


1892

# Report of the Agents of the Passamaquoddy Tribe of Indians

Charles A. Rolfe

*Indian Agent, State of Maine*

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REPORT OF AGENT

OF THE

Passamaquoddy Tribe of Indians,

FOR THE YEAR

1892.

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AUGUSTA :  
BURLEIGH & FLYNT, PRINTERS TO THE STATE.  
1893.

## REPORT.

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*To the Honorable the Governor and Council of the State of  
Maine:*

SIRS:—I beg leave to submit my report as Agent of the Passamaquoddy Tribe of Indians from January 1, 1892, to December 1, 1892, and also including the expenditures of Mr. H. C. Munson, ex-agent for the month of December, 1891.

By resolve of Legislature of 1892 the sum of six thousand five hundred and ninety dollars (\$6590.00) was appropriated for the benefit of said tribe of Indians for each of the years 1891 and 1892.

By some oversight of Legislature the usual amount appropriated for educational purposes, viz., six hundred dollars (\$600.00) was omitted in the resolve as finally passed. The items of appropriations as made are as follows, viz. :

For May dividends.....	\$500 00
November dividends.....	500 00
distressed poor.....	3,200 00
bounty on crops.....	200 00
plowing.....	150 00
wood.....	500 00
dressing for land.....	150 00
contingent purposes.....	150 00
salary of priests.....	200 00
salary of governors.....	100 00
salary of lieutenant-governor.....	40 00
salary of agent.....	200 00
basket ash.....	100 00
agricultural purposes.....	600 00
Total appropriation for 1892.....	\$6,590 00

Expenditures have been made by Mr. H. C. Munson, ex-agent, and myself, as follows, viz.:

For May dividends:

By H. C. Munson.....	\$190 40	
myself.....	210 55	\$400 95

For plowing.....		150 00
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For agricultural purposes:

By H. C. Munson.....	18 00	
myself.....	476 80	494 80

Bounty on crops:

By H. C. Munson.....	11 37	
myself.....	149 74	161 11

November dividends:

By H. C. Munson.....	12 00	
myself.....	380 00	392 00

For wood:

By H. C. Munson.....	276 33	
myself.....	237 78	514 11

For dressing for land:

By H. C. Munson.....	3 00	
myself.....	127 79	130 79

For contingent purposes:

By C. H. Munson.....	33 50	
myself.....	143 25	176 75

For salary of priests.....		200 00
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For salary of governors:

By H. C. Munson.....	75 75	
myself.....	24 25	100 00

For salary of lieutenant-governor:

By H. C. Munson.....	31 00	
myself.....	9 00	40 00

For salary of agent:

By H. C. Munson.....	16 67	
myself.....	200 00	216 67

For basket ash:

By H. C. Munson.....		100 00
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For distressed poor:

By H. C. Munson.....	770 64	
myself.....	3,275 12	4,045 76

For educational purposes:

By H. C. Munson.....	50 00	
myself.....	550 00	600 00

Total expenditures.....		\$7,746 22
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CREDITS.

1892:

January 16, by warrant on State Treasurer.....	\$2,000 00
April 18, by warrant on State Treasurer.....	2,000 00
October 15, by warrant on State Treasurer.....	978 06
Amount warrant in favor of H. C. Munson, ex-agent.....	1,611 94
	6,590 00
Balance due agent for amount of overdrawn appropriation.....	556 22
For educational purposes.....	600 00
	\$7,746 22

During the month of September I became satisfied, that, owing to the unusual amount of sickness which had prevailed through the whole season, the appropriation for the needs of the Indians was not going to be sufficient to meet all the demands upon me, and I notified your Honorable Body to that effect. Acting upon your instruction to expend only that which was necessary to prevent suffering I kept within bounds as much as possible, but the overdraw is nevertheless quite large.

Immediately after receiving my appointment in January last, I visited that part of the tribe located at Pleasant Point, and appointed Mr. J. Foster Gove of Perry, sub-agent, and placed in his care all the Indians at Pleasant Point and the immediate vicinity. I found the Indians there undergoing a seige of scarlet rash. Whole families being ill with it in many cases, and many of them very destitute. I think that Mr. Gove and myself visited nearly every family on the Point at that time, after which we caused all the male members of the tribe to assemble in their school-room, where we listened to their suggestions and their claim for assistance &c. Found them all quite reasonable and not asking for very many unreasonable things. We made them a plain statement as to what our course of action would be toward them, and they have seemed quite well satisfied.

I visited that part of the tribe again in July and again in September. During the summer measles were quite prevalent and many of the families were prevented thereby from

making their usual trip to Bar Harbor and other summer resorts, where they have heretofore earned quite a sum of money by the sale of fancy baskets, furs, &c. The sale of coarse, heavy baskets has been largely cut off this season and in September I found many asking for aid who had not been obliged to do so before. We have done all that we could do for them under the circumstances. It is an undoubted fact that the Indians are growing more helpless every year. Fur bearing animals are now almost extinct. Sportsmen are growing to like white guides better than Indians. The courts have debarred them from the old privilege of fishing and hunting except in open season. Scrofula prevails to a greater extent. The Indian as a rule is not a good day laborer when employed by other parties. (He prefers to be his own Indian) and taking all these hindrances together he will lean a little heavier on the State each year.

#### CENSUS.

As nearly as can be determined there are at present five hundred and one members in the tribe. There are some few scattering families in different parts of the State whose increase we cannot report now.

There have been thirty-five deaths, causes as follows :

Scarlet rash.....	7
Accidental shooting.....	1
Measles.....	3
Inflammation of bowels.....	5
Brain fever.....	1
Water on brain.....	1
Abscess on brain.....	1
Scrofula.....	2
Consumption.....	10
Heart disease.....	1
Old age and other causes.....	3

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35

There have been eighteen births during the year. There are at Pleasant Point, three hundred Indians. At Calais

forty-two. At Peter Dana's Point one hundred, scattering fifty-nine.

#### ELECTIONS.

I held an election at Peter Dana's Point September 27th, and at Pleasant Point September 29th, at which time Joseph P. Sepsis of Peter Dana's Point was elected representative to the legislature, Sabattis Joseph was elected governor and Newell Socoby was elected lieutenant-governor, for that part of the tribe at Pleasant Point, and the term of office of governor was changed from two to four years.

Contrary to the usual custom this election passed off very quietly and pleasantly. The Australian ballot system minus the booths, was used in voting, absence of the ardent was noticeable. The Indians entered into the spirit of the matter and the best of good feeling and quiet prevailed.

Mr. Gove and myself were so well pleased that we left behind us at Pleasant Point a small reward of merit in the way of a fund wherewith to procure a treat for the people assembled there.

#### SCHOOLS.

The schools have progressed very favorably under the auspices of the Sisters Rose and Vincent, who are deeply interested in the welfare of both parents and pupils. They are doing an excellent work and accomplishing very much for the tribe. Their influence is entirely for good, and by their presence and their generosity in dispensing charitable donations, they have assisted your agent very greatly. The large amount of sickness among the children at Pleasant Point interfered considerably with the attendance there, but the general improvement is quite marked.

#### CHURCHES.

Rev. Father O'Dowd of Eastport has spent much time with the Indians at Pleasant Point. Has been very kind to them. The church has been frescoed and ornamented at his expense.

The amount he receives from the State does not begin to represent the expenditures made by him for the benefit of the Indians. There being no stove or heating apparatus in the church there, I purchased a stove and the necessary pipe for it at an expense of about twenty-two dollars, and shall suggest an appropriation to cover that item.

Rev. Father Walsh of Calais, has had in his charge the Indians at Peter Dana's Point and has been very faithful to his charge. Since early in September he has made weekly visit to them, and is very generous toward them. He has signified his purpose to present the people a fine church organ, providing their church building can be painted and put in good condition.

To both these reverend gentlemen your agent owes much for assistance and encouragement.

#### MEDICAL SERVICES.

I have continued through Sub-Agent Gove the services of Dr. J. C. Rodgers at Pleasant Point and at same salary, \$150 per year. He seems to give general satisfaction and I think that it would be unwise to employ other than one regular physician at each point. We have also paid one Indian doctor, Sabattis Joseph, whom many of the Indians have confidence in, five dollars per month for his services, and believe the result has been good.

Dr. E. H. Vose has been caring for the sick at Calais, at an expense of \$38.50 for the year.

I have employed Dr. L. Brehant to attend the Indians at Peter Dana's Point, arranging to have them come to him here at Princeton, when possible, thereby saving expense of travel.

I have paid him for services and medicine \$69.85.

#### ROADS.

The road leading from Peter Dana's Point to the traveled turnpike road which was grubbed out and partially turnpiked



many years ago, and upon which no work has been done since, is now in a very bad condition.

This is the only outlet from the Point to Princeton during the early winter and spring months, when the ice is making or breaking, and is unsafe, and should be repaired next season.

#### PUBLIC BUILDINGS.

The hall at Pleasant Point is at present useless. The lathing and plastering is entirely gone, and a general repair is needed, as the assembling of the people in the school-house is damaging the desks and seats in that building. The school-house at Pleasant Point needs some repairs to the ceilings and walls, but is otherwise in fair repair. The buildings at Peter Dana's Point, are, with the exception of painting required on church building, in good repair.

A well is needed at the Sisters House there, as no drinking water can be had within a reasonable distance.

I have found Sub-Agent Gove to be a careful, painstaking, honorable assistant. He has the confidence of the Indians in his locality, and he has dealt squarely by them all.

It has taken us all this year to learn the ways of our charge and the manner of doing the work. We hope to do better from the knowledge gained.

We would suggest that the agent be empowered to reserve payments of dividends, seed money, and regular payments from other funds, to such parties as are addicted to the use of intoxicants. I think that the effect would be beneficial. I think there has been much less drunkenness among the Indians than heretofore, this season.

#### POLICE.

The Indian police at Pleasant Point is an officer of importance, and the present officer is a very efficient one. I would recommend that a salary of twenty dollars be allowed that officer. He now receives nothing, except when persons are taken by him to Eastport for trial.

## AGRICULTURAL.

About the usual amount of farming was done, but the potato crop was rather a failure. Two parties raised above one hundred bushels each. I have tried to impress upon the minds of those who do put crops into the ground, the necessity of caring for them during their growth, as they are very careless in this respect. Have paid dressing allowance to those only who used it, and bounty only on that which each actually produced, thereby trying to encourage those who have a desire to cultivate the soil.

I would recommend the following as items of appropriation for the year 1893 and the same for the year 1894, except the items for repairs of buildings.

For May dividends.....	\$500 00
November dividends.....	500 00
distressed poor.....	3,500 00
bounty on crops.....	200 00
plowing.....	150 00
wood.....	500 00
dressing for lands.....	150 00
contingent purposes.....	150 00
educational purposes.....	600 00
salary of priests.....	200 00
governor.....	100 00
lieutenant-governor.....	40 00
agent.....	200 00
basket ash.....	100 00
agricultural purposes.....	600 00
repairs of hall, Pleasant Point.....	150 00
repairs of school-room, same place.....	25 00
repair of church, Peter Dana's Point.....	125 00
repair of road, Peter Dana's Point.....	100 00
digging and stoning well at Sisters' House, Peter Dana's Point	15 00
stove and pipe for church at Pleasant Point.....	22 00
school books.....	50 00
salary of police, Pleasant Point.....	20 00
two United States flags.....	25 00
educational purposes, 1892, omitted from appropriation 1891,	600 00
Total.....	\$8,622 00

Respectfully submitted,

CHAS. A. ROLFE, *Agent*.

PRINCETON, ME., December 13, 1892.

STATE OF MAINE.

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IN COUNCIL, December 26, 1892.

**Ordered,** That the usual number of copies be printed.

NICHOLAS FESSENDEN, *Secretary of State.*