

1873

Annual Report of the Selectmen, Treasurer, and Supervisor of Schools, of the Town of Cumberland, for the Financial Year Ending March 4, 1873

Cumberland (Me.).

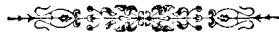
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ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
SELECTMEN, TREASURER,
AND SUPERVISOR OF SCHOOLS,
OF THE
TOWN OF CUMBERLAND,
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDING APRIL 4, 1873.



PORTLAND, ME. :
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1873.

REPORT.

MONEY RAISED MARCH, 1872.

For Schools,	\$1,300 80
“ Poor,	1,000 00
“ Highways,	1,500 00
“ Interest on Debt,	2,000 00
“ Contingent Bills,	1,100 00
	<hr/>
	\$6,900 80
State Tax,	2,947 53
County Tax,	603 63
Overlayings,	425 78
Collector's Premium,	165 65
	<hr/>
	\$11,043 39
Additional Assessment,	58 66
	<hr/>
	\$11,102 05
Valuation,	\$506,020 00
Additional valuation,	1,470 00
	<hr/>
Total valuation,	\$507,490 00
Number of Polls,	392.
Per centage of taxation,	19 1-2 mills on the dollar.

DISBURSEMENTS.

LAND DAMAGES FOR TOWN WAY ON CHEBEAGUE.

Pd. John Hamilton,	\$10 00	Pd. Robert Hamilton,	\$30 00
Heirs of Rufus Soule,	46 00	Ross & Hamilton,	120 00
David Hill,	120 00	Samuel Ross,	43 00
Simeon Hamilton,	56 00	Hairs of B. Hamilton,	45 00
Isaac Webber,	29 00	Wm. P. Littlefield,	117 00
Asa Doughty,	6 00	David Upton,	29 00
David Peterson,	73 00	Seth Kiggins,	97 00
David Bennett,	15 00	Albert Warden,	25 00
Geo. Hannaford,	38 00	Hrs. of Elijah Soule,	19 00
Hezekiah Doughty,	24 00	Abner Hill,	16 00
A. Cleaves & W. Ross,	32 00	Nath'l Thompson,	14 00
Robert Littlefield,	24 00	David Hamilton,	77 00
Aaron Cleaves,	15 00	Byron Deane,	23 00
David A. Hill,	20 00		
Total,			\$1,163 00

MATERIALS AND LABOR FOR REPAIR OF HIGHWAYS AND BRIDGES,

Pd. Joseph Harris,	\$5 60	Pd. Wm. M. Merrill,	\$6 00
Moses Haskell,	1 80	Moses Thomes,	1 75
Ai Small, N. B. Latham,	2 80	Peter Merrill,	4 60
Eben'r Merrill,	5 80	I. L. Clough,	7 00
J. Coffin,	4 40	Gilman Thurston,	18 76
A. & E. Rupell,	6 15	Albert Sweetsir,	3 00
Benj. Pote,	5 00	P. A. Merrill,	4 41
Lyman Walker,	8 70	David Wyman,	5 19
Anson N. Hicks,	3 13	N. M. Shaw,	10 00
B. B. Sweetser,	2 75	Joseph Clough,	4 45
T. F. Chamberlain,	13 00	Sumner Sturdivant,	13 00
E. B. Shaw,	1 75	Daniel Mountfort,	2 40
S. L. Clough, for plank,	12 25		
David Allen, labor and materials, repairing bridge,			25 25
Total,			\$168 34
Interest paid on Notes,			\$1,422 00

SUPPORT OF POOR.

Enos Blanchard, keeping and fare of transient paupers,	\$ 4 30
Wm. Rupell, supplies to R. Titcomb,	6 00
Hollis Doughty, “ “ “	19 54
J. R. Frost, board of Mrs. Simmons,	32 14
Hollis Doughty, supplies to R. Titcomb,	22 33
H. H. Hay & Co., medicine for John Doughty,	6 90
Parsons & Grant, for R. Titcomb,	5 38
J. R. Frost, for Mrs. Simmons,	30 60
N. L. Humphrey, for Eph'm Field,	14 52
Enos Blanchard, for transient paupers,	1 50
J. E. Dunn, for R. Titcomb,	26 11
Dr. F. I. Hall, for Mrs. Simmans,	9 50
J. W. Hanscorn, for R. Titcomb,	25 00
C. H. Morrell, for R. Titcomb,	2 50
Hollis Doughty, for R. Titcomb,	1 58
Insane Hospital, for Mitchell & Eaton,	146 87
“ “ “ “ “	68 72
“ “ “ “ “	74 79
J. Tukesbury, for Olive Titcomb,	1 25
Dr. J. M. Bates, for R. Titcomb,	9 00
R. Rideout, for Mrs. Simmons and John Doughty,	14 11
Chas. H. Blanchard, support of F. W. Blanchard,	84 30
T. D. Pittes, for clothing for Chas. A. F. Blanchard,	8 00
City of Saco, for support of Mary & Chas. A. F. Blanchard,	68 12
Asa Sawyer! for board of Olive Titcomb,	30 00
Reuben Hill, supplies to poor on Chebeague,	58 41
Total,	<hr/> \$771 47

MISCELLANEOUS BILLS.

Jacob Black, repairs on cemetery,	\$ 4 00
A. S. Sweetser, services as Town Clerk,	4 00
Asa Greely, " Moderator,	4 00
Asa Sawyer, for collecting taxes,	120 00
F. P. Blanchard, for damages to sleigh on the road,	5 00
Town of N. Yarmouth, for use of derrick,	8 00
Wm. L. Prince, services as Committee and Auditor,	3 75
Abatement of taxes to Collector for 1871,	17 10
Joseph Sawyer, witness in Whitney case,	4 20
Wm. I. Blanchard, wood for Town House,	4 00
" " witness in Whitney case,	2 38
" " repairing Town House windows,	1 92
F. York, for materials, building, and repairing grave pard fence and hearse house,	87 05
Asa Greely, for traveling expenses,	4 15
R. Rideout & Son, for powder, fuse, &c.,	4 78
N. L. Humphrey, for stationery, nails, &c.,	5 79
Hoyt, Fogg & Breed, for stationery,	6 50
Joseph Sturdivant, fence posts,	5 00
N. L. Humphrey, traveling expenses,	21 20
Asa Sawyer, for advertising non-resident estates, &c.,	4 50
Strout & Gage, attorneys,	296 00
	\$613 22
Total,	

TOWN OFFICERS' BILLS.

N. L. Humphrey, services as Selectman, Assessor and Overseer of Poor,	\$89 75
Asa Greely, Selectman, Assessor and Overseer of Poor,	60 50
Reuben Hill, " " " "	25 00
G. B. Richardson, Supervisor of Schools,	55 00
" " traveling expenses,	20 00
A. S. Sweetser, Town Clerk,	10 00
Wm. S. Blanchard, Constable,	13 00
Asa Sawyer, Treasurer,	30 00
	\$303 25
Amount of school money from all sources,	\$2,152 87
Paid for support of schools,	1,317 00
	\$835 87
Balance due Districts Feb. 22, 1873,	

TREASURER'S REPORT.

Balance in Treasury, March, 1872,	\$3,696 41
Cash received of Joseph Blanchard,	155 25
“ “ John Wilson,	156 00
“ “ Wm. Merrill,	1,000 00
“ “ State Treasurer,	52 01
Assessors return of Town Tax,	7,551 28
Cash from Cumberland School Fund,	102 62
Cash from Charles Wyman,	75 00
	\$12,788 57
Amount paid out,	6,671 63
	\$6,116 94

TOWN LIABILITIES.

Notes due Greely Institute,	\$20,320 00
Notes due Cumberland School Fund,	870 00
Notes due sundry individuals,	4,925 00
Interest due on the foregoing notes,	850 00
Balance due school districts,	835 00
“ for land damages,	325 00
“ Collector's premiums,	260 00
Miscellaneous outstanding bills, estimated at	175 00
	\$28,560 00

RESOURCES,

Balance due from Town Farm,	\$6,116 00
School money due from the State,	750 00
Amount due from individuals,	950 00
	\$7,816 00
Total resources,	\$7,816 00
Net liabilities,	\$20,744 00

N. L. HUMPHREY, } Selectmen
 ASA GREELY, } of
 REUBEN HILL, } Cumberland.

ASA SAWYER, Town Treasurer.

SCHOOL REPORT.

In summing up the records of the past year, it is a pleasure to be able to say, that we have had some excellent schools. Where there has been an intelligent interest on the part of the district, success has generally followed. Not always, for the best efforts of the agents, will sometimes prove abortive through the unwise recommendation of teachers. It is a lamentable fact that indifferent teachers can bring the most unqualified recommendations. We are obliged to form an opinion of their fitness by our own knowledge and interest, or by actual trial. It would be a safe rule for agents and others employing teachers to place no dependence upon certificates unless they are well acquainted with those who give them, and even then there should be the greatest caution. The first and most essential requisite for a successful school is a good teacher. The cooperation of parents is indeed necessary, but this is usually gained by an instructor, that understands his business. We cannot too earnestly urge upon the citizens of this town, the importance of sparing no pains or money in obtaining the best talent and culture that can be found. In these days *skill* is at a premium in all other departments of business, and should be especially so in the responsible work of teaching. But the idea is too prevalent in some quarters, that almost any body will do to teach some of our backward schools. Cheapness is the great desideratum with many. They estimate the value of a school by its length. When will people believe the oft repeated and true statement that six weeks of instruction under a skillful teacher is better than twelve weeks under one that is not qualified for his work. It oftens happens that it takes a whole term to *unlearn* bad habits of study. We may truly say that much of the reading in

our schools is worse than nothing. Time enough is spent but frequently no right instruction is given.

To remedy this state of things, we must *insist* upon well qualified teachers, and be willing to pay them, so that they can afford to fit themselves for the most efficient work. The times have changed so that it is useless to think of securing gentlemen or ladies at the old rates. An intelligent and enterprising lady will not undertake the laborious task of teaching for 3 or 4 dollars per week, when she can earn twice as much in other pursuits, and no one can blame her. Every one in our districts would do the same. We are aware that in the midst of high taxes the suggestion of higher wages will be unwelcome to some. But the money that we *now* raise would secure almost double the amount of real good to our schools, if it should be wisely expended. What we want is more thorough work, and to retain the same teachers term after term. Two weeks of a term are often wasted by introducing a new teacher. Then on account of careless and imperfect teaching the same ground is gone over, and very little advance made. The pupils are not interested as they would be if they were constantly making progress. Scholars should not be allowed to proceed faster than they can master the subject in hand, and then should continue straightforward. We all remember how we went over arithmetic time after time, and then knew little about it. Let us have thorough drill in every branch of study, so that what the pupils *do* know they shall know certainly, and once for all. We are all satisfied that many of the teachers who now accomplish only inferior results are capable of qualifying themselves for efficient service, and *would* do so if we demanded it, and paid them for it. During this winter we held two meetings, to which all the teachers were invited—to discuss methods of teaching, and the best way to manage a school. We believe that such meetings are of great advantage, as the teachers get the benefit of each others experience.

We suggest to the agents that they send the candidates to the Superintending Committee or Supervisor immediately for examination, so that if not qualified another may be secured before the

term commences. In three cases during the last year, districts have suffered by not doing this, instead of putting the teachers into school without a certificate. What we need is the cooperation of agents and parents, and the careful supervision of the general committee, then will our schools take the high stand which we so much desire.

The variety of text books is a grievous evil in this town. In some districts there are two kinds of arithmetic, two grammars and sometimes two or three different readers. In order to remedy this difficulty there must be a stand at the institute, for the pupils go from the different districts to this school and back again, and carry the books used there. As we have no permanent board of trustees over this excellent institution, there has never been a list of books established, hence every teacher has introduced what books he pleased. There should be uniformity between this school and the other schools in town. This can easily be secured if the proper steps are taken. Frequent change of books is a great detriment, as in too many cases all through the State, good books have been thrown aside for inferior ones. We had better spend our funds in securing the best talent in our teachers, then, almost any kind of books will suffice. "The love of money is the rootⁿ of this constant change. Agents from the different publishing houses, beset us almost weekly to examine their wares, but we have seen no book yet, that will furnish our children with brains.

Amount of school money, \$2152,87, appropriated as follows:

District No. 1,	\$164 94	District No. 7,	\$166 86
“ “ 2,	238 74	“ “ 8,	352 87
“ “ 3,	242 20	“ “ 9,	366 70
“ “ 4,	154 18	“ “ 11,	92 28
“ “ 5,	170 70	“ “ 13,	154 18
“ “ 6,	45 76		

DISTRICT No. 1.

Summer Term. Agent, William Blanchard. Teacher, D. E. Sturdivant.

Miss Sturdivant is a fine scholar, and has many excellent qualities for a teacher. If she had a more modern style of teaching she would secure better results. But it would be doubted whether she could accomplish all she would desire in such an uncouth and antique schoolroom as that in which she found herself last summer. Under the circumstances the pupils made fair improvement. There are bright scholars in this school, and it would be wisdom for the people of the district to furnish them a better room. It is almost a wonder that much can be done in such a dismal place.

Winter Term. Teacher, M. F. Anderson.

At my first visit the teacher seemed to be at home in her work, and to have the confidence and respect of her pupils. There are some fine readers in this school, and also are far advanced in their other studies.

Miss A. was critical in her instruction and thorough in her drill. The order was good. There was some annoyance between some of the parents, who so far forgot wisdom and duty as to encourage their children in disobedience. It is not pleasant to refer to this, but it is of the utmost importance that children learn to yield to wholesome restraint, if they do not - their future is anything but promising.

DISTRICT No. 2.

Summer Term. Agent, Alvin Sturdivant. Teacher, Lizzie J. Rideout.

Miss Rideout found this school in a sad condition, the scholars under little restraint. It took nearly four weeks to reduce them to order. But the teacher succeeded in gaining their love and in bringing them under a proper discipline. She was kind, but firm, thorough in drill, and therefore secured most cheering results. At the closing examination, the schoolroom was beautifully decorated, and the pupils were anxious to show what they had learned.

There was a promptness in recitation that was very gratifying. This school in my opinion was a decided success.

Winter Term. Teacher, Frank Rogers.

Mr. Rogers came to us with the highest recommendations, and passed a most satisfactory examination. He is a young man of most excellent character, and was very desirous to succeed. But we feared at the very outset that he might be deficient in energy and tact, but as he was young, we wished to give him a fair trial and hoped that he would prove that our fears were groundless. He gained the love and esteem of his pupils, which were shown by the valuable presents which he received at the close of the term.

But the final examination showed that the earnest efforts of the agent and the supervisor, together with the best intentions and endeavors of the teacher do not always secure success. The order was defective. While Mr. R. had the good will of many of his pupils, there were others that did not care to submit to good discipline. There was a want of promptness in recitation. We can but hope that there were better results than appeared. There are elements in this district that render it very difficult for any teacher, and this will account in some measure for the want of success. Mr. R. would doubtless have accomplished more in some other school;

DISTRICT No. 3.

Summer Term. Agent, John Wilson. Teacher, Mary S. Rideout.

This district has had the advantage of retaining the same teacher for several successive terms. Miss Rideout is at home among children, and possesses many qualities that fit her for a teacher. She knows how to win the love of her pupils, and secure their obedience. She is patient and unwearied in her efforts for their improvement.

There were some most excellent readers in this school during the summer term. We have scarcely ever heard better reading. The other recitations were very good, especially in arithmetic.

Fall Term. Teacher, Mary S. **Rideout**.

This school suffers more than any other in town, by a constant drain of its pupils. As soon as they are twelve years of age, they pass over to the **Institute**. It is a great discouragement to a teacher to part with her scholars just as they become interested in their studies, and it is a great damage to a school to lose its best pupils.

But the work done here is none the less important—the foundation is laid, and the children prepared to take their place in the higher school.

There are many of the smaller ones that have made rapid progress during the past year—indeed all have made good improvement. We wish that the teacher would require more of her scholars, and insist upon more earnest application. The winter term is not closed and therefore we will not report concerning it.

DISTRICT No. 4.

Summer Term. Agent, Josiah **Merrill**. Teacher, Emily Leighton.

This district have shown that enterprise and public spirit in erecting a convenient and comfortable school room. They need to add some apparatus to make it complete. There should be in every school-house a dictionary, globe and outline maps at least.

Miss Leighton secured the affection of her scholars, and accomplished fair results. We thought she did not teach self independence as much as she should. The children here especially need it. A certain modesty and diffidence are desirable, but they may be excessive. Children should be taught to think for themselves, and know the reason of things. This school was on the whole a profitable one.

Winter Term. Teacher, **Eliza H. Morton**.

This teacher had a rare faculty of interesting her pupils, and of teaching them practical things. She introduced drawing, the drafting of bills of sale and various other forms used in mercantile life. Some very fine ~~works~~ executed by the scholars were pre-

sented at the closing examination. We cannot commend too highly her methods of teaching. There was a readiness in recitation that was delightful. If the children could conquer their bashfulness and speak louder they would appear to excellent advantage. The spelling was very fine, especially on the part of the little ones.

Several of the parents and friends of this district showed their appreciation by their presence at the examination. All were highly gratified. We pronounce this a successful school.

DISTRICT No. 5.

Summer Term. Agent, A. M. Small. Teacher, Ellen M. Skillins.

On my first visit the order was good, and the school promised fair success. The reading was defective and showed that there had not been proper drill. Reading lies at the foundation of all knowledge, and too much attention cannot be devoted to it. It is a singular fact that when half of the school hours are spent in this department we do not receive better returns. At close of the term I found some improvement, but there was the appearance of inattention. This school needs to be stirred up. There is good material here—it must be worked and moulded. We were hardly satisfied with the progress of this school.

Winter Term. Teacher, Miss Lawrence.

Miss Lawrence's, literary qualifications were ample, and she is naturally active. The order in this school was excellent. There were several young men who gave character to it.

The final examination evinced patient study and faithful instruction. The classes in reading were good, especially the first and second. The recitations in arithmetic and geography were creditable. There was a good deal of diffidence which annoyed the teacher and hindered the scholars from doing themselves full justice.

However we think good improvement was made.

DISTRICT No. 6.

This school is under the supervision of Parmouth, so we have no report of it.

DISTRICT No. 7.

Summer Term. Agent, George Merrill. Teacher, Maria G. Buxton.

At our first visit we found that the children were all delighted with their teacher. The order was perfect and the pupils studious. Miss Buxton has a most happy faculty of securing the affection of her scholars. She is untiring in her efforts for their good, and decided in her government. There is no friction—the wheels run smoothly. At the close of the term I found that there had been great improvement in all the studies pursued. The reading was natural and showed careful and excellent drill. Miss B. is one of our best readers, and has a power to teach this most important branch, which few possess. We wish that she could be retained as a teacher since nature has specially qualified her for this work.

Winter Term. Teacher, Ella Hadlock.

Miss Hadlock has had considerable experience in teaching, and is well qualified. She understands the nature of children, and governs by love. Therefore it is not necessary to say that she gave satisfaction to the district.

The last day of school was unfavorable, as a deep snow had fallen the day before, so that not all the scholars were present. But those that were there showed that they had improved their privileges and were desirous to do their best. There were several declamations that were gratifying. The pupils were very much interested in this exercise. I would recommend that it be introduced into every school.

DISTRICT No. 8. (Chebeague.)

Summer Term. Agent, Albert Warden. Teacher, Helen Forbes.

This school was commenced nine days before the teacher was presented for examination. Her literary qualifications appeared to be sufficient, and she had an earnest desire to succeed. This was her first effort in teaching, and the school difficult. If we could have seen her *before* she began, we should have said in all

kindness, that she had better not undertake such a task at first. With a smaller school she would doubtless have showed more satisfactory results. As it was, **I** am sorry to say, that it was far from a success.

This district, especially, should secure without regard to **expense** the best teachers that can be found.

Winter Term. Teacher, Lyman Sturdivaat.

This school was visited after it had been in session one week. The order was all that could be desired. We did not notice a whisper during the afternoon, and every scholar was in his place. Mr. Sturdivant gained the confidence of the pupils and of the parents.

At our second visit near the close of the term, we found the same order and the same attention to study. The recitations were prompt, and indicated a good degree of application. Some difficult problems were performed with readiness.

We think this a profitable school, and the district will employ the teacher three weeks longer than it was expected at first. This district needs sadly a new school-house, or their present house thoroughly repaired. They also need some convenient out buildings. The *health* as well as morals of the pupils imperatively demand it. We earnestly entreat them to take this matter in hand.

DISTRICT No. 9. (Chebeague.)

Summer Term. Agent, David Hill. Teacher, Maria L. Buxton.

This district was especially fortunate in securing the services of Miss Buxton. Nature as well as culture has qualified her for **a** teacher. She has tact and skill, united with gentleness and decision. Therefore her pupils loved her and made rapid progress in their studies. The gentlemen whom **I** requested to visit the school at its close, say "~~we~~ found it in a very prosperous condition. The order was excellent, and the scholars were prompt in their lessons. We are free to say that Miss Buxton is one of the **very** best teachers that we ever had in this district. The schoo

was first class in every respect." I will add, they have a beautiful and convenient school-room, and an ample apparatus.

Winter Term. Teacher, Seth Eenson.

It is a rare privilege to visit a school under the tuition of such a teacher as Mr. Benson. He gives you at once the idea that he is "master of the situation," and the pupils show that they yield willing and cheerful obedience. He has had a large experience and a wide reputation.

At the closing examination, we found that the scholars had learned to think for themselves—could give a reason for their opinions. The classes in reading were unusually satisfactory—there was a self-possession and clear enunciation that were charming. All the recitations evinced patient study and thorough drill.

This district have shown decided wisdom in employing this teacher two winters—their money was never better expended.

DISTRICT No. 11. (Crotch Island.)

This district is so far out at sea, that I did not visit it. There has been a school on the Island this winter, but no returns have been made.

DISTRICT No. 13.

Fall and Winter Term. Agent, David Merrill. Teacher, M. O. Merrill.

This school appeared very well at my first visit. The order was good, and the scholars industrious. Miss Merrill has a fine faculty for teaching reading. She is a natural reader herself and can render a piece, so that her pupils can catch the true idea of it. There was a marked improvement in this branch. As the term has not yet closed, I cannot speak of all the results.

At my second visit, I thought that the school was making good progress in their several studies. Some of the scholars are backward, for the reason that they have had only a few weeks of schooling in a year.

Respectfully submitted,

G. B. RICHARDSON, Supervisor of Schools.

