL,

} SELECTMEN
OF THE
TOWN OF MIDDLEFIELD.

SCHOOL REPORT.

The School Committee make the following financial report :

EXPENSE OF SCHOOLS FOR THE YEAR.

NORTH EAST SCHOOL.

Wages of teachers,	\$150 00	
Wood and building of fires,	9 00	\$159 00

SOUTH EAST SCHOOL.

Wages of teachers,	\$140 00	
Wood and building of fires,	11 50	\$151 50

PEASE SCHOOL.

Wages of teachers,	\$150 00	
Wood and building of fires,	9 00	\$159 00

CENTER SCHOOL.

Wages of teachers,	\$150 00	
Wood and building of fires,	12 25	\$162 25

SMITH HOLLOW SCHOOL.

Wages of teachers,	\$140 00	
Wood and building of fires,	5 00	\$145 00

FACTORY VILLAGE SCHOOL.

Wages of teachers,	\$172 00	
Wood and building of fires,	21 00	\$193 00

BANCROFT.

Wages of teachers,	\$184 00	
Wood and building of fires,	21 00	\$205 00
Roger's children,		40 00
Meacham children,		45 00
		<hr/>
Total expense,		\$1259 75

Town appropriation,	\$800 00	
Received State School fund,	307 86	
" Town of Becket,	75 00	
" " " Worthington,	27 00	
Surplus Revenue,	90 00	\$1299 86

In five of our schools there have been three terms, aggregating thirty weeks of schooling; in two others, twenty-eight weeks at a total cost to the town of \$1260. The younger children in many instances have attended school only in the summer and fall; and the older ones only in the winter. Your committee are of the opinion that a different arrangement of schools may be made to the manifest advantage of the older pupils, and without any serious loss to the younger children, and the following plan is proposed.

The plan is to have a summer and fall school in all the districts giving at least twenty-two weeks of schooling. Then in-

stead of the additional six or eight weeks schools in the different parts of the town, have in the winter one school of twelve weeks at the center for all the scholars in the town who can attend. This school should be graded and two competent teachers employed. By this arrangement the older scholars would have something like the advantages of a high school. The younger children would suffer no serious loss, and this loss would be more than compensated by the advantages of this winter school, which these younger scholars would attend during the last years of their school life. Ten years is the average school life of our boys and girls—and should such a plan as we propose be continued for a series of years, all would reap the benefit. We are aware that in a few individual cases—attendance upon such a school would be difficult, but the attendance in the select schools of the past ten or twelve years of scholars from all parts of the town show that this difficulty may be overcome. The committee ask the thoughtful consideration of this plan by the voters of the town.

M. J. SMITH,	} SCHOOL COMMIT-	
J. W. CRANE,		TEE OF
J. T. BRYAN,		MIDDLEFIELD.