

# Annual Reports

OF THE

Town Clerk, Treasurer, Assessors,

Overseers of the Poor,

SELECTMEN,

School Committee,

Superintendent of Schools,

OF THE

# Town of Middlefield,

For the Year Ending February 1, 1909.

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WESTFIELD, MASS.

WESTFIELD TIMES PRINT.

1909.

# Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

HAMPSHIRE, SS.

*To Thomas H. Fleming, Constable of the Town of Middlefield.*

GREETING:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby 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 10 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 on one ballot a Town Clerk, a Town Treasurer, three Selectmen, two Constables, a Collector of Taxes, an Auditor, three Fence Viewers, and a Tree Warden for a term of one year; one Assessor, one School Committee and a Trustee of the Public Library for a term of three years; also to vote on the same ballot "Yes" or "No" in answer to the question, "Shall licenses be granted for the sale of intoxicating liquors in this Town?"

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 determine the manner of repairing highways and bridges, and pass any vote in relation to the same.

ART. 6. To raise and appropriate such a sum of money as may be necessary to defray town expenses for the current year.



ART. 7. To determine what disposition shall be made of the dog fund.

ART. 8. To determine the manner of collecting the taxes and fix the compensation for the collection of taxes.

ART. 9. To see if the town will accept the provosion of the Solomon Root Cemetery Lot fund established for the perpetual care of their lot at the cemetery.

ART. 10. To see if the town will accept the provisions of the Col. David Mack cemetery Lot fund established for the perpetual care of the Mack Cemetery lot and monument.

ART. 11. 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 Post Offices 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 sixth day of February, in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and nine.

GEORGE W. COTTRELL,	}	Selectmen
THOMAS H. FLEMING,		of
GEORGE W. BRYAN,		Middlefield.

## Town Clerk's Report.

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### BIRTHS, 1908.

January 7:

Alma Irene Houle, daughter of Ephraim and Ida J. Houle.

August 16:

Lizzie Millie Tefts, daughter of Michael and Rosa Tefts.

September 2:

Isabel Selina Ferris, daughter of Charles H. and Mary A. Ferris.

October 14:

Eleanor Bryan, daughter of George W. and Mary A. Bryan.

November 4:

Nora Rogers, daughter of Abijah B. and Cora Rogers.

November 13:

Evelyn Mae Martin, daughter of James E. and Grace M. Martin.

December 27:

Perley Peter Boyer, son of Fred L. and Elizabeth T. Boyer.

### MARRIAGES, 1908.

December 23:

James L. Carroll, Middlefield, Annie M. Beck, Chester.

### DEATHS.

January 10:

John Tracy, 82 years, 7 months, 24 days.

January 28:

Samuel Gordon, 66 years.



February 8:

Ida J. Houle, 22 years, 9 months, 25 days.

June 11:

Franklin S. Olds, 65 years.

July 8:

Daniel McCarty, 44 years.

October 3:

Henry Ferris, 90 years, 4 months, 2 days.

November 24:

George W. Bardin, 44 years, 8 months, 16 days.

December 22:

Lester Root, 79 years, 3 months, 7 days.

December 22:

Milda Houle, 57 years, 7 months, 7 days.

#### DOG LICENSES.

June 1:

25 males at \$2.00 each,	\$50 00	
3 females at \$5.00 each,	15 00	
	<hr/>	\$65 00
Deduct 20c each, clerk's fees,		5 60
		<hr/>

June 1—Paid County Treasurer, \$59 40

December 1:

28 males at \$2.00 each,	\$56 00
Deduct 20c each, clerk's fees,	5 60
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December 1—Paid County Treasurer, \$50 40

HENRY S. PEASE,

Town Clerk.

Middlefield, February 1, 1909.

## Treasurer's Report.

### RECEIPTS.

Balance on hand February 1, 1908,	\$949 30
February 28, received from town of Becket for school at Baneroft,	406 88
April 3, received from Clerk of District Court, fine of R. D. Sweeney,	5 00
August 31, received from State Treasurer, rebate inspecting animals,	5 00
September 10, received from Town of Chester, rebate Superintendent's salary,	247 50
October 26, received from J. T. Bryan, fence posts,	1 00
November 10, received from Hampden Savings Bank, interest on Church Cemetery fund,	18 18
November 17, received from State Treasurer, corporation tax,	30 87
November 17, received from State Treasurer, National Bank tax,	27 50
November 17, received from State Treasurer, rebate state aid,	144 00
November 27, received from State Treasurer, schooling State wards,	499 00
December 29, received from State Treasurer, rebate High school tuition,	127 50
1909:	
January 3, received from State Treasurer, special highway work,	337 60
January 14, received from County Treasurer, dog fund	95 45
January 27, received from State Treasurer, Mass. school fund,	1,075 05
Amount carried forward,	<u>\$3,969 83</u>



Amount brought forward,	\$3,969 83
February 1, received from T. H. Fleming, taxes,	3,303 88
February 1, received from T. H. Fleming, interest on taxes,	3 31
February 1, received from T. H. Fleming, rent, Ban- croft hall,	1 00
February 1, received from George W. Cottrell, lumber,	3 00
February 1, received from George W. Cottrell, rent of hall,	29 00
February 1, received from H. S. Pease, wire,	2 00
February 1, received from interest on deposits,	15 17
	<hr/> \$7,327 19

## EXPENDITURES.

April 4, Paid E. H. Alvord, fees in Sweeney case,	\$11 01
September 14, paid County tax,	294 64
November 11, paid State tax,	330 00
February 1, 1909, paid Selectmen's orders,	2,872 06
February 1, paid School Committee's orders,	3,562 39
February 1, by cash on deposit to balance,	257 09
	<hr/> \$7,327 19

## ASSETS.

Cash balance,	\$257 09
Due from Becket for Bancroft school, estimated,	400 00
Due from Hampden Savings Bank, interest an funds, estimated,	475 00
Due from State Treasurer, rebate of State aid,	144 00
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Net balance in favor of town,	\$1,276 09

HENRY S. PEASE,

Treasurer.

Middlefield, February 1, 1909.

I hereby certify that I have audited the accounts of the Treasurer for the year ending February 1st, 1909, and find them correct.

GEORGE S. BELL,

Auditor.



## Assessors' Report.

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Value of assessed real estate,	\$146,090 00	
Value of assessed personal estate,	42,542 00	
		—————\$188,632 00
Number of residents assessed on property,		78
Number of non-residents assessed on property,		65
Number of persons assessed for pool tax only,		30
Whole number of persons assessed,		173
Whole number of male polls assessed,		87
Tax assessed on real estate,	\$2,191 44	
Tax assessed on personal estate,	640 20	
Tax assessed on 87 polls,	174 00	
		————— \$3,005 64
Tax rate, per thousand,		\$15 00
Number of horses assessed,		115
Number of cows assessed,		223
Number of sheep assessed,		210
Number of neat cattle other than cows assessed,		163
Number of swine assessed,		37
Number of dwelling houses assessed,		106
Number of acres of land assessed,		14,165
Number of fowls assessed,		275
Omitted personal property assessed Dec. 16,		\$19,882 74

## Taxes abated—

Letitia Stunagle, widow's exemption,	\$7 50
Angie M. Cottrell, Chap. 315, Acts 1906,	15 00
Lewis E. Day, Chap 315, Acts 1906, poll tax,	2 00
Dennis Galavin, Chap. 315, Acts 1906,	5 30
John Mayette, Chap. 315, Acts 1906,	16 63
John Morrison estate,	2 85

Total taxes abated,

\$49 28

GEORGE W. BRYAN,	} Assessors of Middlefield.
GEORGE W. COTTRELL,	
THOMAS H. FLEMING,	



# REPORT

OF THE

## Overseers of the Poor.

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James W. Meehan burial, expenses of Samuel Gordon,	\$25 00
House of Mercy Hospital, Pittsfield, Mass., care of Samuel Gordon,	61 00
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Total expense for support of poor,	\$86 00

GEORGE W. COTTRELL, } Overseers of Poor  
THOMAS H. FLEMING, } of  
GEORGE W. BRYAN, } Middlefield.

# Selectmen's Report.

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## HIGHWAY WORK.

WINTER OF 1907-1908—BREAKING ROADS.

Merrick Stockwell,	\$1 35
Wesley A. Olds,	2 25
George W. Cottrell,	4 75
Walter A. Smith,	2 00
Henry S. Pease,	5 00
Edwin H. Alderman,	1 50
Henry Sternagle,	3 30
Wesley J. Chipman,	2 50
Fred L. Boyer,	4 17
	<hr/>
	\$26 82

## SUMMER WORK ON HIGHWAYS.

Lyman S. Twining,	\$19 00
John T. Bryan,	2 25
Wesley A. Olds,	32 01
Walter A. Smith,	87 75
Joseph Pelkey,	40 75
George W. Bryan,	91 00
George W. Cottrell,	121 50
George S. Bell,	11 50
Robert Smart,	11 63
Henry S. Pease,	85 50
	<hr/>
Amount carried forward,	\$502 89



Amount brought forward,	\$502 89	
John Cody,	12 75	
Edwin H. Alderman,	27 70	
Orrin Pease,	9 00	
Henry Sternagle,	54 43	
Wesley J. Chipman,	25 50	
Frank Chipman,	22 75	
Fred L. Boyer,	161 40	
Willis B. Graves,	41 00	
William H. Farnham,	27 75	
George W. Bardin,	49 50	
James W. Cody,	12 50	
Arthur D. Pease,	18 00	
George T. Dyer,	18 75	
Edward Savery,	13 07	
George E. Holmes,	6 98	
Colden J. Churchill,	43 00	
Total expense for repairs of high- ways and bridges,		\$1,073 79

## SPECIAL WORK ON BRIDGES.

United Construction Co., bridge near Wesley A. Olds,	\$220 00	
Hauling same from R. R. station,	24 00	
Erecting and painting and repairing abutments,	32 25	
Steel joists and wall channel for bridge near G. W. Cottrell's,	28 00	
Total,		\$304 25

## SPECIAL WORK ON ROAD AT BANCROFT.

Harry E. Pease,	\$36 00	
George W. Cottrell, freight bill,	17 92	
George Bardin,	28 00	
Richard D. Sweeney,	33 00	
Elvie Marcia, Dynamite,	13 00	
James W. Cody,	42 00	
John Cody,	40 50	
Henry Pelkey,	36 00	
Roy Graves,	34 50	
Geo. E. Cook,	1 50	
Joseph Bennett,	4 90	
John T. Bryan,	40 00	
George W. Bryan,	106 00	
Thomas H. Fleming,	35 95	
Henry Godbeer, monuments,	3 00	
Fred S. Boyer,	53 00	
		<hr/>
		\$525 27
Received from State Highway Commission,		337 60
Balance expended by the town,		\$187 67

## INCIDENTAL EXPENSES.

William C. Stone, subscriptions to magazines for library,	\$10 25	
Forbes & Wallace, books for library,	54 79	
Henry S. Pease, cash, express and postage,	11 85	
Wesley A. Olds, inspecting animals and provisions,	20 25	
Westfield Times Co., printing town reports and ballots,	38 00	
Cecil T. Bagnall, blank and envelopes,	3 05	
P. B. Murphy, assessors' blanks,	1 50	
		<hr/>
Amount carried forward,		\$139 69



Amount brought forward,	\$139 69	
Election officers for the year,	10 00	
Geo. W. Tibbetts, repairs to road machine,	13 50	
John T. Rogers, driving hearse,	1 50	
George W. Cottrell, cash, oaths, postage and express,	8 22	
Henry R. Johnson, tax book and postage,	81	
Kate W. Smith, supplies for library and services as librarian,	33 10	
Eldredge Sign Co., guide boards,	4 30	
Joseph Bennett, repairs to road machine and holder for stove pipe,	5 35	
C. N. Fitts Co., seats for town hall,	150 00	
Thomas H. Fleming, abatement of taxes,	49 28	
Thomas H. Fleming, discount on taxes,	81 12	
John Cody, kerosene oil for hall,	4 48	
Henry S. Pease, care of Church lot at cemetery,	15 00	
Henry S. Pease, mowing cemetery and setting up stones,	10 00	
Henry S. Pease, wood for town hall,	2 00	
T. H. Fleming, posting warrants,	3 00	
T. H. Fleming, blanks and telephone bill,	1 60	
Wesley J. Chipman, postage,	1 25	
		<hr/>
		\$534 20

## TOWN OFFICERS.

George S. Bell, services at auditor,	\$2 00	
Henry S. Pease, services as treasurer,	25 00	
Henry E. Pease, services as town clerk,	22 55	
George W. Cottrell, services as select- man, assessor and overseer of poor,	40 25	
Thomas H. Fleming, services as select- man, assessor and overseer of poor,	11 00	
		<hr/>
Amount carried forward,		\$100 80

Amount brought forward,	\$100 80	
George W. Bryan, services as selectman, assessor and overseer of the poor,	15 50	
Wesley J. Chipman, services as school committee,	10 25	
Henry S. Pease, services as school committee,	5 00	
Edwin H. Alderman, services as school committee,	5 00	
Thomas H. Fleming, collecting taxes,	40 00	
	<hr/>	\$176 55

## NEW CEMETERY.

John T. Byran, labor,	\$9 00	
George S. Bell, labor,	6 00	
Henry Sternagle, labor,	4 00	
Henry S. Pease, labor,	9 00	
	<hr/>	\$28 00

## STATE AID.

Lewis E. Day, 12 months,	\$72 00	
Dennis Galavin, 12 months,	72 00	
	<hr/>	\$144 00

## SUMMARY.

Support of poor,	\$86 00	
Highways and bridges,	1,073 79	
Special work on bridges,	304 25	
Special work on road at Bancroft,	525 27	
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Amount carried forward,	\$1,989 31	



Amount brought forward,	\$1,989 31	
State aid,	144 00	
New cemetery,	28 00	
Town officers,	176 55	
Incidental expenses,	534 20	
	—————	\$2,872 06

GEORGE W. COTTRELL, } Selectmen  
 THOMAS H. FLEMING, } of  
 GEORGE W. BRYAN, } Middlefield.

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I hereby certify that I have examined the accounts of the Selectmen and Overseers of the Poor and find them correct.

GEO. S. BELL, Auditor.

LIST OF JURORS PREPARED BY THE SELECTMEN

JULY 1, 1908.

Edwin H. Alderman,	Frank Chipman,
John T. Bryan,	Frank H. Cottrell,
Fred L. Boyer	Willis B. Graves,
Cooley W. Graves,	Henry S. Pease.
	Henry Sternagle.

JURORS DRAWN IN 1908.

Edwin H. Alderman,      Willis B. Graves,      Henry Sternagle.

JURORS DRAWN IN 1907.

George W. Bryan,      Wesley J. Chipman,      Charles H. Ferris.

JURORS DRAWN IN 1906.

George E. Cook,      Edwin S. McElwain,      Elbert A. Pease.



## Report of the School Committee.

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The following report of the resources and expenditures for the year ending February 1st, 1909, is respectfully submitted.

### RESOURCES.

Balance February 1st, 1908,	\$1,300 49	
Town appropriation,	800 00	
Town appropriation for supervision,	125 00	
Received from Town of Chester, rebate for supervision,	247 50	
Received from State for tuition of state wards,	499 00	
Received from State, rebate of High school tuition,	127 50	
Received from State, school fund,	1,075 05	
	<hr/>	\$4,174 54

## EXPENDITURES.

Teachers' salaries,	\$2,280 00
Supervision,	294 17
Town of Chester, High school tuition,	52 50
Town of Westfield, High school tuition,	25 00
Town of Peru, tuition, Barnes district,	5 00
City of Springfield, High school tuition,	75 00
Books,	32 76
Supplies,	110 35
Conveying children,	19 50
Repairs,	181 25
Fuel,	97 38
School furniture,	44 70
Care and cleaning rooms,	55 45
Supervisor of music,	115 00
Supervisor of drawing,	115 00
Postage and telephone, Supt. office,	16 94
Incidental expenses, Supt. office,	8 49
Taking school census,	4 00
Care of books and supplies,	5 00
Truant officer,	3 00
Incidental expenses,	8 65
Order blanks,	1 47
Express, freight and carting,	11 78
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	\$3,562 39
Balance,	612 15
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	\$4,174 54

W. J. CHIPMAN,	} School Committee
E. H. ALDERMAN,	
H. S. PEASE,	
	} of
	} Middlefield.



# REPORT

OF THE

## SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS.

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*To the School Committee of Middlefield:—*

I have the honor to submit for your consideration the nineteenth annual report of your Superintendent of Schools.

### PROGRESS OF THE SCHOOLS.

The year has been marked by an unusual number of steps towards the improvement and upbuilding of the schools in the various towns of the district.

### INCREASE OF SCHOOL YEAR.

The schools of Middlefield and Washington for the first time in their history, are being maintained for a school year of thirty-six weeks. All the schools of the district have now a school year of uniform length.

Though the state fixes the minimum length of the school year at thirty-two weeks, the great majority of the children of the commonwealth are in schools that are maintained for a school year of forty weeks, so that this increase of two weeks each year in our children's opportunities for schooling is a very desirable thing.

## CHESTER'S NEW SCHOOL HOUSE.

The erection of a twenty-five thousand dollar, eight room school building in Chester for the accommodation of their village schools is, from the standpoint of the taxpayer, at least, the great educational success of the year. Nothing, perhaps, more plainly shows the desire of the people to give their children the best school advantages they can afford, than the practically unanimous vote, in a very fully attended town meeting, by which the town decided to build this school house.

## IMPROVEMENT AT BECKET CENTER.

The committee of Becket have very markedly improved the school building for the small rural school at Becket Center.

The building has been raised nearly three feet, a cellar dug under the whole building, and a wood furnace placed there with which to warm the room above.

The cellar provides ample and convenient room for the storage of fuel; and warming the room by means of a furnace in the cellar, instead of by a stove in the school room, gives all the floor space to the use of the school, takes away the litter and dirt of the stove, and, what is really the important thing, it gives the same warmth to all parts of the room. The children in the back of the room no longer shiver with the cold while those in the front suffer from the heat. All are equally comfortable.

Separate outbuildings have been provided for the boys and the girls. That for the girls is reached through the basement, by a stairway from the girl's coat room, thus doing away with the necessity of the girls going out of doors, and making it impossible that they shall be annoyed or their outbuilding in any way disturbed. There is no need to comment on the moral and physical advantages of this change.

This is the second rural school house that Becket has repaired in this way. I believe if the residents in the rural communities throughout the district could see and appreciate, they would give the various school committees no peace till all our rural school houses were put into the same shape.



## INCREASE IN TEACHERS' WAGES.

Washington has increased the salary of the primary teacher in the valley school to ten dollars a week.

## SINGING AND DRAWING.

All the towns of the district have employed a special teacher of singing and a special teacher of drawing to supervise these lines of work in our schools.

This, in my opinion, is one of the most important educational moves the committees have made since I have had to do with the schools of this district. I say this, despite the fact that the committees, without exception, have seemed to me, during the short years of my work here, thoroughly progressive, and anxious to take any step for the improvement of the schools, consistent with the finances of the town.

Mr. Phillips and Miss Patch have been at work for us, as yet, but twenty-three weeks—less than two-thirds of a year, but if one believes that singing and drawing should have a place in our schools at all, the increased interest and better results already obtained from both pupils and teachers must seem worth much more than the five dollars a week each of these teachers costs us.

It is a new thing for our towns to employ special teachers to take charge of these lines of school work, and naturally not every citizen has heartily applauded the movement. I have been, however, surprised that there has seemed to be so few who have thought our children or our school conditions so unique—so different from those of other places—that it was not wise nor profitable for us to do, within our means, as almost without exception, is being done the country over.

There are educational and practical and even moral reasons why the laws of the commonwealth put music and drawing as subjects to be taught in the common schools, and why those who are wise in school organization declare it essential that these subjects should be under the direction of those especially fitted to teach them.

It would be easy to answer the various arguments of "My boy can't sing a note," and "He hasn't the gift of drawing born in him," etc.



Those who have carefully studied the matter for years with thousands and thousands of children report that less than one child in a thousand cannot be taught to sing the scale correctly, if he is of reasonably sound mind and can talk. As there are but about half a thousand children in this whole district, there cannot be a very great many who cannot be taught to sing a little, unless we have an undue proportion of the hopeless cases among us.

Very few are born with a gift for drawing, or for reading, or spelling, or for anything, in fact. The work of the public schools is not to develop geniuses along any special line, but to educate the great mass of the children of the common people to be as intelligent and sensible and reasonable as it is possible for them to become. It is a matter in which parent and community, town, state and nation are all interested.

The work of drawing in the public schools is not to make artists out of those who draw any more than it is to make Daniel Websters out of those who read. Drawing is to train the eye to see what it looks at, to train the hand to express what the eye sees, and to train the mind to appreciate the difference between harmony and the lack of it, between beauty and ugliness, between fitness and unfitness in the real, practical things that have to do with every-day life.

In schools like ours drawing is about the only work that furnishes any training for the hand. One would only have to visit some of our schools and note some of the crude attempts at drawing or see how many of our children cannot even sharpen a lead pencil properly, in order to be glad that we are attempting something more than learning by heart things which other people have written down in school books.

It is thirty-eight years since Massachusetts has considered the teaching of drawing in the common schools of the state of so much importance that it has employed a special agent to devote all his time to promoting this work, urging the employment of special teachers for this purpose, and studying the subject in our own country and abroad so that the children of Massachusetts may have as good as the best. Since 1873 the state has also maintained a special normal school for the express purpose of



training teachers of drawing and allied manual arts, for the benefit of the schools of the state.

In 1905 the State Board of Education appointed a special committee to inquire into the facts regarding instruction in music in Massachusetts, with the idea in view of recommending the employment of a special agent by the board to do for singing what has been done for drawing by the special agent for that subject. This committee did not recommend the employment of such an agent, for they found that practically all the children of the state were at present receiving instruction in singing under the direction of special teachers.

They say, "The returns show that vocal music is taught as a regular branch of instruction in all the schools of two hundred seventy of the towns and cities. In these towns it is a required study for all the pupils of the elementary schools. The towns in which music is systematically taught contain 96.8 per cent of all the pupils in the state." That is, in 1905 there were only about three pupils out of each hundred who were not receiving what this district is now trying to furnish for its children.

Arguments and explanations might be multiplied, but when all is said, the great, unanswerable, easy-to-be-understood reason for employing special teachers for music and drawing in our towns is that this is no experiment. We have at last come to do simply what nearly all the other towns of the state did long ago. We have just fallen into line with the rest of the procession that is all.

#### CHANGES OF TEACHERS.

The record of our teachers for the year has been the usual record of changes.

In response to a petition from citizens of that neighborhood, the school committee voted to reopen the Glendale school at the beginning of the spring term and Miss Elizabeth Ogilvie of Hardwick, a graduate of Hardwick high school, was hired as teacher.

In June resignations were received from Miss Green of the

Bancroft school, who resigned in the hope of securing a graded school position; from Miss Crafts of Factory Village, who had accepted a school in her own town; and from Miss Ogilvie of the Glendale school, whose services were no longer needed under the readjustment of the schools.

Miss Ellen E. Hamer of North Adams was engaged to fill the vacancy in the Bancroft grammar school, and Miss Laura S. Stearns of Dalton for the Factory Village position. Miss Hamer is a graduate of North Adams high school and Miss Stearns of the High school at Dalton, and both are graduates of North Adams normal school and are without previous experience as teachers except that of the training school in connection with their normal school work.

On account of the shifting of the school population it seemed best to the school committee to close the North East school, temporarily, at least, and to open the school in Smith Hollow. Accordingly the school house in the latter district was put in repair and Miss Sara E. Cottrell of Middlefield, a former teacher in town, was engaged to take charge of the school. Miss Smith who had been teaching the North East school was transferred to the Glendale school.

For special teacher of drawing Miss H. Pauline Patch of Haverhill was engaged. Miss Patch is a graduate of Haverhill high school and of the four years' course at the Normal Art school in Boston. She comes to us highly recommended by those who know of her fitness for the work, and with part of a year's experience in supervision.

Raymond S. Phillips of Northampton was hired to take charge of the singing. He is a graduate of Greenfield high school and has studied for several terms at the Weaver School of Vocal Music. He also assisted for a year in the supervision of the singing in the schools of Northampton before coming to us.

At the Christmas vacation Miss Nellie Cody was offered a desirable position at West Springfield—a graded school with a marked increase of salary, and was released from her work at the Pease school, according to the terms of the contract between her and the town. No one can reasonably find fault with Miss Cody's willingness to accept a larger salary, nor with her desire



to work in a building with other teachers, but her resignation is a loss to the schools of Middlefield and all connected with the management of the schools were sorry to have her go. She gave the town good and faithful and intelligent service, and it is no disparagement to anyone else to tell that the Supt. of West Springfield, after visiting her school, told me he thought Miss Cody the best teacher he had ever seen in a rural school.

Miss Anna M. Higgins of Pittsfield has been engaged to take charge of this school for the remainder of the school year. She is a graduate of Pittsfield high school and of the State Normal School at Westfield.

The schools are running smoothly. Every teacher, I think, is doing her work as well as she can, and fault-finding and complaint, the everlasting privilege of the American people, is very sparingly indulged in.

The contract with teachers adopted by all the towns of the district two years ago is proving of good service both to teachers and schools. Our teachers are now hired for the full school year and they enter upon their duties under a mutual agreement that they are to continue in the service of the town for this period of time, unless they have already taught for us for a full year, in which case they may leave us after a notice of four weeks. As a result we are having very few resignations during the school year, and the teachers are working with a more contented spirit and with a feeling of greater security in their positions, all of which is of direct benefit to the schools.

#### MASSACHUSETTS SCHOOL FUND.

In 1903 the Public Statutes were amended so that the school money from this fund was taken away from certain towns that had been receiving it, and the entire income of the fund was turned to the service of the towns whose valuation was less than two and a half million dollars.

The purpose of this readjustment was to furnish to the smaller and poorer towns a much larger sum of money for the support of their schools than had up to this time been available. The reason for granting this increase was that generally the



schools in these small towns were poor—the school year was short—the teachers were largely untrained—wages were low—school buildings had no modern improvements—the equipment of supplies and apparatus was meagre—and none of the extra advantages provided by larger towns were furnished. It was the desire, as it should be, of the State to help to equalize school opportunities for all the children of the Commonwealth.

The result of this change has been usually the one desired. But it has not always been easy for communities nor school committees to adjust themselves to the changed conditions. One would not have to seek long to find town after town that thinks it has by far the best schools of any town in the state, while the town that admits it has the poorest schools in the state would be indeed hard to find. An appreciation of our educational needs does not spring up like Jonah's gourd, but comes, like most good things, by slow development. It is not strange, therefore, that many of the towns have not readily seen the need of putting more money into their schools just because the money happened to be available, but with increased income from the state have seen a happy way to decrease the tax rate, and have reduced the local tax for school support accordingly.

The State, to guard this school fund money, requires that a separate account of it shall be made by the town treasurers, and determines the amount each town receives, within certain limits, by the proportional part of its entire tax that it spends for school purposes. The more the town is willing to spend the more the state is willing to give. When the town cuts down its local school expenditure, the state reduces the amount of school fund and may withhold it all.

The plan under which this money is given to us is as follows: As Middlefield's valuation is less than half a million dollars, it receives first five hundred dollars, if it complies with certain required conditions. Then if its expenditures for school purposes it not less than one-sixth the whole town expenditure, it receives another portion. How this is allotted may be seen from the following illustration: Last year the sum reported by the State Treasurer as the total sum raised by local taxation and expended for all purposes the year before was \$3,906.00. The



amount expended for school support as reported by the school committee was \$740.22. This \$740.22 lacks \$11.28 of being one-fourth of the entire expenditure of the town, consequently we received on the basis of one-fifth, or \$557.99 in addition to our first \$500.00, or \$1,057.99 in all.

The distribution by the state of the second part of the fund was as follows: If the school tax was one-sixth of the town's entire expenditure, the town would receive \$464.99; if one-fifth, it would receive \$557.99; if one-fourth, \$697.49; and if one-third, \$929.99. These sums may vary a little from year to year, but not a great deal, so it will be possible, if it seems desirable, to manage our expenditures from year to year so as to receive the greatest possible aid from the state.

#### CHESTER HIGH SCHOOL.

I wish in this report briefly to call the attention of the parents and citizens of the town to the opportunities offered by this high school for the education of our children beyond what our common schools can furnish.

The state will pay the tuition in any high school whatever, of such pupil as are qualified to do satisfactory high school work, and I am not personally interested to have a boy or girl go to one high school rather than to another, but I am deeply interested that a larger number of our boys and girls should go somewhere to high school for the sake of the stimulus of larger classes, and so that they may come under the influence of a broader education and taste of the benefits of the studies of the secondary school.

The city high schools, to which we are apt to look because of their rich equipment, are comparatively far away, and when reached are not always comfortable for the country pupil because they are planned and conducted to meet the needs and to continue the training of boys and girls brought up in the city and trained in the city schools. The result is that few of our pupils go to high school at all.

The high school at Chester is a country high school. It is close at hand. The man who is principal is a graduate of the four years' course of one of our best normal schools and of Tufts

college. The two lady teachers are both college graduates—one of Wellesley college, the other of Vassar college. These teachers are competent to fit any of our boys or girls for college, or technical school, or normal school, and the work of the school is planned to allow this to be done.

It would truly seem that no pupils who really desire to go on with their studies beyond the common schools need much more than ambition to enable them to secure a good high school education.

Respectfully submitted,

W. H. SANDERSON.



# APPENDIX.

## STATISTICS.

Itemized Report of the Schools of Middlefield for the Year Ending June, 1908.

TEACHERS.	SCHOOLS	Grades.	Enrollment.	Boys.	Girls.	Average Membership.	Average Attendance.	Per cent of Attendance.	Number of Tardy Marks.	Pro rata of Tardiness.
L. May Johnson .....	Bancroft	1—3	20	14	6	17.4	16.6	95.9	33	1.9
Edith Green .....	Bancroft	4—8	14	3	11	11.5	11.1	96.5	34	3.
Bridget A. Cody .....	Center	1—8	20	14	6	10.6	9.6	90.	25	2.3
Harriet S. Crafts.....	Factory Village	1—8	30	17	13	22.4	19.5	87.5	232	10.3
Elizabeth Ogilvie.....	Glendale	1—8	7	5	2	2.1	1.9	90.5	0	0
Emma J. Smith.....	North East	1—8	11	10	1	7.6	7.3	96.	116	15.2
Nellie G. Cody .....	Pease	1—8	26	21	5	18.7	18.3	97.9	26	1.3
			128	84	44	90.3	84.3	93.3	466	5.1

## SUMMARY OF STATISTICS FOR TEN YEARS.

Years.	Enrollment.	Average Membership.	Average Attendance.	Per cent of Attendance	No. of Tardy Marks.	Pro Rata of Tardiness.	Cost per Pupil.	School Tax on \$1,000.00.	Total Cost to Town
1898-1899	143	103.9	97.	93.3					
1899-1900	136	106.2	98.4	92.8					
1900-1901	134	105.7	98.2	92.9					
1901-1902	134	99.3	90.3	91.					
1902-1903	117	94.5	85	90.9					
1903-1904	116	100.4	89.7	90.2					
1904-1905	137	100.6	91.3	90.7	252	2.5	\$7.84	\$5.30	\$961.39
1905-1906	148	108.9	100.6	92.4	542	5.	7.46	4.33	813.45
1906-1907	131	95.7	86.6	90.4	182	1.8	8.93	4.48	835.28
1907-1908	128	90.3	84.3	93.3	466	5.1	9.47	4.52	855.40

## MEMBERSHIP FOR SEPTEMBER, 1908.

	1st Grade.	2d Grade.	3d Grade.	4th Grade.	5th Grade.	6th Grade.	7th Grade.	8th Grade.	Total.
Bancroft	8	3	6	5	3	—	6	3	34
Center	4	2	3	—	2	—	2	1	14
Factory Village	3	3	6	4	5	1	—	—	22
Glendale	3	2	—	—	1	—	—	1	7
Pease	—	6	3	4	3	1	—	1	18
Smith Hollow	2	2	2	1	—	2	—	—	9
Total	20	18	20	14	14	4	8	6	104



## ROLL OF HONOR.

Pupils neither absent nor tardy during the year.  
 Bancroft Primary—Daniel Fleming.  
 Factory Village—Ethel Boyer.  
                                   Hazel Boyer, two years.  
 Pease—William Booth.  
                                   Lizzie W. Smith.

## SCHOOLS HAVING NO TARDY MARKS.

## FOR FOUR MONTHS.

Center—Bridget A. Cody, Teacher.

## FOR THREE MONTHS.

Bancroft Primary—L. M. Johnson, Teacher.  
 Glendale—Elizabeth Ogilive, Teacher.  
 Pease—Nellie G. Cody, Teacher.

## FOR TWO MONTHS.

Bancroft Grammar—Edith Green, Teacher.

## SCHOOL CALENDAR.

## SPRING TERM—THIRTEEN WEEKS

Begins Monday, March 29, 1909.  
 Ends, Friday, June 25.  
 Vacation—eight weeks.

## FALL TERM—SEVENTEEN WEEKS.

Begins Monday, August 23.  
 Ends Friday, December 17.  
 Vacation—one week.

## WINTER TERM—SIX WEEKS.

Begins Monday, December 27.  
Ends Friday, February 4, 1910.  
Vacation—seven weeks.

## SPRING TERM—THIRTEEN WEEKS.

Begins Monday, March 28.  
Ends Friday, June 24.  
Vacation—eight weeks.