

251.

WESTHAMPTON, MASS.

ANNUAL REPORTS.

1898.

ANNUAL REPORTS
OF THE
TOWN OFFICERS

OF

Westhampton, Mass.,

FOR THE

Year Ending March 1, 1898.

EASTHAMPTON, MASS.:
PRESS OF ENTERPRISE PRINTING CO.
1898.

Selectmen's Report.

HIGHWAY EXPENDITURES.

SNOW BILL.

Levi Burt	\$5 69
Joseph Hathaway	4 10
H. L. Dodge	3 65
L. W. Clapp	1 17
A. E. Damon	4 03
Michael Connery	1 19
T. P. Elwell	85
I. O. Shaw	2 55
F. J. Hathaway	1 58
J. Whelan	1 83
A. T. Edwards	9 02
F. Howard	8 52
P. A. Connery	2 20—\$ 46 38

H. W. MONTAGUE, SURVEYOR.

H. W. Montague	\$101 91
M. K. Parsons	22 00
A. J. Griffin	16 00
A. T. Edwards	10 50
Levi Burt	5 00
J. Boucher	4 50
E. B. Clapp	3 50—\$ 163 41

A. T. EDWARDS, SURVEYOR.

A. T. Edwards	\$74 70
“ “ plank and timber	15 81
C. Connors	34 50
H. W. Montague	8 50
D. S. Bridgman	9 14
J. Boucher	6 00
A. D. Rice	3 00
F. Howard	1 50
E. A. Bartlett	13 66—\$ 166 81

I. O. SHAW, SURVEYOR.

I. O. Shaw	\$42 84
Frank Hathaway	9 00
Fred Hathaway	2 16
F. E. Holdridge	8 55
Plank and timber	8 96
L. W. Clapp	19 02
W. Kingsley	7 83—\$ 98 36

FRANKLIN HOWARD, SURVEYOR.

F. Howard	\$99 50
E. H. Montague	20 00
F. C. Montague	2 25
W. Kingsley	75
A. Hathaway	75
A. D. Montague, Jr	34
Timber and plank	33 24—\$ 156 83

P. A. CONNERY, SURVEYOR.

P. A. Connery	\$75 25
“ “ 1100 ft. railing	44 00
J. J. Fisher	14 25

Dennis Courtney	12 25
A. L. Searle	6 75
E. Gorham, Breakneck road	6 00—\$ 158 50

A. E. DAMON, SURVEYOR.

A. Damon	\$31 73
T. P. Elwell	23 99
W. Hooker	14 00
M. Connery	5 83
George Graves	3 00
Plank and timber	12 93
Spikes	70—\$ 92 18

G. L. HATHAWAY, SURVEYOR.

G. L. Hathaway	\$65 72	
Plank	5 01	
G. A. Witherell	14 99	
Plank	9 18—\$ 94 90	
Alice Pelton, timber	10 00	10 00
L. W. King, timber	6 25	6 25
F. C. Montague, 868 ft. plank	12 15	12 15
G. W. Coleman	13 75	
Plank	8 27—	22 02
A. D. Rice, 1896	3 00	3 00
Total for Highways,	—————	\$1030 79

SEWER.

Newkirk & Thurston, 316 ft. 10 in. tile,	\$54 11
“ “ castings	9 37
H. A. Parsons	5 63
Geo. H. Knight	3 75

A. Delisle and man	10 13
W. Wicks and C. Hathaway	13 88
E. M. Blaksley, drawing tile	3 85
“ “ drawing brick and cement	1 75
A. D. Rice	6 00
Cement	1 67
E. Bridgman	5 84
Brick	3 00—\$ 118 98

SUPPORT OF POOR.

William Lawler, Northampton hospital	\$169 46
Isadore Howard, Worcester “	169 46
Mrs. Duggan, Northampton alms house	83 38
Mrs. Keating, James Moran,	91 00
Mrs. Slattery, Wm. Dean	44 86
“ “ M. Colson	27 14
Hugh Cassidy, Dr. Bruce, attendance	7 50— 592 80
W. E. Knight (paid by Huntington)	10 25
Heman Pittsinger, due from Deerfield	22 00— 32 25
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Total for support of poor	\$625 05
Tramps	\$5 50

MISCELLANEOUS.

Westhampton Water Co., tank	\$ 5 00
John Leitch, Jr., printing reports	28 15
A. D. Montague, Jr., ex. inspector's book	57
Oliver Walker, insurance	7 17
Lillian Parsons, Clark scholarship	6 42
G. W. Southworth, assessor's canvassing books	1 50

A. D. Rice, express	70	
F. H. Judd, express, paper and stamps	2 59	
A. W. Brownell, blanks for O. of poor	1 50	
Enterprise Printing Co., 2000 noteheads and envelopes	5 20	
Westhampton Water Co., tank and cemetery	10 00	
H. A. Parsons, nails, chimneys and broom	3 18	
G. E. Knight, care town hall	7 00	
“ “ driving hearse	10 00	
“ “ care cemetery	8 25	
O. W. Bartlett, 35 rods wire fence	8 75	
Millward Printing Co., 1000 town orders	2 00	
E. B. Bridgman, repairing tomb	3 62	
A. D. Montague, Thayer fund for parish	25 00	
W. G. Bassett, counsel	2 00	
Levi Burt, shingle and patching hall	1 50	
A. D. Rice “ “	1 00	
Lewis Blaksley, digging up Elm tree	3 00	
F. H. Judd, express	6 53	
G. E. Knight, librarian	20 00	
A. D. Montague, dog fund for library	73 64	
A. K. Chapman, postage	1 10	
“ “ repairing road machine	2 15	
A. D. Rice, putting books in vault	2 00—\$ 249 52	

TOWN OFFICERS.

L. W. Clapp, selectman,	\$ 8 00	
“ “ registrar	3 00—	11 00
A. K. Chapman, treasurer	25 00	
“ “ election clerk	1 50—	26 50
F. H. Judd, town clerk	15 00	
“ “ sealer	5 00	

F. H. Judd, registrar	7 00	
“ “ elector	4 00	
“ “ clerk's report	5 00	
“ “ recording births, deaths and marriages	10 70	
“ “ paid for returns of births	3 00	
“ “ office room	2 00—	51 70
A. D. Rice, selectman	27 55	
“ “ overseer of poor	8 00	
“ “ assessor	17 50	
“ “ registrar	6 00—\$	59 05
F. C. Montague, selectman	20 00	
“ “ assessor	15 00	
“ “ O. of poor	4 50	
“ “ registrar	6 00—	45 50
J. Hathaway, selectman	4 00	
“ “ assessor	8 25—	12 25
A. G. Jewett, auditor	2 00	2 00
A. D. Montague, auditor	1 50	1 50
John Pollard, election clerk	1 50	1 50
E. B. Bridgman, constable	23 80	23 80
Levi Burt, constable	12 71	12 71
Wm. J. Lyman, inspector	27 75	27 75
A. D. Montague, Jr., inspector	18 00	18 00
		<hr/> \$293 26

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TELEPHONE.

Bill for Telephone,	\$63 85	
Cr. by use	26 80—\$	37 05

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STREET LAMPS.

Care of Lamps	\$18 00	
Oil	4 00—\$	22 00

STATE AID.	39 00
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STREET & WRIGHT FUND.	105 00
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WORTHINGTON HOOKER—COURT CASE.

W. G. Bassett, damages and costs	\$229 17
Hammond & Field	100 00
Town witnesses	20 20—\$ 349 37

TAXES.

State Tax	\$175 00
County Tax	443 39—\$ 618 39
Payment on Note at Haydenville Savings Bank	\$100 00
Interest on Note at Haydenville Savings Bank	12 90
Payment of Note and Interest H. County Bank	1,006 50—\$1,119 40

RECAPITULATION.

Highway	\$1,030 78
Sewer	118 98
Support of Poor	625 05
W. Hooker, court case	349 37
Telephone	37 05
Street Lamps	22 00
State Aid	39 00
Street & Wright Fund	105 00
Tramps	5 50
Miscellaneous	249 52
Taxes, State and County	618 39
Town Officers	293 26

Payment of Note and Interest	112 90	
Borrowed Money and Interest	1,006 50	
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Total Selectmen's Orders		4,613 31
School Committee's Orders		1,785 31
		<hr/>
Total Expenditures		\$6,398 62
Balance Feb 2, 1897	\$926 29	
Assessment	3,388 89	
From Treasurer's Book	3,920 72	8,235 90
Balance February 1, 1898		\$1,837 28

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LIABILITIES.

Notes due Hampshire County Savings Bank	\$1,100 00
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A. D. RICE,	}	<i>Selectmen</i>
F. C. MONTAGUE,		
JOSEPH HATHAWAY,		
		<i>of</i>
		<i>Westhampton.</i>

Westhampton, Feb. 1, 1898.

I have examined the accounts of the Selectmen and find that they have drawn orders, and have vouchers to the amount of four thousand six hundred thirteen dollars and 31-100 (\$4,613.31)

A. D. MONTAGUE, *Auditor.*

Jurors List 1898.

Dwight S. Bridgman,
Eugene J. Hathaway,
Franklin Howard,

A. D. Rice.

Henry A. Parsons,
Edward A. Bartlett,
George A. Witherell,

Assessors' Report.

Total Valuation	\$216,459 00
Total Tax,	3,388 89
Tax Levy,	
State tax	\$ 175 00
County tax	443 39
Schools	1,000 00
Highways	800 00
Support of poor	500 00
Town Officers	200 00
Vault Note	100 00
Sewer	100 00
Memorial Day	25 00
Overlayings	45 50
	—————\$3,388 89

JOSEPH HATHAWAY,	} Assessors of Westhampton.
F. C. MONTAGUE,	
A. D. RICE,	

Treasurer's Report

FOR THE YEAR ENDING FEB. 1, 1898.

Dr.

Balance from last year	\$ 926 29
N. A. Kingsley, interest on Wright fund	25 00
A. G. Jewett, interest on Wright fund	25 00
District Court	28 00
Hampshire Savings Bank	2,100 00
Rent of Hall	2 00
Chas. N. Loud, chairman school com.	15 00
Clark Scholarship fund	5 00
Watson Wicks, hay on town lot	1 50
Trustees, estate of Whiting Street	55 00
State Treasurer, insane poor	254 20
“ “ inspection of animals	21 63
“ “ tuition of children	105 00
“ “ Mass. school fund	280 00
“ “ Corporation tax	22 47
“ “ National Bank tax	296 08
“ “ State aid	12 00
“ “ Rebate National Bank tax Scholarship fund	1 42
“ “ Income Mass. school fund	481 28

County Treasurer, dog fund	73 64	
Town of Huntington	10 25	
F. H. Judd, interest on Thayer fund	31 25	
T. J. Slattery, care of Mrs. Slattery	75 00	
		—————\$4,847 01
Amount of assessment		3,388 89
		—————
Total		\$8,235 90
	Cr.	
By paid orders of Selectmen	\$4,613 31	
“ “ School Com.	1,785 31	
By balance in treasury	870 74	
“ “ due from Collector	966 54	
		—————\$8,235 90

There are two notes due the Hampshire Co. Savings Bank amounting to \$1100.00, leaving an actual balance in favor of the town of \$737.28.

A. K. CHAPMAN, *Treasurer.*

Westhampton, Mass., Feb. 1, 1898.

I have examined the accounts of the Treasurer and find them correct, showing disbursements to the amount of six thousand three hundred ninety-eight and 62-100 dollars (\$6,398.62), for which proper vouchers are on file, and a balance of cash on hand of eight hundred seventy and 74-100 dollars (\$870.74).

Due from Collector nine hundred sixty-six and 54-100 dollars (\$966.54).

A. D. MONTAGUE, *Auditor.*

Town Clerk's Report

FOR THE YEAR 1897.

BIRTHS RECORDED.

1	Jan.	20,	Joseph Eugene Hathaway.
2	"	29,	Robert Lyman Clapp.
3	Feb.	19,	Gladys Ewing Howard.
4	"	20,	Amlaw.
5	Mar.	5,	Elgie Rust Parsons.
6	April	24,	Earle Whitman Connery.
7	May	8,	Myron Thomas Townsend.
8	"	16,	Ethel Beatrice Lyman.
9	June	5,	Bertie Haman Pittsinger.
10	"	5,	Edna N—— Comstock.
11	July	22,	Leslie Raymond Shaw.
12	Aug.	9,	Arlie McKinley Rice.
13	Oct.	12,	Chapman.
14	Nov.	8,	Myron George Hathaway.
15	"	15,	Helen Bartlett.
16	Dec.	16,	Flommy Pearle Knight.

No. of births recorded in previous years.

1887	'88	'89	'90	'91	'92	'93	'94	'95	'96
10	12	8	12	12	15	15	12	7	9

MARRIAGES RECORDED. 1897

- 1 April 20, Dwight S. Clapp of Westhampton,
Lena M. Damon, Williamsburg.
- 2 June 16, Lorenzo R. Knox of Northampton,
Edna H. Parsons, Westhampton.
- 3 July 28, Fred L. Tilden of Chesterfield,
Nancy Irene Williams, Westhampton.
- 4 Dec. 22, James R. Clapp of Northampton,
Elizabeth Gertrude Everett, Westhamp'n.

No. of marriages recorded in previous years.

1887	'88	'89	'90	'91	'92	'93	'94	'95	'96
5	4	6	4	3	4	5	5	2	4

DEATHS RECORDED. 1897

- 1 Feb. 20, Amlaw 1.
- 2 July 10, Susan E. Damon, 20-12.
- 3 Aug. 3, Myra L. J. Jones, 33-11-30.
- 4 Oct. 12, Chapman, 1.
- 5 " 15, Anna E. Norton, 78-1-8.
- 6 Nov. 15, Helen Bartlett, 1.

No. of deaths recorded in previous years.

1887	'88	'89	'90	'91	'92	'93	'94	'95	'96
14	5	5	4	5	13	12	10	11	5

Causes of death: Stillborn, 3; Consumption, 1; Phthisis Tuberculosis, 1, Emaciation, 1.

Mortgages of personal property recorded, 3; all other papers, 2

DOGS LICENSED.

J. Hathaway,	April 7	T. Edwards,	July 3
Ira O. Shaw,	" 22	Geo. Tower,	" 15
F. C. Montague,	" 23	Pat'k Connors,	" 20
A. D. Montague, Jr.,	" 23	C. T. Williams,	" 28
S. A. Rust,	" 23	Levi Burt,	" 29
A. L. Snow,	" 24	J. H. Kingsley,	Aug. 20
T. P. Elwell,	" 29	M. G. Crandall,	" 20
H. W. Montague,	" 30	P. A. Connery,	" 23
W. D. Wicks,	" 30	F. R. Howard,	" 24
A. D. Rice,	" 30	W. D. Wicks,	" 26
F. H. Judd,	May 1	N. Damon,	Sept. 1
H. M. Clapp,	" 1	M. K. Parsons,	" 1
Miss Addie Bridgman,	" 1	E. W. Payson,	" 4
Charles Arcoit,	" 1	M. J. Slattery,	" 17
F. Howard,	" 1	E. A. Bartlett,	" 21
F. J. Pomeroy,	" 3	Fred LaDuc,	" 28
Patrick Connors,	" 3	Lawrence Fayhee,	" 29
H. L. Dodge,	" 5	Mrs. Alice Pelton,	" 29
G. H. Coleman,	" 6	H. Fournier,	" 29
Levi Burt,	" 11	C. H. Bartlett,	" 29
H. Hathaway,	" 15	A. K. Chapman,	" 29
F. Blakesley,	" 18	T. Boucher,	" 30
W. J. Anderson,	" 21	F. Cowsey,	" 30
S. D. Lyman,	" 26	Antony Oat,	" 30
W. J. Lyman,	June 5	W. R. Lyman,	" 30
G. A. Witherell,	" 7	H. J. Payson,	Oct. 1
H. Haunton,	" 19		

Amounts received for licenses in former years.

1887	'88	'89	'90	'91	'92	'93	'94	'95	'96
\$120	124	129	106	95	115	95	108	99	101

FINANCIAL ACCOUNT.

To received for 24 licences at \$2. each to June 1, '97	\$48 00
Less fees at 20 cents each	4 80
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Amount due County June 1, '97	\$43 20
To received for 29 licenses at \$2, June 1 to Nov. 30	\$58 00
Less fees at 20 cents each	5 80
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Amount due County Dec. 1, '97	\$52 20
	Cr.
By County Treasurer's receipt dated June 1, '97	\$43 20
" " " " " Nov. 30	52 20
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	\$95 40
Whole amount of fees	10 60
" " received for licenses	\$106 00
" " returned to town from County	73 64

Respectfully submitted,

F. H. JUDD, *Town Clerk.*

Westhampton, Feb. 1, 1898.

I have examined the accounts of the Town Clerk for the year ending February 1, 1898, and find them correct.

A. D. MONTAGUE, *Auditor.*

Report of the Joint School Board

TO DISTRICT COMPRISING TOWNS OF EASTHAMPTON, SOUTH-
 AMPTON AND WESTHAMPTON FOR YEAR
 ENDING JULY 1, 1897.

Received from State Treasurer,		\$1,250 00	
Credited to Superintendent's salary,	\$750 00		
" to towns of district on basis of average total membership of schools of district for year end- ing July 1, 1897,			
To Easthampton,	\$387 53		
To Southampton,	81 04		
To Westhampton,	31 43		
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	500 00	500 00	
		<hr/>	
		\$1,250 00	\$1,250 00
Received from towns of district on basis of average total			

membership for year ending July 1, 1897,		
Town of Easthampton, share Superintendent's salary,	\$581 29	
Town Southampton, share Supt. salary,	121 56	
Town Westhampton, share Supt. salary,	47 15	
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	750 00	750 00
State Tr., Credited to Supt's salary,		750 00
		<hr/>
		\$1,500 00
Paid Supt. salary for year ending July 1, 1897,		\$1,500 00
Net cost to Easthampton, year ending July 1, 1897,	\$193 76	
Net cost to Southampton, year ending July 1, 1897,	40 52	
Net cost to Westhampton, year ending July 1, 1897,	15 72	
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	\$250 00	
Amounts to be appropriated by towns of district to secure state appropri- ation for Superintendent's salary for year ending July 1, 1898, approximate estimate.		
Superintendent's salary, \$1,500 00		
Easthampton,	\$575 00	
Southampton,	125 00	
Westhampton,	50 00	
	<hr/>	
	\$750 00	

Net cost for year ending July 1, 1898,
approximate estimate,

Easthampton,	\$175 00
Southampton,	50 00
Westhampton,	25 00
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	\$250 00

EDMUND H. SAWYER, *Chm. Joint Com.*
CHAS. N. LOUD, *Secretary.*

REPORT

of the

School Committee of Westhampton.

STATEMENT OF SCHOOLS, TEACHERS EMPLOYED, WAGES.

CENTER SCHOOL.

Miss Myra E. Kingsley.

No. of pupils enrolled	24
Average membership	21
Average attendance	20
No. of pupils over 15 years	1
“ “ under 5 years	0
“ “ between 8 and 14	15
No. of weeks school	32
Wages paid teacher	\$293 40
Fuel, H. A. Parsons	15 00
Harry Hathaway, making fires	3 00
Cleaning school house	3 50
E. P. Torrey, repairs	4 25
C. N. Loud, repairs	3 25

The Clark Scholarship Prize for the best reader and speller at the close of the winter term was given to Frank W. Blakesley.

Not absent or tardy during the year, Frank W. Blakesley, Mabel L. Flint, Emily L. Parsons.

At the close of the winter term this year we found that there was only one pupil in the first class who had not already received the prize, and we feel that if only one remained in the class, the prize was justly awarded as there was but very little difference in the standing of the pupils in the class, in reading and spelling.

Two or three of the pupils in this school have endeavored to fit themselves to enter some high school next year and have made excellent progress, for which they are in great measure indebted to the teacher, who has taken pains to ascertain what they needed to give them a good preparation for the examinations.

HILL SCHOOL.

Miss Harriet F. Judd.

No. of pupils enrolled	21
Average membership	17
“ attendance	15
No. of pupils over 15 years	0
“ “ under 5 years	1
“ “ between 8 and 14	20
No. of weeks school	32
Wages paid teacher	\$252 80
Fuel, George Tower	11 25
O. W. Bartlett, repairs	1 23
H. J. Porter, repairs	17 24
C. N. Loud, repairs	3 80

O. C. Bartlett, making fires	3 00
Cleaning school house	3 50

Not absent or tardy during the year, Oscar C. Bartlett.

Your committee have put in slate blackboards on two sides of this school house and have had the walls covered with alabastine and all the woodwork painted, and consider that this house is now in good repair.

We have also had a door put into the chimney, which will give an opportunity to keep the chimney clear from soot which has heretofore caused so much trouble.

We find the same condition in this school as last year, the children being very irregular in attendance, and this can be remedied only by a more thorough interest on the part of the parents in seeing that their children are present in school every day.

SOUTH SCHOOL.

Miss Nellie M. Ingoldsby, Miss Mary A. Lyman.

No. of pupils enrolled	23
Average membership	15
“ attendance	14
No. of pupils over 15 years	0
“ “ under 5 years	2
“ “ between 8 and 14	16
No. of weeks school	32
Wages paid teacher	\$252 80
Making fires	2 00
H. J. Porter, repairs	6 33
Chas. N. Loud, repairs	5 25

New blackboards have been put into this school house, and the walls have all been covered with two coats of alabastine, thus making the inside of the house in very good condi-

tion. The outside now needs two coats of paint and a little other repairing needs to be done which your committee thought best to defer until another year, in order to keep our expenses within the appropriation.

With the aid which the state gives to the small towns we have succeeded in securing experienced teachers, who, we think, have done excellent work and have brought the record of attendance much higher than it has been in previous years.

Although the pupils in this school are obliged to walk, some of them more than a mile, several have been absent only one or two days, and Eloise Crowell we find by the register has not been absent, and only once tardy.

NORTH-EAST SCHOOL.

Miss Ellen D. Leonard.

No. of pupils enrolled	20
Average membership	16
“ attendance	15
No. of pupils over 15 years	1
“ “ under 5 years	0
“ “ between 8 and 14	9
No. weeks school	32
Wages paid teacher	\$251 20
H. B. Lyman, stove, etc.	10 40
A. D. Montague, repairs	3 52
I. O. Shaw, fuel	7 50
H. J. Porter, painting, etc.	22 33
E. B. Bridgman, repairs	2 65

Ella Bridgman, Ernest Shaw, Hugh Bridgman, not absent or tardy during the year.

But very little money has been spent on this school house for several years, and your committee thought it advisable to

put the building in better shape. We have had a receiver put in the chimney, and have had the building painted on the outside one coat and covered the inside with two coats of alabastine and have replaced the stove, which was unsafe to use, with a new one.

If the building could be covered with another coat of paint next year, it would be in good condition for several years.

The pupils in the Northwest part of the town have been transported to this school for the entire year.

NORTH-WEST SCHOOL.

No school has been kept in this school house the past year as only three or four pupils had attended the school for the last term when there was a school.

Enough scholars can now be found, should they all attend school, to warrant the opening of this school for the next year.

New shingles have been put on the roof and the building is in fair condition. A coat or two of paint could be used here to a good advantage.

The expense on this building is, to

Damon Bros., shingles, 4 m	\$9 00
C. T. Williams, labor	6 28
H. L. Dodge, fuel	8 00

EXPENSES.

Teachers' salaries	\$1,011 80
Loudville school	202 33
Books, Ginn & Co.	\$13 40
Silver, Burdett & Co.	1 54
G. L. Munn	1 75
A. A. Gridley, maps	4 50
Milton Bradley & Co.	1 93
Lathrop Pub. Co.	4 80
D. C. Heath & Co.	13 05
S. E. Bridgman & Co.	2 22
Easthampton school committee	16 84
Maynard, Merrell & Co.	5 06
Miscle, books of reference,	5 75—\$ 70 84
Tuition, Easthampton school Com.	75 00
" Northampton " "	15 00
H. L. Dodge, transportation pupils	179 00
Fuel	41 75
Janitors' services	12 25
Cleaning school houses	5 50
H. B. Lyman, stove, etc.	10 40
J. B. Lyman, chairs	1 00
H. J. Porter, painting, etc.	45 90
O. D. Case & Co., blackboards	23 00
Westhampton Water Co.	6 00
Repairs	34 23
Door for chimney	1 25
Express and freight	6 75
Postage and stationery	3 85
Sundries	2 71
F. D. Bridgman, services	5 50
A. D. Montague "	5 00

C. N. Loud, 10½ days	26 25
	<hr/>
	\$1,785 31

RESOURCES.

Town appropaiation	\$1,000 00
Tuition from State	105 00
State school fund	481 25
Northampton tuition returned	15 00
State school fund for teachers	280 00
Bal. from last year	163 41
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	\$2,044 66

The financial statement this year includes the balance left unpaid when the settlement was made last year. The balance now remaining will be sufficient to pay the unpaid bills left when the settlement was made on the first of Feb.

The town has received from the state this year \$866.25.

The \$280.00 received from the State to be applied for increase of teachers' wages will be given only on condition that the towns shall pay for wages an amount not less than the average wages for the three preceding years.

A. D. MONTAGUE, JR.,	}	<i>School Committee.</i>
F. D. BRIDGMAN,		
C. N. LOUD,		

Westhampton, Feb. 1, 1898.

I find on examination of the accounts of the School Committee that they have given orders which have been paid by the Treasurer to the amount of one thousand seven hundred eighty-five dollars and 31-100 (\$1785.31).

A. D. MONTAGUE, *Auditor.*

REPORT

of the

School Superintendent.

TO THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE:

GENTLEMEN:—

I respectfully submit the annual report of the Superintendent of Schools for the school year 1897-'98.

There have been no marked changes during the year. We have worked along the same lines and we hope that we have made some improvement. With the exception of the South School the teachers are the same as last year and what I said then is equally true of all now. The two dollars a week paid by the state makes it possible to pay a reasonable salary and to retain teachers for the school year. A frequent change of teachers is unfortunate for any school.

While I mention several special subjects in this report, of course it will be understood that the larger part of our work is put upon the regular studies, arithmetic, geography, spelling, etc.

ATTENDANCE.

A great hindrance to effective work in many cases is the irregular attendance of the pupils. Often this can not be avoided but it ought to be understood, that, if we are accomplishing anything in our schools, a pupil can not be out for a day or a week without suffering a distinct loss, or else the pupils who have attended regularly must be kept back while the pupil who was out catches up. In either case there is a loss of time for some one.

GRADING.

No attempt is made to grade the schools in the same way that they are graded in larger towns. For my convenience I often speak of the classes as grades and call them the same as the grades in the Easthampton schools, as it is easier for me to remember them in that way, but a pupil may be in one class in arithmetic and another in geography and so on as the teacher may decide is best for the pupil. It is an advantage to the pupils to know how they compare with pupils in other schools that those who plan to go away to a high school may know where they are and what they must do to prepare themselves for high school work.

DRAWING.

Drawing is now taught in the schools, but to be a great success it needs the direction of a professional instructor. Such an instructor could be secured at a cost of about \$65 00 for the year, and I am positive that the work in drawing would show a very marked improvement. Drawing is sometimes considered as an ornamental rather than a useful study, but I believe that there are few men or women who would not find it very convenient at times to be able to make a

drawing of some object. Especially is this true of business men and mechanics. Also, if any of the girls who go through our schools wish to teach, they must be prepared to teach drawing as it is required in every town in the state.

MUSIC.

All of the schools have made commendable progress in the work in music and I believe that it has now become a regular part of the school exercises that both pupils and teachers would be sorry to leave out. The total expense so far has not been over ten dollars.

SLATE BLACKBOARDS.

The new slate blackboards that were put in during the summer vacation and that are mentioned elsewhere by the committee are a great improvement and are much appreciated by the teachers. I believe that they will be a real economy in the end, for while the first cost is considerable, after they are once put in they will last as long as blackboards are wanted without any cost for repairs.

Respectfully,

W. D. MILLER.

ARTICLES

IN THE

Warrant for Town Meeting, March 7, 1898.

Article 1.—To choose a Moderator.

Art. 2.—To choose a Town Clerk.

Art. 3.—To act on all reports presented at said meeting.

Art. 4.—To choose all necessary Officers to serve the town the ensuing year.

Art. 5.—To see if the town will accept the list of Jurors as revised by the Selectmen.

Art. 6.—To raise and appropriate such sums of money as may be necessary to defray town charges the ensuing year.

Art. 7.—To vote “Yes” or “No” on the question, “Shall license be granted for the sale of intoxicating liquors in this town.

Art. 8.—To see if the town will place a watering tank on the highway near W. I. Edwards’ corner, and raise and appropriate money for the same.

Art. 9.—To see if the town will raise and appropriate a sum of money for the celebration of Fourth of July next.

Art. 10.—To take action in regard to the collection of Taxes.

Art. 11.—To see if the town will authorize its Treasurer to borrow money to meet current expenses in anticipation of taxes.

