

# ANNUAL REPORTS



Town Clerk, Treasurer, Assessors,  
Overseers of the Poor, Selectmen  
and School Committee, for the  
Year ending February 1st, 1902.

TOWN OF  
MIDDLEFIELD

PRESS OF HOME NEWSPAPER PUBLISHING CO.



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## TOWN OF MIDDLEFIELD

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# TOWN WARRANT.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

HAMPSHIRE, SS.

To T. H. Fleming, 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 town affairs, to meet at the town hall in said Middlefield, on Monday, the third day of March, next, at ten o'clock in the forenoon, then and there to act on the following articles, to wit:

ARTICLE 1. To choose a moderator.

ART. 2. To choose under Chapter 386 of the Acts of 1890 and the amendments to said Act, a town clerk, a town treasurer, three selectmen, two constables, a collector of taxes, an auditor, three fence viewers and a tree warden for the term of one year, one school committee for the term of two years, a road commissioner, a school committee and a trustee of the public library for the term of three years; also to vote "Yes" or "No" in answer to the question, "shall licenses be granted for the sale of intoxicating liquors in this town?" All on one ballot. The polls will be opened at thirty minutes past ten o'clock a. m. and may be closed at thirty minutes past two o'clock p. m.

ART. 3. To hear the reports of the selectmen, assessors, overseers of the poor and school committee, and act thereon.

ART. 4. To choose such town officers as are not required by law to be elected by ballot.



ART. 5. To raise and appropriate such sums of money as may be necessary to defray town expenses for the current year.

ART. 6. To determine what disposition shall be made of the dog fund.

ART. 7. To determine the manner of collecting the taxes and fix the compensation of the collector of taxes.

ART. 8. To see if the town will accept the list of jurors as proposed by the selectmen.

ART. 9. To transact any other business that may legally come before said meeting.

And you are directed to serve this warrant by posting up attested copies thereof at each of the postoffices in said Middlefield, seven days, at least, before the time for holding 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 nine hundred and two.

J. T. BRYAN,	}	Selectmen of Middlefield.
GEO. W. COTTRELL,		
H. S. PEASE,		



## Selectmen's Report.

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### FACTORY VILLAGE ROAD.

W. W. Carter, rebuilding road and abutments near reservoir dam,	\$590 00
Collins & Norton, raising and reconstructing Blush bridge,	106 79
W. W. Carter, help furnished Collins & Norton,	27 68
Kiely & Gleason, contract work,	10,803 75
Joseph Ross, contract work near arch,	477 68
Owego Bridge Co., two steel bridges,	975 00
Frank Curtis, plank for bridges,	109 55
	<hr/>
	\$13,090 45

### REPAIRS ON HIGHWAYS AND BRIDGES.

Selectmen, for temporary road and bridge after flood,	\$42 00
C. E. Johnson, center division,	452 00
F. A. Osgood, eastern division,	472 95
J. T. Bryan, western division,	548 31
Selectmen, contract work with state under Small Town Act of 1900,	400 00
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	\$1,915 26



## Town Clerk's Report.

### BIRTHS.

1901.

- June 1. John Boboski, son of John and Helen Boboski.  
July 16. Harry Wellington Vincent, son of Edward C. and Hattie A. Vincent.  
July 17. An infant, son of Willis B. and Clara L. Graves.  
July 28. Ethel Mae Pease, daughter of Henry S. and Grace Adel Pease.  
Sept. 17. Basil Willard Dunn, son of Joseph and Anna Cecelia Dunn.  
Sept. 19. Charles Edward Cook, son of George E. and Helen M. Cook.  
Oct. 4. Ethel Maud Sternagle, daughter of Henry Sternagle, Jr., and Maude C. Sternagle.  
Oct. 8. Verna Evelyn Smith, daughter of Walter A. and Bessie May Smith.  
Nov. 12. Claude Alford Bardin, son of George W. and Kate A. Bardin.  
Nov. 18. George Wesley Olds, son of Wesley A. and Mary A. Olds.

### MARRIAGES.

- Sept. 16. Michael Tefts, Middlefield,  
Rosa Ourdan, Middlefield.  
Sept. 19. Thomas Dwyer, West Springfield,  
Jennie Houle, Middlefield.  
Oct. 9. James W. Cody, Middlefield,  
Mary Gertrude Bennett, Middlefield.



## DEATHS.

- Mar. 1. George Frederick Dyer, 6 years, 4 months and 3 days.  
 June 24. Mary Gallivan, 50 years.  
 Aug. 4. Rosella S. Meacham of Springfield, 40 years, 11 months.  
 Aug. 5. Oliver Church, 79 years, 4 months and 24 days.  
 Sept. 17. Infant son of W. B. Graves, 2 months.  
 Nov. 22. Sylvester Prentice, 84 years.  
 Nov. 25. Charlotte B. Pease, 79 years, 8 months.

## DOG LICENSES.

June 1.	18 males at \$2.00 each,	\$36 00
	1 female at \$5.00,	5 00
		<hr/>
		\$41 00
	Deduct 20 cents each, Clerk's fees,	3 80
		<hr/>
June 1.	Paid County Treasurer,	\$37 20
Dec. 1.	17 males at \$2.00 each,	\$34 00
	1 female at \$5.00,	5 00
		<hr/>
		\$39 00
	Deduct 20 cents each, Clerk's fees,	3 60
		<hr/>
Dec. 1.	Paid County Treasurer,	\$35 40

M. J. SMITH, Town Clerk.

Middlefield, Feb. 1, 1902.



# Treasurer's Report.

## RECEIPTS.

Balance on hand at beginning of financial year,	\$1,375 45
Received city of Pittsfield, aid to G. L. Barns,	18 00
Received town of Becket, for school at Bancroft,	266 93
Received Jacob Robbins, one year's interest,	6 00
Received state treasurer, rebate cattle inspection,	5 00
Received state treasurer, schooling wards of the state,	301 50
Received Hampden Savings bank, pauper fund,	53 41
Received Hampden Savings bank, cemetery fund,	24 01
Received District Court case of Cushman,	20 00
Received town of Chester, rebate of superintendent's salary,	237 28
Received county treasurer, dog fund,	54 49
Received state treasurer, corporation tax,	352 06
Received state treasurer, bank tax,	4 84
Received state treasurer, rebate of state aid,	111 00
Received state treasurer, school fund to aid teachers,	366 40
Received state treasurer, rebate high school tuition,	23 20
Received state treasurer, rebate of hospital expenses,	109 50
Amount carried forward,	<u>\$3,329 07</u>



Amount brought forward,	\$3,329 07
Received state treasurer, Massachusetts school fund,	838 08
Received state treasurer, on account of new road,	12,000 00
Received state treasurer, on account of state road,	400 00
Received borrowed at different times at bank,	5,736 04
Received collector, on old tax bills,	133 70
Received on tax bill of 1901,	2,646 24
Received rent of town hall,	4 00
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Total,	\$25,087 13

## EXPENSES.

Paid state tax,	\$122 50
Paid county tax,	341 40
Paid notes at City National bank as follows:	
Sept. 21, note of \$2,032, with interest, \$2.05,	2,034 05
Nov. 17, note of \$500, with discount, \$7.58,	507 58
Nov. 29, note of \$1200, with discount, \$24.20,	1,224 20
Paid discount on note of \$500, due March 10,	20 25
Paid discount on note of \$1,500, due March 9,	23 00
Paid selectmen's orders,	16,972 85
Paid school committee's orders,	2,842 97
Balance in cash and bank,	998 33
	<hr/>
Total,	\$25,087 13

## ASSETS OF THE TOWN.

Cash balance,	\$998 33
Due on tax bill of 1901,	6 92
Due from Becket for school at Bancroft, estimated,	275 00
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	\$1,280 25



## LIABILITIES.

Due March 9, note at City National bank,	\$1,500 00
Due March 10, note at City National bank,	500 00
	<hr/>
	\$2,000 00
Net indebtedness of the town,	\$719 75

M. J. SMITH, Treasurer.

I hereby certify that I have audited the accounts of the treasurer for the year ending February 4, 1902, and find them correct.

GEORGE S. BELL, Auditor.



## Assessors' Report.

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Value of assessed real estate,	\$144,115 00	
Value of assessed personal estate,	52,598 00	
Total,		\$196,713 00

Number of residents assessed on property,	76
Number of non-residents assessed on property,	42
Number of persons assessed for poll tax only,	26
Whole number of persons assessed,	144
Whole number of polls assessed,	97

Tax assessed on real estate,	\$1,801 57
Tax assessed on personal estate,	657 59
Tax assessed on 97 polls,	194 00
Total tax assessed,	\$2,653 16

Tax rate per thousand, \$12.50.

Number of horses assessed,	135
cows assessed,	351
sheep assessed,	326
neat cattle other than cows assessed,	249
swine assessed,	34
dwellings assessed,	108
acres of land assessed,	14,165
fowls assessed,	526



## TAXES ABATED AS FOLLOWS.

John Morrison estate, annual abatement, lack of road,	\$2 38
Parsons G. Willey, tax for 1900 and 1901,	4 81
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	\$7 19

J. T. BRYAN,  
GEO. W. COTTRELL, } Assessors  
H. S. PEASE, } of  
Middlefield.



## Report of Overseers of the Poor.

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Expense at State Lunatic Hospital, Medfield,  
board of Daniel McCarthy, \$146 00

Three fourths of the expense at hospital is borne by the  
State, making the net expense to the town for the year \$36.50.

J. T. BRYAN,  
GEO. W. COTTRELL, } Overseers  
H. S. PEASE, } of the  
Poor.



## Selectmen's Report.

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### FACTORY VILLAGE ROAD.

W. W. Carter, rebuilding road and abutments near reservoir dam,	\$590 00
Collins & Norton, raising and reconstructing Blush bridge,	106 79
W. W. Carter, help furnished Collins & Norton,	27 68
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Joseph Ross, contract work near arch,	477 68
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### REPAIRS ON HIGHWAYS AND BRIDGES.

Selectmen, for temporary road and bridge after flood,	\$42 00
C. E. Johnson, center division,	452 00
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J. T. Bryan, western division,	548 31
Selectmen, contract work with state under Small Town Act of 1900,	400 00
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	\$1,915 26



## TOWN HALL ACCOUNT.

E. Taubert & Son, order of building committee,	\$1,139 50
Furnishings for town hall,	16 75
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	\$1,156 25

## STATE AID, CHAPTER 374, ACTS OF 1899.

Carrie M. Williams, twelve months,	\$48 00
Mary Bliven, one month,	4 00
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	\$52 00

## INCIDENTAL EXPENSES.

Mrs. L. S. Newton, services as librarian,	\$10 00
C. T. Bagnall, blanks and stationery,	3 05
Home Newspaper Pub. Co., printing reports and ballots,	36 90
M. J. Smith, insurance on town hall,	56 25
Wm. H. Clapp, clerk, entrance fee,	3 00
M. J. Smith, trustee, books for library,	43 25
Election officers for the year,	10 00
Austin Peters, stamp for inspector,	1 75
Geo. W. Tibbets, blade for scraper,	8 50
The Republican, advertising,	3 60
H. H. Chilson, clerk, costs of Cushman case,	22 77
M. J. Smith, trustee, bill for printing catalogues of town library,	95 70
E. S. McElwain, care of church lot and mowing cemetery,	18 00
J. T. Bryan, inspecting animals and provisions,	25 25
driving hearse,	4 00
express and postage,	3 51
	<hr/>
Amount carried forward,	\$345 53



Amount brought forward,	\$345 53
H. H. Prentice, collector, order of abatement,	7 19
order of discount,	25 62
posting warrants and counsel,	4 00
M. J. Smith, expenses to Boston,	10 00
expenses to Springfield, three times,	6 75
administering oaths,	3 50
postage, express and blanks,	8 55
	<hr/>
	\$411 14

## TOWN OFFICERS.

M. J. Smith, services as treasurer,	\$25 00
services as town clerk,	22 00
O. C. Olds, services as selectman, assessor and overseer of poor,	3 00
J. T. Bryan, services as selectman, assessor and overseer of poor,	33 25
Geo. W. Cottrell, services as selectman, assessor and overseer of poor,	24 50
H. S. Pease, services as selectman, assessor and overseer of poor,	24 00
E. H. Alderman, services as school committee,	15 00
C. W. Graves, services as school committee,	10 00
H. H. Prentice, services as school committee,	5 00
H. H. Prentice, collecting taxes,	40 00
	<hr/>
	\$201 75



## RECAPITULATION.

Factory village road,	\$13,090 45
Highways and bridges,	1,915 26
Town hall,	1,156 25
State aid,	52 00
Poor,	146 00
Incidental expenses,	411 14
Town officers,	201 75
	<hr/>
Total,	\$16,972 85

J. T. BRYAN,	}	Selectmen of Middlefield.
GEO. W. COTTRELL,		
H. S. PEASE,		

I hereby certify that I have examined the accounts of the selectmen, assessors and overseers of poor and find them correct.

GEO. S. BELL, Auditor.

Middlefield, February, 1902.

## LIST OF JURORS PROPOSED BY THE SELECTMEN.

Cooley W. Graves,	Edwin H. Alderman,
Edwin S. McElwain,	Henry Sternagle, Jr.,
Charles H. Ferris,	G. William Bryan,
Clarence E. Johnson,	Frank Curtis,
Walter A. Smith.	



# School Report.

## RESOURCES.

Balance from last year,	\$7 49
Appropriated for schools,	800 00
Appropriated for supervision,	125 00
Received from state, aid for teachers,	366 40
Received for tuition of state wards,	301 50
Received from state for supervision,	237 28
Received from town of Becket,	266 93
Received from Massachusetts school fund,	838 08
Received from state, rebate high school tuition,	23 20
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Total,	\$2,965 88

## EXPENDITURES.

For teacher's salaries,	\$1,594 75
supervision,	271 96
fuel,	86 66
care rooms,	32 00
books,	95 02
supplies,	72 57
conveying children,	129 70
school furnishings,	13 56
repairs,	81 94
labor,	10 02
cleaning schoolrooms,	4 40
express charges,	1 63
postage,	1 16
taking school census,	3 50
	<hr/>
Amount carried forward,	\$2,398 87



Amount brought forward,	\$2,398 87
For papering chapel parlor,	5 52
high school tuition,	23 20
order book,	1 59
sundries,	31 06
	<hr/>
Total,	\$2,460 24
Balance unexpended,	505 64
	<hr/>
	\$2,965 88

EDWIN H. ALDERMAN, )  
 COOLEY W. GRAVES, ) School Committee  
 HERBERT H. PRENTICE, ) of  
 Middlefield.



# REPORT

OF THE

## Superintendent of Schools.

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GENTLEMEN OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE:

I have the honor of submitting to you my second report of the schools of the town of Middlefield.

There has been but little change in the condition of the schools during the past year, yet it has been one of general advancement. The statistics vary but little from those in my last report as the number of children, the average membership and attendance show but little change. The increase in the number of visitors shows a commendable increase of interest on the part of parents which has been encouraging to teachers and pupils alike. The statistics for the year ending March 1st show an apparent shortening of the school year but the actual length of the natural school year, ending June 1st, will show that all the schools in town have had thirty-three weeks, or an increase of one week in each school over past years.

Under some teachers, the work in reading, particularly the primary work, has advanced very rapidly because of the introduction of phonetic methods. The Ward Rational Method has been used, and wherever it has been faithfully studied and carefully used with the classes, the results are almost marvelous. The system is one that teaches pupils the sounds of the letters and of the phonograms, so that, with this knowledge, a child can always get for himself the pronunciation of new words of almost any degree of difficulty. It is the giving of a key that will unlock any door through which the child must pass. It is a lamentable fact that half or more of the average



child's time for the first six years of his school life is spent in trying to read, after having been taught by the methods of the past, so that any device or new way of teaching that will enable him to get this ability in half the time will thereby add just that number of years to the actual school life of the child. Arithmetic, geography, language and grammar, and history are all the gainers by the added power given the scholar.

We are living under vastly different conditions from those that existed twenty-five or even ten years ago, and in no place is this more evident than in the requirements demanded from the successful teacher, and in the present methods of teaching. The successful teacher of twenty years ago, if put into the school today, without having kept in touch with the work of recent years, would be a flat failure. Proofs of this are seen on every side. Great light has been thrown on the problem by recent investigations in child study and child nature. More is required today than ever before that the schools may prove to be the blessing to the child that was intended by their founders. The problem of conservative advancement along right lines is one that should be studied carefully by all who are interested in the welfare of the coming citizen.

The average of the work in music is higher than it was a year ago. There are always a few children who have little or no musical ability, but such children need not remain unmusical. The ear must be trained to distinguish musical tones and the voice needs to receive special care from the teacher. Instances are known where children have taken several years to learn to sing the scale and, yet, have often made good singers and have developed considerable musical ability. Too much care cannot be taken to properly develop such voices and any influence, whether it is parental prejudice, a child's whims, or a weak teacher, that prevents the best possible being done, is a positive injury to the child. Some especially fine work has been done in two or three of the schools, more particularly in one where all the scholars are boys.

The work in writing has been particularly pleasing since the Ginn system of Vertical Writing was introduced in Septem-



ber. The advantage of this system over the slant is seen by any candid observer who may examine the work of today in the schools and compare it with that of past years.

The school house at Factory Village is in sad need of new desks and boards. This is one of the important schools of the town and should have an entirely new equipment before the new year opens in September. The school in the Southeast or Pease district also needs new furniture. That at present used is old, cut, uneven, and generally unfitted for use. This school is growing in size so new desks will be needed at an early date.

The interest of the inhabitants of Middlefield in the schools and the recognition of their purpose as shown by the regular attendance of most of the children, is a matter for congratulation, but it is a sad commentary on the progress of the twentieth century that in every town are found one or more families whose children are more often absent than present in school. Local truant officers cannot be blamed for it is but natural that they should not do their whole duty lest district strife be aroused. A great need in the entire state is state truant officers who will act without fear or favor when their services are needed.

Dictionaries have been placed in all the schools, a need to which attention was called last year, but maps are still needed and the work of the schools suffers because of this lack. It may be possible with the increased appropriation from the state school fund to meet this need before the close of the present school year.

It is a pleasure to be able to report the evident determination of teachers not to be satisfied with present attainments. Last winter seven of the teachers from this superintendency district spent the long vacation in Normal schools and, in every case, the good results have shown themselves in the new zeal and added ability of the student teacher. At present, four are doing this work, one being a Middlefield teacher of earnestness and ambition, who has put her best into the work through the spring and fall but who has ambition to stand a little nearer



the head of good teachers. Such ambition should be recognized and commended.

In conclusion, I desire to thank the members of the school committee for their unfailing courtesy and support in all efforts made by the superintendent to help the educational interests of the town. The confidence shown has been an encouragement and incentive at all times.

Respectfully submitted,

O. H. ADAMS. Superintendent of Schools.

March 1, 1902.



## MIDDLEFIELD TEACHERS—1901, 1902.

TEACHERS.	Salary Per Month.	Number of Weeks.	SCHOOL.	Where Educated.	Home Address.
Harriet M. Judd,	\$36	24	B'croft, Gram.	W'mouth High	W'hamptn
*Ethelyn Marshall,	36	9	B'croft, Gram.	Boston Nor. Art	Melrose
Sarah L. Savery,	36	33	B'croft, Prim.	Public Schools	Becket
Lucy M. Parsons,	40	12	Center	Hinsdale High	Hinsdale
*Martha A. White,	36	21	Center	Springfield Tr.	Springfield
Alice A. Nash,	36	31	Factory Village	New Haven Nor.	Westp't, Ct
Nellie Cody,	24	31	North East	Public Schools	Middlefi'd
*Helen A. Brown,	32	11	South East	No. Adams Nor.	No. Adams
*Anna E. Cassales,	32	12	South East	Westfield Nor.	Springfield
*Mary A. Rines,	32	9	South East	Tufts College	Malden
*Graduate.					

The division of the superintendent's time and the salary received from each town is based on the average membership of the towns in the district.

DISTRICT.	Average Membership.	Actual cost to towns for the year.	Division of time in days per school week.
Becket,	152	\$63 97	1 28
Chester,	264	111 11	2 22
Middlefield,	106	44 62	89
Washington,	72	30 30	61
Totals,	594	\$250 00	5.00



## SCHOOL STATISTICS.

SCHOOL.	Number Enrolled.	Average Membership.	Average Attendance.	Per Cent. of Attendance.	Times Tardy.	Times Dismissed.	No. of Visitors.
Bancroft Grammar,	18	16.8	16.2	96.3	28	70	83
Bancroft Primary,	30	24.9	23.3	93.4	36	15	70
Center,	24	16.4	15.9	97.	119	13	59
Factory Village,	28	23.7	20.9	85.6	257	2	40
Northeast,	15	8.8	7.8	88.6	144	19	46
Southeast,	19	15.1	14.1	92.7	142	5	46
Totals,	134	105.7	98.2	92.9	726	124	344

	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.
Enrolment,	111	131	143	136	134
Average membership.	92.3	99.8	103.9	106.2	105.7
Average attendance,	89.8	86.3	97	98.4	98.2
Per cent. of attendance,	94	86	93.3	92.8	92.9
Number of occupied buildings,	4	5	5	5	5
Number of schools,	5	5	5	6	6
Number of different teachers,	7	9	7	8	10
Number of changes,	2	4	2	2	4