


1875

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

1875..



AUGUSTA:

SPRAGUE, OWEN & NASH, PRINTERS TO THE STATE.

1875.

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 30, 1875.

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

The appropriations for the year, as will appear by a resolve of the Legislature, approved February 22d, 1875, were as follows, namely:

For May dividend	\$400 00
November dividend.....	300 00
Distressed poor	1,200 00
Agricultural purposes.....	500 00
Bounties on crops for 1875.....	300 00
Ploughing	150 00
Salary of Governor.....	100 00
Salary of Lieut. Governor at Peter Dana's Point..	20 00
Wood	150 00
Educational purposes	300 00
Salary of Priest	100 00
Dressing for land	100 00
Contingent fund.....	100 00
Salary of Agent.....	300 00
Painting chapel at Peter Dana's Point.....	75 00
Painting school-house at Peter Dana's Point.....	35 00
Repairing hall at Peter Dana's Point.....	50 00
Repairing hall at Pleasant Point.....	75 00
Repairing road from Peter Dana's Point to the Granger turnpike.....	50 00
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	\$4,305 00

There was an unexpended balance remaining on hand
from the appropriation of 1874, of..... \$18 54

Which made for use during the year, the total sum of.. \$4,323 54

The expenditures have been as follows, viz :

For May dividend	\$364 70
November dividend.....	318 60
Distressed poor, including medicine, medical at- tendance and funeral charges.....	1,544 61
Agricultural purposes.....	474 05
Bounties on crops	253 63
Ploughing	116 50
Salary of Governor.....	100 00
Salary of Lieut. Governor at Peter Dana's Point..	20 00
Wood.....	154 45
Educational purposes	270 38
Salary of Priest.....	100 00
Dressing for land.....	80 43
Contingent expenses, as per vouchers.....	97 67
Salary of Agent	300 00
Painting chapel at Peter Dana's Point.....	81 19
Painting school-house at Peter Dana's Point	33 06
Plastering and repairing hall at Peter Dana's Point	74 50
Repairing hall at Pleasant Point.....	85 87
Repairs on road from Peter Dana's Point to Gran- ger turnpike	50 00
Total of expenditures.....	\$4,519 64
Appropriation for 1875 and balance on hand from 1874,	4,323 54
Balance due Agent	\$196 10

As the weather last winter was unusually cold, there was more suffering in the tribe than in any previous year since I have held the Agency.

In consequence of the depression in business affairs, it has been very difficult for the men to obtain employment, as they have heretofore been accustomed to do. The sale of their productions has been slow, and, with an unusual amount of sickness among them, they have been unable to assist each other to any extent, and have been compelled to draw largely upon the Agency for aid. I have felt it to be my duty, under these circumstances, to advance to

them the sum of three hundred and forty-four dollars and sixty-one cents in excess of the appropriation made for the poor.

I recommend that an appropriation of two hundred dollars be made for the purchase of wood for the tribe, to be distributed as follows, viz: for those at Pleasant Point, one hundred dollars; for those at Pembroke, twenty dollars; for those at Calais, thirty dollars; and fifty dollars for those at Peter Dana's Point. The wood at Pleasant Point is entirely gone, and at the other named places are infirm people who must buy or have furnished to them what they may use.

The chapel at Peter Dana's Point is in need of repairs. The frame of the belfry is decaying, in consequence of defective covering, and some of the plastering has fallen from the ceiling and walls of the building. A new stove is also required. An appropriation of not less than fifty dollars should be made to save the chapel from further injury and make it suitable for use.

The house built for use of the Priest at Pleasant Point, has a foundation of cedar posts, some of which have now fallen into the cellar, so that the building is in an unsafe condition at the present time. The roof is much worn and should be shingled at once. I recommend an appropriation of two hundred dollars for the purpose of repairing this house, and purchasing a stove for the chapel.

The hall at Pleasant Point is so far finished as to be ready for plastering, and I recommend an appropriation of fifty dollars for this purpose.

There was an appropriation of fifty dollars last year for repairs upon the road from Peter Dana's Point to the Granger turnpike, which was expended to good advantage, and the same sum should be appropriated for the ensuing year. It is very necessary for the convenience of the Indians that this road be in good condition for travel, as it is the only way by which they can go from the Point in the spring of the year when the ice is breaking up.

The school at Pleasant Point has been quite successful during the year, parents as well as scholars taking a lively interest in it. P. H. Rogers, Esq., was the teacher. The school at Peter Dana's Point has not been so satisfactory. But little interest appears to have been manifested by parents or scholars, and the attendance was not very good. I am satisfied that the teacher, and also the Supervisor at Princeton, have done all that could be required on their part, and that any want of success can in no way be attributed to them.

Some attention has been given to agricultural pursuits by a portion of the tribe during the year, but many have been engaged in hunting, fishing, and the manufacture of baskets. A few families spent the summer months at Mount Desert, selling fancy wares of their own production.

Among those who have died during the year was Governor John Francis. He was eighty-five years of age, and had been Governor of the tribe forty-two years.

In a treaty made by the different sections of the tribe, dated February 28th, 1852, it was stipulated that John Francis should remain Governor as long as he lived, and that there should also be a Lieutenant Governor, to be chosen at Pleasant Point, to act with Governor Francis; and that there should be another Governor and Lieutenant Governor chosen on the Indian Township in the summer of 1852, and every fourth year thereafter. The treaty also provided that upon the death of John Francis, a vote of the whole tribe should be taken, and the majority should decide whether to elect another Governor at Pleasant Point, or to be content with the one living on the Indian Township. They now indicate a desire to elect another Governor at Pleasant Point, in accordance with the provisions of the treaty.

There are no changes of importance to notice in the physical or social condition of the tribe. They still continue to live upon good terms with each other, and are generally peaceful and orderly.

WILLIAM T. HOBART,

Agent Passamaquoddy Indians.

PEMBROKE, ME., November 30, 1875.