1872


Oxford (Me.)

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

OF THE

TOWN OF OXFORD,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 1, 1872.

BY

A. L. HERSEY,

AUDITOR.

LEWISTON:
JOURNAL STEAM PRESS, LISBON STREET.
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TOWN OFFICERS, 1871.

Clerk, ..................................................... THOMAS BAKER.

Selectmen, Assessors and Overseers of the Poor, SEBASTIAN S. SMITH,
CHARLES F. DURELL,
ROBERT T. BOYNTON.

Treasurer, ................................................ GEORGE E. HAWKES.

Agent, ..................................................... GEORGE P. WHITNEY.

Auditor, .................................................... A. L. HERSEY.

Superintending School Committee, ............ F. B. ANDREWS,
HOWARD D. SMITH,
JACOB L. HORR.

Collector and Constable, ......................... SETH H. FAUNCE.
REPORT OF SELECTMEN.

VALUATION

Of the Town of Oxford, as taken by the Assessors, April 1st, 1871: —

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Real estate,</td>
<td>$158,851 00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal estate,</td>
<td>39,147 00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total valuation,</td>
<td>$197,998 00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Valuation in 1871,</td>
<td>201,373 00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decrease,</td>
<td>$3,375 00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


TAXES FOR 1871.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>State tax,</td>
<td>$2,673 65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>County tax,</td>
<td>544 73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town tax — Support of schools,</td>
<td>1,631 00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support of poor, pay debts, and other expenses,</td>
<td>1,800 00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To build Welchville road,</td>
<td>300 00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overlaying,</td>
<td>189 64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delinquent highway tax, 1870,</td>
<td>102 32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tax on dogs,</td>
<td>70 00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total amount committed for collection,</td>
<td>$7,311 34</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

HIGHWAY TAXES FOR 1871.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amount raised,</td>
<td>$2,000 00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overlaying,</td>
<td>81 37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$2,081 37</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
TOWN OFFICERS' BILLS.

Thomas Baker, Clerk, $1 37
Sebastian S. Smith, Selectman, &c., $75 00
Charles F. Durell, 56 25
Robert T. Boynton, 42 25
George E. Hawkes, Treasurer, 40 00
George P. Whitney, Agent, estimate, 20 00
A. L. Hersey, Auditor, 8 00
Seth H. Faunce, Collector, 131 60
Seth H. Faunce, Constable, 4 50
F. B. Andrews, S. S. Committee, 41 00
J. L. Horr, 26 60
H. D. Smith, 23 00

Total Town Officers’ bills, $469 57

POOR ON FARM MARCH 1, 1872.

Abigail Leavitt, aged 81 years.
Eliza Dean, 41 
Mary Moore, 47 
Charlotte Ham, 16 

Average number of paupers on farm during year, 4.

TOWN FARM ACCOUNT.

Stock, hay, furniture, tools, &c:—
2 oxen, $220 00
4 cows, 160 00
1 3-year old, 20 00
2 2-year olds, 20 00
2 yearlings, 12 00
3 sheep, 9 00
3 swine, 30 00

Total stock, $471 00

1 3-4 tons hay, first quality, 17 50
4 tons hay, second quality, 32 00
Furniture, 210 77
Farming tools, all kinds, 212 25
Provisions on hand, 156 26

Total, $628 78

Total personal property, $1,099 78
OVERSEERS OF TOWN FARM.

Amount paid Franklin Sargent, ending March 14, 1872, $225 00
Interest on farm at cost, stock and tools, 164 00
Tax on farm and stock, 30 00
Cash paid M. P. Smith, plaster, 9 60
E. W. Smith, meal, 43 00
H. K. Pratt, repairing tools, 8 00
Dennen & Webber, blacksmithing, 23 36
J. Parsons, meal, 61 90
Durell & Hawkes, store bill, 125 06
Thomas Baker, " " 91 95
S. E. King, " " 52 49
Seth T. Holbrook, grain, 19 39
Decrease of property on farm from 1870, 180 06

$1,033 81

CREDIT BY AMOUNT SOLD—
Amount sold off farm, $227 81
from F. Sargent for absence of boy from farm, 25 00
$252 81

Total cost of poor on farm, $781 00

COST OF POOR NOT ON FARM.

John Ordway’s family, $12 70
Nathaniel E. Rowe and family, 18 05
Jonas W. Strout, for care of child, 25 00
Thomas M. Packard and family, 24 75
Noyes children, 23 00
Medical attendance, 35 00
J. H. Hyer and family, 6 00
George Hamblin, 1 50
Martha Gammon, at Insane Hospital to March 1, 1872, 169 95
Aaron Houghton, 50 90

Total paid for paupers and insane, $366 85

[NOTE.—Amount claimed for board and burial expenses at Hospital, since August 31, 1871, about $100 00.]
RECEIPTS OUTSIDE OF TAXATION.

For State Bonds, (less discount), $6,454 73
Accrued interest on same, 575 00
Interest on money while on deposit, 103 56

Total amount received for State Bonds, $7,133 29

ANNUAL RECEIPTS FOR THE YEAR 1871.

Total amount of assessment, $7,311 34
State tax, 2,673 65
County tax, 544 73
Money raised for schools, 1,631 00
Discount on sums paid before Sept. 15, 1871, 189 37
" " " " Jan. 1, 1872, 43 90
Abatement on bills 1869 and 1870, 46 75
" " " " 1871, 63 08

$5,192 48

Available amount from cash taxes, $2,118 86
Total receipts during year, $9,252 15

ANNUAL EXPENDITURES FOR THE YEAR 1871.

Town officers' bills, $469 57
Expense of poor on farm, 781 00
Expense of poor not on farm, 146 00
Expense of Mrs. Gammon at Insane Hospital, 169 95
Expense of Aaron Houghton, 150 90
Medicines and medical attendance for poor, 35 00
Building bridge near W. W. Dennen's, 295 85
Building Welchville road, 354 68
Building Burns road, 446 70
Paid witness fees to Portland, 20 10
Painting Town House, 20 50
Bridge plank, 10 62
Labor on highways, 192 44
Interest paid during year, 400 00
Incidental bills, 141 42
Paid M. I. Bearce, saw bill, 102 92

Total, $3,737 65
Receipts above expenditures, $5,322 06
FINANCIAL STANDING OF TOWN, MARCH 1, 1871.

Outstanding notes, $2,287 00
Outstanding orders, 5,659 80

Total notes and orders, $7,946 80
Interest due on same 100 00
Due school districts, 252 00
Town officers bills, 469 57
Due County Commissioners, on Harrison Road, 151 61
Due County Commissioners, on Welchville Road, 37 70
Other bills, unpaid (estimated), 100 00

Total, $9,057 68

Available resources to meet same:
Money in town treasury, $121 86
Due from Collector, 1871, 1,603 71
" " 1869 and 1870, 122 53
" " State for Pensions advanced, 48 00
" " Town of Poland for supplies furnished Joseph Tripp, 14 28

Total, $1,910 38

Total debt of town, $7,147 30
SCHOOL REPORT.

The Superintending School Committee submit the following Report:—

The whole number of scholars in town, according to the last census, is 677.

Money raised for the schools by the town, $1,631 00
Money received from the State, 36 00

$1,667 00

DISTRICT No. 1. Otis Perkins, Agent.

Number of scholars, 14. Summer Term, taught by Miss Rose Burns, of Oxford. Scholars registered, 14; average, 20. Instances of tardiness, 8; of dismissal, 2; not absent one half day, 9. Length of term, 33 days. Wages of teacher, $3.00 per week.

Winter Term, 33 days. Miss Rose Burns, Teacher. Scholars registered, 14; average, 20. Instances of tardiness, 8; of dismissal, 0; not absent one half day, 9. Wages of teacher, $5.00 per week. Miss Burns is one of our best teachers, and the district seems to appreciate her services, as this is the fifth term she has been employed by them. She is faithful to her scholars and having a good faculty of imparting instruction to others, has not failed to give good satisfaction. If good wages will retain such a teacher in town, they should not be allowed to leave.

DISTRICT No. 2. S. B. Libby, Agent.

Whole number of scholars, 31. Summer Term, 33 days. Miss Angie Washburne, Teacher. Scholars registered, 16; average, 15. Instances of tardiness, 7; of dismissal, 4; not absent one half day, 3. Wages of teacher, $3.00 per week.

Winter Term, 44 days. Wm. H. Haskell, Teacher. Scholars registered, 17; average, 16; Instances of tardiness, 3 (?); of dismissal, 5; not absent one half day, 0. Wages of teacher, $22.00 per month. Miss Washburne showed a faculty for keeping good order, and the scholars made fair improvement under her instruction.

This was Mr. Haskell's first attempt at teaching, and he labored faithfully for the good of his scholars. His classes in arithmetic and reading made fair improvement. The government in the school was very poor, and on the whole, we think he fell far below the high recommendation given him by Prof. Swasey, of South Paris.
DISTRICT No. 3. SETH H. FAUNCE, Agent.

Scholars returned, 206.

Grammar School.—Summer Term, 40 days. Miss EMMA M. V. PAYNE, Teacher. Scholars registered, 34; average, 21. Instances of tardiness, 233; of dismissal, 134; not absent one half day, 1. Wages of teacher, $5.50 per week.

Primary School.—Summer Term, 40 days. Miss NETTIE ANDERSON, of Yarmouth, Teacher. Scholars registered, 43; average, 30. Instances of tardiness, 153; of dismissal, 64; not absent one half day, 9. Wages of teacher, $4.00 per week.

Fall Term, Grammar School, 50 days. Mr. ELMER C. FAUNCE, Teacher. Scholars registered, 49; average, 30. Instances of tardiness, 290; not absent one half day, 2. Wages of teacher, $40.00 per month.

Fall Term, Primary School, 50 days. Miss JOSIE L. BOYNTON, Teacher. Scholars registered, 48; average, 33. Instances of tardiness, 96; not absent one half day, 0. Wages of teacher, $5.00 per week.

Winter Term, Grammar School, 35 days. Mr. ELMER C. FAUNCE, Teacher. Scholars registered, 52; average, 47. Instances of tardiness, 184; of dismissal, 92. Wages of teacher, $40.00 per month.

Winter Term, Primary School, 35 days. Miss JOSIE L. BOYNTON, Teacher. Wages, $5.00 per week. Miss Boynton, although in the Primary School, has added to her former high reputation as an instructor, and has shown her patrons the advantage of employing the best teachers, even in a primary school. Mr. Faunce is an experienced teacher, and has met with good success. He labored earnestly to bring the school up to the standard of a first class one, but the poor accommodations and a lack of interest on the part of the parents, tended much to its disadvantage. At the examination the recitations were good. Order very good.

Miss Payne came well recommended, was well qualified, and labored earnestly to make the school one of interest and profit. Her method of teaching was excellent, and your Committee believe that with a hearty co-operation of the parents, she would have taught a school in every way satisfactory.

We do not think Miss Anderson was qualified for keeping order in this school, and a failure in order, in a school of this kind, makes it hard work for the teacher and of little profit to the scholars. Much might be said about the poor school room in this district, but every one knows that it is next to impossible to keep a good school with no better accommodations than Miss Anderson had.

DISTRICT No. 4. SAMUEL A. WEBBER, Agent.

Number of scholars returned, 48. Summer Term, 49 days, taught by Miss ABBE W. CUSHMAN. Scholars registered, 26; average, 20. Instances of tardiness, 23; of dismissal, 18; not absent one half day, 2. Wages of teacher $3.00 per week.

Winter Term, 52 days. Mr. FERNALD J. SAWYER, of Otisfield, Teacher. Scholars registered, 30; average, 26. Instances of tardiness, 94; of dismissal, 2; not absent one half day, 4. Wages of teacher, $31.50 per month. Miss Cushman worked for the interest of the school, and her efforts were successful.

Mr. Sawyer is a teacher of superior abilities, and awakened a great interest in this school. The government was perfect, and very marked improvement was manifest at the close of the school. District No. 4 should try and secure Mr. Sawyer's services for another winter.
DISTRICT No. 5.  SOLON G. WALKER, Agent.

Scholars returned, 32.  Summer Term, 26 days.  Miss LAURESTINE D. SMITH, of Norway, Teacher.  Scholars registered, 17; average, 13.  Instances of tardiness, 50; of dismissal, 35; not absent one half day, 2.  Wages of teacher, $3.00 per week.

Winter Term, 46 days.  HOWARD D. SMITH, Teacher.  Scholars registered, 21; average, 18; Instances of tardiness, 84; of dismissal, 11; not absent one half day, 6.  Wages of teacher, $33.00 per month, including board.  The Summer Term was interrupted by sickness of the teacher, so that the school was not as profitable as it would otherwise have been.  The Winter Term was taught by one of your Committee, who can cheerfully say that the conduct of the scholars was worthy of much praise.

DISTRICT No. 6.  WM. F. CALDWELL, Agent.

Scholars returned, 26.  Summer Term, 35 days.  Miss DELIA L. DOWNING, Teacher.  Scholars registered, 14; average, 13.  Instances of tardiness, 9; of dismissal, 0; not absent one half day, 6.  Wages of teacher, $2.50 per week.

Winter Term, 50 days.  Miss HATTIE PORTER, of Paris, Teacher.  Scholars registered, 19; average, 17.  Instances of tardiness, 47; of dismissal, 0; not absent one half day, 7.  Wages of teacher, $3.00 per week.  The agent failed to do his duty in notifying the Committee when the Summer Term was to close, so we were able to visit it but once.  We judge from the fact that this was Miss Downing's third successive school in this district, that the district was satisfied with her management.  Miss Porter is a young teacher, but succeeded in gaining the good will of her scholars and in keeping a very good school.

DISTRICT No. 7.  A. L. SOULE, Agent.

Scholars returned, 54.  Summer Term, 40 days.  Miss ROSE S. BURNS, Teacher.  Scholars registered, 24; average, 20.  Instances of tardiness, 9; of dismissal, 3; not absent one half day, 8.  Wages of teacher, $3.50 per week.  Miss Burns is well known as one of our best teachers, and fully sustained her good reputation.  The school made great improvement.

The winter term is now in charge of Mr. FLORIN MAXIM, of Paris.  Mr. Maxim proved to be thoroughly posted up, and with the co-operation of both scholars and parents, cannot but succeed in keeping a good school.

DISTRICT No. 8.  SAMUEL BUMPUS, Agent.

Scholars returned, 10.  Summer Term, 43 days.  Miss EVA M. RICHMOND, Teacher.  Scholars registered, 12; average, 8.  Instances of tardiness, 5; of dismissal, 3; not absent one half day, 4.  Wages of teacher, $2.00 per week.

Winter Term, 66 days.  Miss E. M. RICHMOND, Teacher.  Scholars registered, 11; average, 8.  Instances of tardiness, 20; of dismissal, 1; not absent one half day, 4.  Wages of teacher, $2.25 per week.  There was no lack of interest on the part of teacher or scholars.
Miss Richmond was faithful to her little charge, and by the hearty co-operation of the parents, this has been one of the most profitable schools in town. We seldom find better order in a school than we found in this. The district may feel that their money has been well expended the past year.

DISTRICT No. 10. Wm. S. Dodge, Agent.

Scholars returned, —. Summer Term, taught by Miss Emma M. V. Payne, of Gorham.

Fall Term, 33 days, Miss Mattie T. Wood, Teacher. Scholars registered, 37; average, 31. Instances of tardiness, 148; of dismissal, 15; not absent one half day, 5. Wages of teacher, $5.00 per week.

Winter Term, 70 days, taught by Miss Wood. Scholars registered, 37; average, 30. Instances of tardiness, 255; not absent one half day, 1. Wages of teacher, $6.00 per week. In this school Miss Payne met with good success, and although there was some fault-finding by a very few, yet the school was one of profit to the scholars. Miss Wood proved herself an excellent teacher, and by her earnest, untiring zeal, made the school show a marked improvement. Her classes in arithmetic, both large and small, stood a good examination and answered their questions with a promptness scarcely equaled by any other school in town.

DISTRICT No. 11. E. Burns, Agent.

Scholars returned, 30. Summer Term, 38 days. Miss Lizzie Burns, Teacher. Scholars registered, 20; average, 14. Instances of tardiness, 18; of dismissal, 17; not absent one half day, 1. Wages of teacher, $3.00 per week.

Winter Term, 47 days. Fernald J. Sawyer, Teacher. Scholars registered, 25; average, 17. Instances of tardiness, 143; of dismissal, 50; not absent one half day, 2. Wages of teacher, $31.50 per month. We have been pleased with the interest manifested in this school during both summer and winter terms. Miss Burns labored faithfully during the summer term, gaining the interest of her scholars and the esteem of the parents. Her school made good improvement. The Winter Term, taught by Mr. Sawyer, was attended with marked success. We always see good advancement made where there is such interest manifested as we found here. Mr. Sawyer proved to us the advantage of employing experienced teachers.


Scholars returned, 23. Summer Term, 40 days. Miss Emma C. Barrows, Teacher. Scholars registered, 12; average, 9.4. Instances of tardiness, 21; of dismissal, 0. Wages of teacher, $2.75 per week.

Winter Term, 40 days, taught by Miss Barrows. Scholars registered, 12; average, 9. Instances of tardiness, 16; of dismissal, 0; not absent one half day, 3. Wages of teacher, $4.00 per week. Miss Barrows proved herself an excellent teacher, and gave general satisfaction. Her school made good improvement. Order very good.
Whole number of scholars in town, 577. Whole number connected with the schools, 329. Average attendance, 271. Instances of tardiness, 1,341. Not absent one half day, 104.

It will be seen that not quite three-fifths of the number of scholars in town have been connected with our schools during the year, and the average attendance falls considerably below one-half. Out of the number which have attended school, we find 1,341 instances of tardiness. When one notices these last figures, and remembers that the parents are responsible for them, they can readily estimate the amount of interest taken by the people generally, of this town. It is well to raise about $1700 for the support of schools, but very unwise to so talk and act as to waste fully one half of the sum; for if but one half the benefit is derived from the schools that might be, then $800, with the hearty co-operation of the parents of these scholars, would do the same amount of good and save to the town a like sum. Cannot our citizens see that they must put their hearts in the great work of education, as well as to pay their money; and I here call your attention to this one item of tardiness. It is something which can be overcome by the parents themselves. We notice but few dismissals in most of the schools, and as this is regulated mainly by the teachers, we infer that they are the parties most interested. This should not be so. If you cannot spend the time to visit your school, you can bring your children up to do as you ask them and then send them to school in season, and one half the work is done. You can ask them each night about their lessons, and do all you can to encourage them by your own interest, and thereby awaken a new life in them for the great work. Each one should remember to make the most of our schools while they are passing. The teachers are hired by agents of your own choice, and the school goes on. Day by day the time slips by and dollar by dollar the money is spent, and if you would have your fair share of the benefits, you must put yourself in a position to receive them. Some may say, I do not like the school, or, the teacher is partial, or incompetent, or anything to excuse their lack of interest. In all matters pertaining to your schools you should be guided by one rule, namely: (If you can make it better do so, if not, let it alone). Do not depreciate it or its teachers, this will not help it. Show to your scholar* that this is one of the opportunities given them in which to amass that inestimable fortune, a common-school education. Show your children that this school life is short and that the most must be made of each term, in order that they may be prepared for the next. Now if you look around to notice where the brightest and best scholars are found, you will find that it is in those families where children are early taught to make the most of their opportunities.

TEACHERS.

We are of the opinion that the best and most experienced teachers are the cheapest. One week of school taught by a good, efficient teacher, is worth at least four weeks taught by a poor or ordinary one, and your Committee deem it wisest to hire the best at any cost. Such in our opinion, were the teachers in Districts No. 1, 3, 4, 5, 10, 11. But whoever your agents employ let each one forget neighborhood animosities and do their part to make it a profitable school, and the want of action which seems to characterize the people of this
town in educational matters, will fade away, and a reformation so much needed in this direction will soon be wrought out. We trace the circumstances of to-day from the circumstances of the past, and trust that the course and conduct of the present will guide and control the future. Much of the happiness of life would disappear to the man who could no longer hope that the deficiencies of to-day would be made up by the redundancies of to-morrow. Then let us with an unflinching zeal take a deeper interest in the education of the young, and raise still higher our standard of common schools. So may we have reason to hope for a bright and honored future.

F. B. ANDREWS,
For the Committee.