

1869

# Annual Report of the Superintending School Committee of the Town of Litchfield, for the Year Ending March, 1869

Litchfield (Me.)

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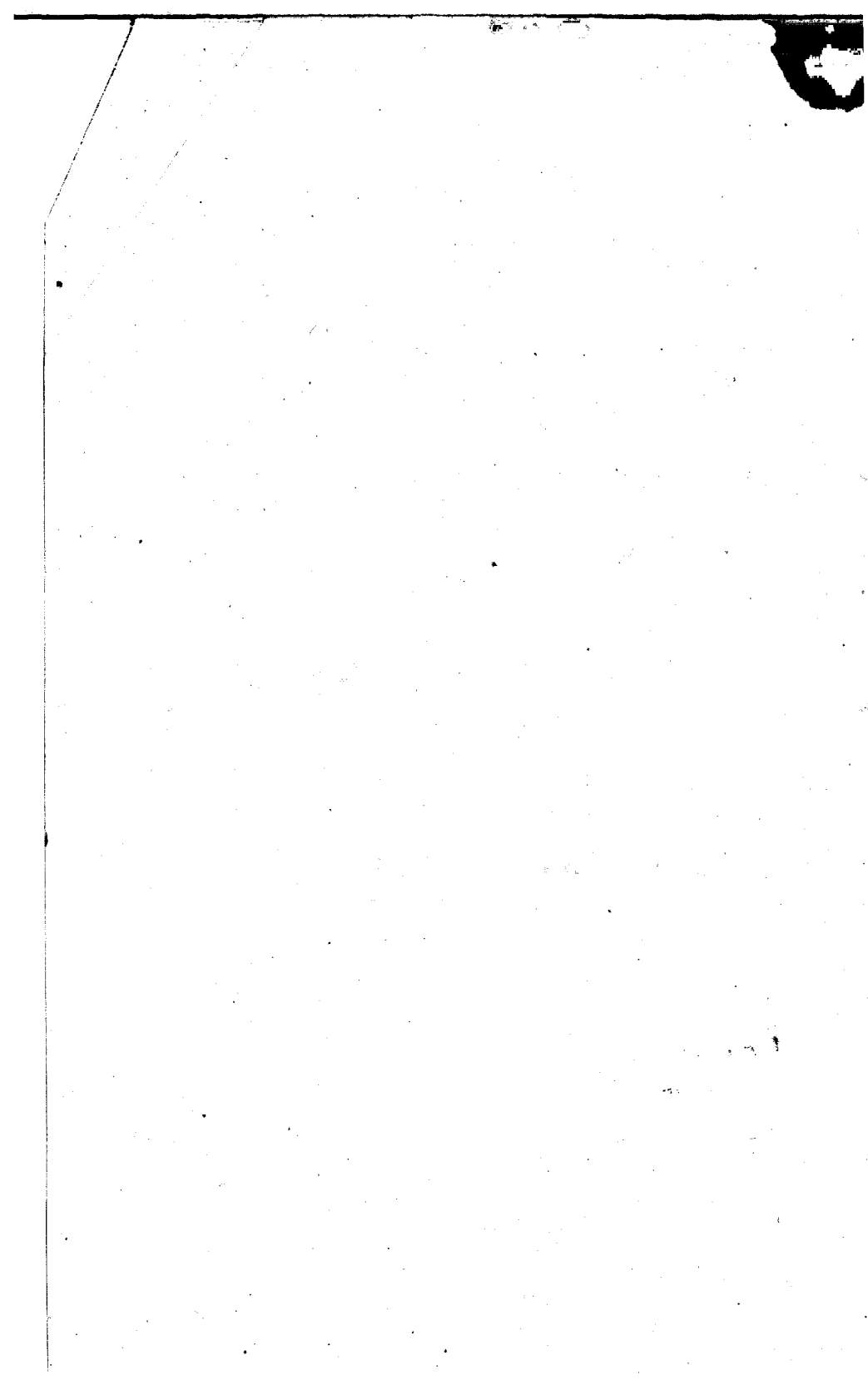
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ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
OF THE  
TOWN OF LITCHFIELD,  
FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH, 1869.

*Published by Order of the Town.*

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GARDINER:  
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1869.



## SCHOOL REPORT.

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*To the Citizens of Litchfield :*

The Superintending School Committee submit their Annual Report for the year ending March 1, 1869 :

Amount of money appropriated by the Town for the support of	
Schools,	\$1,704 00
Amount received from the State,	41 59
“ paid for the Supervision of Schools,	72 14
“ appropriated to the Districts,	1,673 45
“ to each scholar,	3 09

### Condition of the Schools.

DISTRICT NO. 1.—GEO. W. EARL, *Agent*.

Money appropriated, \$191.58. Number of scholars in the District, 62.

*Summer Term.*—MISS ELLA TRUE, *Teacher*. Number of scholars attending, 34 ; average, 29. Term, ten weeks.

The Agent of this District was fortunate in his selection of a teacher, Miss T. being one of our most experienced and successful instructors.

She brought to her task that good judgment, which is always required by a teacher of children. At our first visit, we found the teacher and scholars well set to work, the school well organized, and promising large success ; which we thought was fully realized at the close of the term. The classes appeared to have been well drilled. Classes in Grammar and Spelling made marked progress. The order was good. A strict record of each scholar's standing was kept by the teacher, and presented each week to the parents, for their signatures, which in all cases were given ; thus teacher, scholars and parents co-operating for the best good of all.

*Winter Term.*—ORAMANDEL SMITH and ELISHA BAKER, *Teachers.* Number of scholars attending, while Mr. SMITH taught, 51; average, 45. Number attending while Mr. BAKER taught, 32; average, 22. Term, ten weeks.

Sickness, vacations and change of teachers, somewhat impeded the progress of this school. Mr. SMITH began the term and taught two weeks, when sickness coming into the school, a vacation of two weeks was had; after which the school went on, some three weeks, or until the teacher was taken sick and obliged to resign his charge:

During this time, the pupils seemed to make good progress, being well interested in their studies, and quite punctual in attendance. After another vacation of a week or more, Mr. BAKER, a teacher of good standing and experience took charge, and taught the remainder of the term, five weeks.

New cases of sickness, with the other interruptions, had by this time, nearly or quite broken up the interest of the school, so that Mr. B's usefulness could not be felt as it would have been under more favorable circumstances.

DISTRICT, NO. 2.—F. TRACY, *Agent.*

Money appropriated, \$64.89. Number of scholars in the District, 21.

*Summer Term.*—MISS HATTIE CLARK, *Teacher.* Number of scholars attending, 23; average, 15. Term, ten weeks.

This was Miss C's first attempt at teaching, and we think she may be very well content with her success. She seemed to command the respect of her pupils. The order was good. The classes in Arithmetic showed that they had been thoroughly drilled; but some of the classes in Reading made little progress. Other classes did fairly. With the discipline of experience, Miss CLARK may do well as a teacher.

*Winter Term.*—N. J. WEDGWOOD, *Teacher.* Number of scholars attending, 22; average, 21. Term, eight weeks.

Mr. W. found this school small and backward; but, notwithstanding this disadvantage, he went to work in good earnest to accomplish something; and we were well satisfied at the closing examination that he had succeeded. The order was good. Classes in Grammar and Reading made commendable progress. Other classes might be mentioned, had we time and space.

DISTRICT NO. 3.—OLIVER WATERMAN, *Agent*.

Money appropriated, \$123.66. Number of scholars in the District, 40.

*Summer Term*.—MISS C. L. BROWN, *Teacher*. Number of scholars attending, 19; average, 14. Term, twelve weeks.

At our first visit, the school appeared to be well organized, and well engaged, with one of the best scholars in town as a teacher; and your committee doubted not that the term would be a profitable one. Because of unavoidable circumstances, we made no closing examination.

*Winter Term*.—G. W. WEBBER, *Teacher*. Number of scholars attending, 27; average, 19. Term, eight weeks.

Mr. W. entered upon his duties under somewhat disadvantageous circumstances. Having been out of the business of teaching for several years, he found himself not quite so ready on small things as he would have liked to have been. At our opening visit, we found by the appearance of the school, that he had gained one great point: the respect of his scholars. At the closing examination, Mr. W. insisted that we should question his classes, which perhaps tended to embarrass the pupils, as they did not appear quite as ready as we would have liked to have seen them. Analysis in Mathematics was not quite so thorough as we like. The order was commendable. On the whole, we concluded that the progress of the school had been favorable.

DISTRICT NO. 4.—EDWARD BUKER, *Agent*.

Money appropriated, \$111.24. Number of scholars in the District, 36.

*Summer Term*.—MISS CLARA GETCHELL, *Teacher*. Number of scholars attending, 23; average, 15. Term, eleven weeks.

We were much pleased at both visits with the quiet yet firm and determined manner, in which this school was conducted. The teacher seemed to rule by the force of a strong character, which lay behind a pleasant countenance and lady-like dignity; the scholars yielding almost unconsciously to each requirement. We would like to see such government in every school in town.

Most of the scholars in this school were small and backward, but showed signs of interest in their studies; and, at our closing examination, marked progress seemed to have been made—thus showing that much labor must have been performed, and many obstacles overcome.

We would however recommend more Mental Arithmetic and Geography. We think the school was a good one; and we would recommend Miss G. to the favorable notice of future agents.

*Winter Term.*—CURTIS WEDGWOOD, *Teacher*. Number of scholars attending, 23; average, 21. Term, twelve weeks.

Mr. W. is an old veteran in the business of teaching—having taught sixty-two schools, and more in this town than any other man living. “His hands are bent with grasping the rod,” though we are pleased to report, as an evidence that we live in a progressive age, that he has laid it down, and succeeded by moral suasion, like other men. He did well in this school, giving satisfaction to parent and scholars; and at the closing examination, the classes showed to the committee that the term had been profitable.

DISTRICT NO. 5.—GEORGE HARRIMAN, *Agent*.

Money appropriated, \$105.06. Number of scholars in the District, 34.

*Summer Term.*—MISS SARAH LORD, *Teacher*. Number of scholars attending, 6; average,  $4\frac{1}{2}$ . Term, 6 weeks.

This was Miss LORD's first term, and we hope she may never enter the school-room again, unless under more favorable circumstances. She displayed, however, the patience of a martyr, and an ability worthy our commendation.

All the scholars were thoroughly and systematically taught, and, at the close, showed the effects of honest and thorough work.—We hope to meet Miss L. again, in a broader field, and one more worthy her abilities.

*Winter Term.*—MISS NEALIE W. PAINE, *Teacher*. Number of scholars attending, 10; average, 6. Term, ten weeks.

At our first visit Miss PAINE seemed to have won the esteem of her little flock. All appeared interested in their work, and well pleased with the prospects of a good school; and, at the close, we were pleased to conclude, from unmistakable evidence, that the term had really been well conducted and well taught.

We would here take the opportunity to inform the town that the ancient edifice used in this district, as a schoolhouse, remains in the same condition as heretofore, only, like “the door on its hinges, growing no better but rather worse.” We would further state that the committee, in the future, as in the past, will consider it a duty to give the town annual information as regards this antiquated structure.

DISTRICT NO. 6.—JACOB TRUE, *Agent*.

Money appropriated, \$80.34. Number of scholars in the District, 26.

*Summer Term*.—Miss EMILY PALMER, *Teacher*. Number of scholars attending, 24; average, 19. Term, six weeks.

Miss P. appeared at home in this school, having had charge of it several terms before.

The only fault we could find with this school at our first visit, was a great diffidence on the part of the scholars; so much so that we could not get distinct answers. We offered a few words of advice on this point, and, at our last visit, we were glad to notice that they had acted upon it. The order was good, scholars appeared interested in their studies, and modest and polite in their deportment. Classes in Arithmetic and Geography, though small, made good advancement. We think the school was a profitable one to the district.

*Winter Term*.—Miss SUSAN B. STANCHIAL, *Teacher*. Number of scholars attending 19; average 14. Term, seven weeks.

Miss S. labored earnestly for the welfare of her school. Sickness prevailing in the district the attendance was considerably less than usual; nevertheless, the teacher and scholars set to work in good earnest, except one of the larger boys who concluded to set up for himself; but the teacher, insisting upon being mistress of her business, finally reduced him to his normal condition, and kept him there till near the close of the term, when he left and did not return. Parents should stamp upon the *least attempt* at rebellion or insubordination in the schoolroom.

At the closing examination the school appeared well. Classes in Arithmetic and Grammar had made commendable progress. One class in Reading made *marked* advancements. All did well.

DISTRICT NO. 7.—MELVIN TIBBETTS, *Agent*.

Money appropriated, \$92.70. Number of scholars in the District, 30.

*Summer Term*.—Miss FANNIE CUNNINGHAM, *Teacher*. Number of scholars attending, 15; average, 12. Term, eight weeks.

At our first visit we found the school very quiet and orderly. The teacher seemed to have acquired entire control of her pupils, as to their general deportment; but we feared there might be too



much cold dignity maintained on her part, which, with other unpleasant conditions, such as an old schoolhouse, half lighted by very small windows; no blackboard, and not any modern improvements, might render the old "shell" an uninviting place for children on summer days.

We hoped for the best, however, expecting to meet them at a second visit; but, because of sickness of the teacher, the school was closed prematurely.

*Winter Term.*—ALPHEUS SPEAR, *Teacher*. Number of scholars attending, 20; average 16. Term, twelve weeks.

At our first visit we thought, really, that the school was a far-bound congregation; no life, no energy, no interest on the part of the scholars; lessons were poorly committed, and not as well recited; in fact we were inclined to fear that the school had received a partial shock of numb-palsy, which rendered their brains muddy and their tongues thick and heavy, so that they could neither think nor speak distinctly. But the teacher was lively and animated in his manners, and determined, if possible, to arouse the dormant life of his pupils. If they possessed any pride or ambition, he was the man to stir it up. We left them not feeling sure that there was much light beyond the dark. As the school closed before we expected, no second visit was made. We have been informed, however, that light *did* break in, and they had a better school than for many years before.

DISTRICT NO. 8.—JOHN PATTEN, *Agent*.

Money appropriated, \$15.45. Number of scholars in the District, 5.

*Summer Term.*—No school.

*Winter Term.*—MR. GEO. GILCHRIST, *Teacher*. Number of scholars attending, 9; average, 6. Term, six weeks.

This little school is made up of scholars from different districts, and towns. Mr. G. is a man of good parts, and, at our first visit, everything appeared as well as could be expected, thus promising success. At the time of reporting no second visit had been made.

DISTRICT NO. 9.—SAMUEL WILLIAMS, *Agent*.

Money appropriated, \$91.58. Number of scholars in the District, 62.

*Summer Term.*—MISS G. A. WILSON, *Teacher*. Number of scholars attending, 36; average, 28. Term, eight weeks.