


1894

Report of the Agents of the Passamaquoddy Tribe of Indians

Charles A. Rolfe

Indian Agent, State of Maine

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/agent_reports

 Part of the [Anthropology Commons](#), [History Commons](#), [Linguistics Commons](#), and the [Political Science Commons](#)

Repository Citation

Rolfe, Charles A., "Report of the Agents of the Passamaquoddy Tribe of Indians" (1894). *Maine Indian Agent Reports*. 40.
https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/agent_reports/40

This Report is brought to you for free and open access by DigitalCommons@UMaine. It has been accepted for inclusion in Maine Indian Agent Reports by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@UMaine. For more information, please contact um.library.technical.services@maine.edu.

REPORT OF AGENT

OF THE

Passamaquoddy Tribe of Indians

FOR THE YEAR

1894

REPORT OF AGENT

OF THE

Passamaquoddy Tribe of Indians

FOR THE YEAR

1894

AUGUSTA

BURLEIGH & FLYNT, PRINTERS TO THE STATE

1895

REPORT.

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

Sirs:—I beg leave to submit herewith my annual report as agent of the Passamaquoddy Tribe of Indians from December 1, 1893, to December 1, 1894.

By resolve of the legislature of 1893, the sum of seven thousand four hundred and ninety dollars (\$7,490.00) was appropriated for the benefit of said tribe of Indians for the year 1894, as follows, viz.:

For May dividends	\$500 00
November dividends	500 00
distressed poor.....	3,500 00
agricultural purposes.....	600 00
plowing.....	150 00
fertilizer	150 00
bounty on crops.....	200 00
wood	500 00
contingent purposes.....	150 00
salary of priests.....	200 00
salary of governors	100 00
salary of lieutenant governors	40 00
basket ash.....	100 00
salary of agent.....	200 00
educational purposes.....	600 00
Total appropriation for 1894	\$7,490 00
Undrawn balance, 1883	541 52
	<hr/>
	\$8,031 52

Expenditures have been made from the various funds by Mr. Justin E. Gove, sub-agent at Perry, and myself as follows, viz.:

For May dividends:

By myself.....	\$124 00	
By J. E. Gove, sub-agent	255 20	\$379 20

November dividends:

By myself.....	136 80	
By J. E. Gove, sub-agent	240 80	377 60

Distressed poor:

By myself.....	1,356 04	
By J. E. Gove, sub-agent	2,886 02	4,242 06

Agricultural purposes.....

By myself.....	156 00	
By J. E. Gove, sub-agent	336 00	492 00

Plowing:

By myself.....	50 00	
By J. E. Gove, sub-agent	100 00	150 00

Fertilizer:

By myself.....	27 80	
By J. E. Gove, sub-agent	126 00	153 80

Bounty on crops:

By myself.....	46 31	
By J. E. Gove, sub-agent	89 90	136 21

Wood:

By myself.....	112 00	
By J. E. Gove, sub-agent	412 25	524 25

Contingent purposes:

By myself.....	117 33	
By J. E. Gove, sub-agent.....	65 00	182 33

Salary of priests:

By myself.....		200 00
----------------	--	--------

Salary of governors :		
By myself.....	\$50 00	
By J. E. Gove, sub-agent.....	50 00	\$100 00
<hr/>		
Salary of lieutenant governors :		
By myself.....	20 00	
By J. E. Gove, sub-agent.....	20 00	40 00
<hr/>		
Basket ash :		
By myself.....	21 50	
By J. E. Gove, sub-agent.....	75 00	96 50
<hr/>		
Salary of agent.....		200 00
Educational purposes :		
By myself.....		600 00
<hr/>		
Total of expenditures.....		\$7,873 95
Undrawn balance 1894.....		157 57
<hr/>		
		\$8,031 52

CREDITS.

December 6, 1893, by warrant on State Treas.,	\$ 541 52
February 10, 1894, by warrant on State Treas.,	3,000 00
May 11, 1894, by warrant on State Treas.,	2,000 00
August 21, 1894, by warrant on State Treas.,	1,600 00
	<hr/>
	\$7,141 52
Amount due agent for balance of expenditures,	732 43
	<hr/>
	\$7,873 95

In the month of February last, Mr. J. Foster Gove of Perry, who had given such excellent satisfaction as sub-agent, and whose services had been so acceptable to the people of that part of the tribe living at Pleasant Point, passed away, and I at once appointed Mr. Justin E. Gove, son of Mr. J. Foster Gove, to the position made vacant by the death of the father.

Mr. Justin Gove had performed the work of the agency, under his father, for a year or more, understood the duties thoroughly, and having the confidence of the people, as did

his father before him, meets with very little trouble in administering the affairs of the sub-agency, and I am much pleased with the fact that he is a full success as sub-agent.

VISIT OF THE GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL.

On the twelfth and thirteenth of June last, the State Council and other State officers visited both parts of the Tribe. That at Pleasant Point and at Peter Dana's Point, and inspected the public buildings, the schools and the manner in which their agents were doing their work.

They were very cordially received, and the people endeavored to make their stay as pleasant as possible, and gave them such entertainment as is usual to the Indian people. The Sisters of Mercy in whose charge the schools are, gave an exhibition of the proficiency of their Indian scholars in the studies taught by them, and also provided an excellent lunch for the party at Pleasant Point.

We were assured by Councilor Pettingill, chairman of the Committee on Indian Affairs, that he had heard no complaint as to the management of affairs by us, and expressing himself as well pleased that it was so.

SANITARY CONDITION OF THE TRIBE.

The general health of the people of Tribe, is, at present, good. There are a few cases of consumption and scrofula, three of dropsy, and one of chronic rheumatism. In these cases, the patients have to be maintained almost entirely by the agency.

During the months of December, 1893, January and February 1894, typhoid fever, and la grippe in an aggravated form prevailed at Peter Dana's Point, and much suffering existed there. I was obliged to make a much larger outlay than usual from the poor fund on that account, and for the same reasons the physician's bills were larger.

Sopiel Gabriel and wife of Pleasant Point, two of the oldest members of the Tribe, died during last autumn, of old age. They were cared for at the expense of the agency for a year.

CENSUS OF THE TRIBE.

There were reported in 1892, five hundred and one members, and the same in 1893.

There have been during the year 1894, eight births and sixteen deaths, reducing the number of the tribe to four hundred and ninety-three (493) members.

DEATH ROLL.

Peter L. Newell, consumption; Peter P. Mitchell's child, consumption; Peter M. Aquin's child, consumption; James J. Aquin, consumption; Peokoc Mitchell, consumption; Oliver Schmore, consumption; Frank Stanley's boy, erysipelas; John Gabriel, paralysis; Joseph L. Dana's child, la grippe; Frank Atuin's child, congestion; Susan Gabriel, old age; Sopiél Gabriel, old age; Mrs. Newell Lewy, typhoid fever; Molly Socoby, widow, typhoid fever; Mrs. Peter Newell, tumor; Peol Lacoote's child, consumption.

SCHOOLS.

The schools at Pleasant Point have been in operation about eight months, and at Peter Dana's Point three months of the year, and first-class work has been done.

The studies are the common English branches. The Sisters of Mercy endeavor to be very thorough in their manner of instructing the young people of the tribe.

I find on some of my visits to these schools, scholars performing and explaining examples in fractions, which might be deemed a credit to scholars enjoying much larger opportunities. They also gave very creditable exhibitions in reading, and their writing and drawing of maps and the like were very good indeed.

The Indian cannot seem to overcome the habit of reading in a very monotonous tone of voice, which detracts from the pleasure one would otherwise get from listening to him. I cannot refrain from mentioning again the fact that the Sisters

of Mercy, under the supervision of Sister M. Rose, are doing a noble work among these Indians, in addition to their school duties is the careful nursing of the sick and the old, the teaching of sewing, knitting, and the performance of household work, they also spend much of their fund in charity. The amount allowed for school purposes, \$600 per year, being but \$50 per month for the twelve months of the year, and that to maintain three Sisters of Mercy for that length of time, seems a small sum, and I think that the members of the State council who had the opportunity to look into this matter last season will join with me in recommending an appropriation of at least eight hundred dollars for each of the years 1895 and 1896, for school use. There were registered at the schools at Pleasant Point, 102 scholars, and at Peter Dana's Point 17, the attendances at both places was good throughout the terms.

I furnished the Sisters for use among the needy children \$14.50 in clothing.

The school-houses at both points are in a fair state of repair.

I used \$16.14 of the contingent fund toward paying the expense of digging and curbing a well at the Sisters house at Peter Dana's Point, there being no good drinking water within some distance, the balance of the expense was paid by voluntary contribution, by Rev. Father Walsh of Calais, religious minister to this portion of the tribe.

As no appropriation was made for the purchase of school books for the year 1894, I drew for that purpose, from our contingent fund, twenty dollars and the Sisters added to the amount from their own charity fund.

CHURCHES.

Rev. Father John O. Dowd of Eastport, and Rev. Father Walsh of Calais have, as heretofore, attended to the religious needs of the tribe at each Point, and have been constant and kindly in their labors, accomplishing very much for the

morals of the people, and doing many a charitable act. They are both very helpful to teachers, and careful for their comfort and support.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS.

The church buildings, school-houses, and halls at both Points, and the Sisters' Home at Pleasant Point, are in very good condition, and not in need of any repairs at present.

The Sisters' Home at Peter Dana's Point is in a bad state, one of the center sills having settled several inches, so that the floor of each of the end rooms slopes toward the center partition to such an extent that one cannot sit comfortably in either.

During one of the nights spent there, last season, by Father Walsh, he found his bed suddenly and swiftly trundling toward the opposite side of the room, where it brought up solidly against the partition; thinking that a small earthquake had taken place there, he dressed, and went out to investigate the matter; as no one else had observed the shock, he commenced to examine the room, and soon learned the cause of his journey. I tried to have the defect remedied last summer but on taking up a portion of the floor, I learned that the defect existed when the house was last repaired, and the plastering had been put on while the sill was almost at its present angle, the floor continuing to settle gradually.

The rear roof of this building also needs re-hingling, and as the rooms will require new plastering, I have to recommend an appropriation of one hundred dollars for its repair. This amount is based upon the estimate of a competent mechanic.

I found it necessary to procure some building which might be used as a lockup at Pleasant Point, as at times the "little brown jug" gets there, and some of the people following the example of their white brethren, become unruly.

For this purpose I leased an unoccupied building which answered very well, paying for its use to December 1, 1894,

nine dollars, being one dollar per month, and for putting in strong doors and blinds, nine dollars. The owner of the house demands two dollars per month for the next year; this amount may undoubtedly be discounted somewhat.

Acting on the suggestion of Father O'Dowd, we now charge for use of the hall when occupied for other than town meetings, or when used by the "Brass Band," one dollar per night, and the money accruing from rentals is used for repairs and necessary furniture, etc. A good set of lamps have been purchased through this source.

POLICE.

No appropriation was made for salary of police officer for 1894.

I appointed Joseph Sobabason to that office, for the year, and paid him from the contingent fund, the sum of twenty dollars for the year.

Later on the Governor appointed him special constable for his tribe, and gave him authority to act with and assist the deputy sheriffs of the county when called upon to do so.

A police officer is one which cannot be dispensed with at Pleasant Point, and the present incumbent is an excellent officer, courageous, cool, and intelligent above the average. There, he commands the respect of his people and is obeyed by them.

ROADS.

Two years ago I made a recommendation that an appropriation of one hundred dollars be made for the repair of the road leading from Peter Dana's Point to the regular turnpike leading to Princeton. No appropriation was made.

This road is the only outlet, by land, from that Point, during heavy winds, and at the time when the lakes are freezing in the fall, and opening in the spring. Its length is about three and one-half miles. It was grubbed out several years ago, and about three-fourths of a mile turnpiked; since then

no repairs have been made on it. This road is a necessity to the people of Peter Dana's Point, and I would respectfully ask that an appropriation of at least one hundred dollars be made to make the road passable.

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS.

There have been produced by the Indians for the year 1894 crops as follows, viz.: Potatoes, 1,729 bushels; oats, 316 bushels; peas, 14 bushels; beans, 34 bushels; turnips, 90 bushels; beets, 28 bushels; corn, 10 bushels. And various other garden products on which small bounties were paid.

The largest crop of potatoes and other root crops was produced by Mrs. Pond, being 165 bushels of potatoes, 8 bushels of beans, 35 bushels of turnips, 3 bushels of carrots, 5 bushels of beets and 4 bushels of corn; others did nearly as well.

The smallest crop raised was that of Joseph Molly, one-half bushel of beans, bounty five cents.

Although the Indians receive much encouragement toward inducing them to engage more fully in agricultural pursuits, they do not as yet seem to have got very deeply interested in the subject, although some improvement is observable, and a few are doing well, many plant seed, but fail to care for the crop after it comes up.

I am trying to impress upon them the need of pulling weeds and cultivating crops.

DIVIDENDS.

For several years the annual appropriation for May and November dividends has been \$500 per year for each. Following in the footsteps of my predecessor, I have paid a dividend, per capita of eighty cents May and November, and the appropriation of \$500 is more than is required on that basis. Mr. Gove and myself consulted together about this matter and we are of the opinion that it will be very benefi-

cial to reduce the amount of appropriation for that purpose from \$500 to \$375 each, for May and November, and add the difference to the appropriation for the purchase of basket ash, making that fund \$350 for each year.

I find that many of the poor, who have, under present circumstances, to be cared for by money taken from the poor fund, could help themselves very much at times, if they had basket material to work upon, and the amount heretofore appropriated for basket ash is not sufficient.

ELECTIONS.

On the 2d and 5th of October last, I held at Peter Dana's Point, and at Pleasant Point, respectively, an election of one representative to represent the Tribe in the next legislature.

A very quiet, peaceable election was had.

I mention this, because formerly an Indian election meant an Indian riot.

Mr. Lewy Mitchell, ex-representative, received a majority of the votes cast, and was declared the legal representative of his Tribe in the legislature of 1895-6.

I would respectfully recommend that appropriations of money for the benefit of the tribe be made for each of the years 1895 and 1896, as follows (excepting the appropriations for repair of Sisters' Home and repair of road at P. D. Point) viz:

For May dividends each year.....	\$375 00
November dividends each year.....	375 00
Distressed poor each year.....	3,500 00
Agricultural purposes each year.....	600 00
Plowing each year.....	150 00
Fertilizer each year.....	150 00
Bounty on crops each year.....	200 00
Wood each year.....	500 00
Contingent purposes each year.....	150 00
Educational purposes each year.....	800 00

For Salary of priests each year.....	200 00
Salary of governors each year.....	100 00
Salary of lieutenant governors each year...	40 00
Salary of agent each year.....	200 00
Basket ash.....	350 00
Repairs of Sisters' Home, P. D. Point.....	100 00
Repair of road P. D. Point.....	100 00
School books each year.....	30 00
Salary of police each year at P. D. Point..	20 00
Total appropriations.....	<u>\$7,940 00</u>

Very respectfully submitted,

CHARLES A. ROLFE, *Agent.*

PRINCETON, ME., December, 1894.