

1873

Report of the Agent of the Passamaquoddy Tribe of Indians

William T. Hobart

Indian Agent, State of Maine

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REPORT OF THE AGENT

OF THE

PASSAMAQUODDY INDIANS,

FOR THE YEAR

1873.



AUGUSTA:

SPRAGUE, OWEN & NASH, PRINTERS TO THE STATE.

1874.

REPORT.

To the Honorable Governor and Council of Maine:

I have the honor herewith to present my report as Agent for the Passamaquoddy Tribe of Indians, for the year ending November 30th, 1873.

The expenditures will be more fully shown by my account herewith submitted, with accompanying vouchers.

The appropriations for the year, as per resolve of the last Legislature, were as follows, namely:

For May dividend.....	\$400 00
November dividend.....	300 00
distressed poor.....	1,000 00
agricultural purposes.....	500 00
bounties on crops.....	300 00
ploughing.....	150 00
salary of Governor.....	100 00
salary of Lieut. Governor.....	20 00
wood at Pleasant Point.....	50 00
plastering chapel at Peter Dana's Point..	100 00
educational purposes.....	300 00
salary of Priest.....	100 00
contingent fund.....	100 00
salary of Agent.....	300 00
Total.....	<u>\$3,720 00</u>

My expenditures were as follows, namely: For May dividend, three hundred and seventy-seven dollars and thirty cents; for November dividend, three hundred thirty-eight dollars and twenty cents; for bounties on crops, two hundred and twenty-five dollars; for agricultural purposes, four hundred forty-three dollars and fifty cents; for repairs on chapel at Peter Dana's Point, one

hundred fifty-one dollars and seventy-one cents; for ploughing, one hundred and forty dollars; for election purposes, ninety-five dollars and twenty-nine cents; for educational purposes, two hundred seventy-three dollars and sixty-six cents; for relief of poor, medical attendance, and funeral charges, one thousand one hundred and ninety-four dollars and forty-one cents; for salary of Priest, one hundred dollars; for salary of Governor, one hundred dollars; for salary of Lieut. Governor, twenty dollars; for wood at Pleasant Point, fifty dollars; for salary of Agent, three hundred dollars; for repairs on Governor's house, four dollars and forty-two cents; for repairs on chapel at Pleasant Point, nine dollars and two cents; for pall cloth, five dollars and sixty-two cents; for stove for Governor, twenty dollars; making in all three thousand eight hundred forty-eight dollars and thirteen cents.

I had in my hands from the year 1872, seventy-four dollars and fifty-seven cents, which, with the appropriation for 1873, amounted to three thousand seven hundred ninety-four dollars and fifty-seven cents, leaving a balance due me at the close of the year 1873, of fifty-three dollars and fifty-six cents.

This tribe of Indians is divided into three sections. There are at Pleasant Point and vicinity 330, at Peter Dana's Point and vicinity 137, and at Calais 72. Total, 539.

Putnam Rolfe, Esq., my agent at Peter Dana's Point, paid out, for the year 1873, to the Indians at that place, poor money, amounting to two hundred ninety-three dollars and seventy-eight cents. Messrs. Boardman Brothers, my agents at Calais, paid out to the poor in that place, three hundred twenty-two dollars and forty-six cents. The balance of the poor money was paid out by myself, to the Indians at Pleasant Point and vicinity.

I was obliged to expend more than the amount appropriated for this purpose, and for the want of funds refused help in many cases when I knew it was very much needed.

The appropriation for the poor is not large enough to meet their needs, and I would recommend an addition to the amount voted last year. There are many old and infirm widows in this tribe who must depend almost entirely upon what they get from the State, and I cannot see any other way to provide for them.

Those of the tribe in this vicinity who are able, are willing to work, and in the summer season many of them find employment in Pembroke, Me., on the coal wharves, and helping to discharge

and lead vessels. Some of them spend a part of their time, at the proper season of the year, killing porpoises and getting their oil, for which they find a ready market in this vicinity.

In the winter season, those who are able are cutting cord-wood and getting basket stuff. The ash for baskets is getting very scarce in this section, and in some cases this winter they have gone twenty miles after it. They make a great many baskets and so far have found a ready market for them.

The school at Pleasant Point is doing a good work, and shows an improvement from year to year, and many of the young members of the tribe read and write very well, and make good progress in arithmetic and geography.

The fire-wood at Pleasant Point is getting very scarce, and in the summer time they depend upon what drift-wood comes on the shore. In the winter they depend upon the appropriation to buy their wood, and I think the amount should be increased from what it was last year.

The most of the Indians here do some farming. Two of them own horses, and they did the ploughing for themselves and their neighbors at the Point, the past season. Rockweed is their main dependence for dressing their land.

In the winter at Peter Dana's Point, many of those who are able go into the woods as cooks and axemen, while others are engaged in getting ash for baskets and cutting hoop poles. In the summer they farm and work on the booms and in the mills. Some of them are employed, during the season for catching trout, by parties of excursionists to the Grand Lake stream, and find it quite profitable business, as they get well paid for their time and for the use of their canoes. They do more farming here than at Pleasant Point, and their houses are in better condition. They take quite an interest in the school at this place, and the improvement is very good. The school house needs better desks as the chance for writing at present is very poor.

The majority of those living at Calais are old and poor, many of them widows, and require more assistance from the poor fund, in proportion to their number, than the rest of the tribe. They have no Indian school at this place.

Under a treaty made by the tribe in 1852, they hold their annual election at Peter Dana's Point, for the purpose of choosing a representative to the State Legislature. Their custom has been to

choose a man from Peter Dana's Point and from Pleasant Point, alternately.

It is my intention, during the coming season, to take a census of the tribe, and in my next report give you not only the number but their sex and ages as near as possible.

WILLIAM T. HOBART,

Agent Passamaquoddy Indians.

PEMBROKE, November 30, 1873.