

1874

Annual Report of the Financial Affairs of the Town of Oxford, for the Year Ending March 1, 1874

Oxford (Me.)

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Joseph B.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

OF THE

TOWN OF OXFORD,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 1, 1874.

COMPILED BY THE SELECTMEN.

MECHANIC FALLS:
ANDROSCOGGIN HERALD OFFICE.

1874.

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TOWN OFFICERS, 1873.

CLERK.

THOMAS BAKER.

SELECTMEN, ASSESSORS, AND OVERSEERS OF THE POOR.

FRANCIS HOLDEN, WILLIAM N. THOMAS,
SAMUEL B. WATERMAN.

TREASURER.

GEORGE E. HAWKES.

AGENT.

GEORGE P. WHITNEY.

AUDITOR.

SEBASTIAN S. SMITH.

SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

HOWARD D. SMITH, FREEMAN B. ANDREWS,
HORACE H. HALL.

COLLECTOR AND CONSTABLE.

SETH H. FAUNCE.

ROAD COMMISSIONER.

SULLIVAN FULLER.

REPORT OF SELECTMEN.

VALUATION

Of the Town of Oxford, as taken by the Assessors April 1,
1873.

Real Estate,	\$158,817 00
Personal Estate,	41,989 00
	<hr/>
Total Valuation,	\$200,806 00
Valuation in 1872,	195,773 00
	<hr/>
Increase,	\$5,033 00
Number of Polls, 343.	

TAXES FOR 1873.

State Tax,	\$2,573 64
County Tax,	642 56
Town Tax—Support of Schools,	1,325 00
—Support of Poor—pay debts, &c.,	1,500 00
Town Library,	300 00
To purchase Hearse,	250 00
Tax on Dogs,	73 00
Delinquent Highway Tax, 1872,	143 68
Overlaying,	60 37
	<hr/>
Total amount committed for collection,	\$6,868 25

HIGHWAY TAXES, 1873.

Amount raised,	\$3,000 00
Overlaying,	111 26
	<hr/>
	\$3,111 26

TOWN OFFICERS' BILLS.

Thomas Baker, Clerk,	\$1 50
Francis Holden, Selectman, &c.,	80 00
William N. Thomas, “	48 00
Samuel B. Waterman, “	46 00
George E. Hawkes, Treasurer,	35 00
George P. Whitney, Agent—estimate,	20 00
Sebastian S. Smith, Auditor,	3 00
Seth H. Faunce, Collector,	103 02
Seth H. Faunce, Constable,	4 50
H. D. Smith, S. S. Committee,	21 25
F. B. Andrews, “	40 00
H. H. Hall, “	11 00
Total Town Officers' bills,	<hr/> \$413 27

POOR ON FARM MARCH 1, 1874.

Abigail Leavitt, aged	89 years.
Mary Moore, “	49 “
Eliza Dean, “	48 “
David Cates, “	74 “
Geo. W. Peabody, “	69 “

TOWN FARM ACCOUNT.

Stock, Hay, Furniture, Tools, &c.	
4 Oxen,	\$400 00
4 Cows,	160 00
3 one-year olds,	30 00
3 Sheep,	12 00
3 Swine,	39 00
8 Tons Hay—first quality,	80 00
7 Tons Hay—second quality,	56 00
Furniture,	225 62
Farming Tools, all kinds,	288 30
Provisions on hand,	210 50
Total personal property,	<hr/> \$1,501 42

OVERSEERS OF TOWN FARM.

Amount paid C. A. Records, one year's services,	\$275 00
Paid for Labor on Farm,	75 00
Interest on Farm, Stock, and Tools,	120 00
Tax on Farm and Stock,	30 00
Cash paid for Clothing for Paupers, and Bedding,	20 00
" " " Grass Seed,	8 25
" " " Corn and Meal,	53 05
" " " 4 Oxen,	400 00
" " " Blacksmithing,	9 01
" " " Tools, Wares, Dishes, &c.,	15 37
" " " 3 Pigs,	12 00
" " " Super-Phosphate,	12 00
" " " Plaster,	2 00
" " " Flour, Meat, Groceries, Provisions, &c.,	185 84
Total,	<u>\$1,217 52</u>

CR.

By Cash paid into Treasury for Oxen sold,	\$176 00
" 2 Cows sold,	89 50
" 1 Veal,	4 50
Amount sold off farm,	72 80
Paid for cutting 30 cords wood,	30 00
" " hauling 30 " "	60 00
" " cutting and hauling 101.57 feet Ash timber to Rawson & Chapman,	81 25
Increase of Property on Farm,	220 40
	<u>\$734 45</u>
Total cost of Poor on Farm,	\$483 07

COST OF POOR NOT ON FARM.

Mrs. John Ordway,	\$15 25
David Cates,	13 60
Nathaniel E. Rowe,	33 11
Josiah Temple,	59 00
	<hr/>
	\$120 96

TOWN FARM IN ACCOUNT WITH ITSELF.

CR.

Cash received of Thomas & Perry, for wood,	\$1,113 00
Thomas & Perry's Note for the same,	2,100 00
30 cords wood at Mechanic Falls,	150 00
Due from Rawson & Chapman for Ash timber,	219 41
	<hr/>
	\$3,582 41

DR.

Paid for Shingles to cover buildings,	\$45 16
“ “ Nails—Shingling and repairing buildings,	100 76
“ “ Pump,	5 50
“ “ cutting and hauling 30 cords wood,	90 00
“ “ “ “ “ 101.57 ft. Ash timber,	81 25
	<hr/>
	\$332 67
Balance of credit to farm,	\$3,259 74

ANNUAL RECEIPTS FOR THE YEAR 1873.

Total amount of Assessments,	\$6,868 25
State Tax,	\$2,573 64
County Tax,	642 56
Money raised for Schools,	1,325 00
Discounts on sums paid before Sept. 15, 1873,	192 65
" " " Jan. 1, 1874,	22 97
Abatement on bills,	51 00 4,807 82
Available amount from cash taxes,	<u>\$2,060 43</u>

RECEIPTS OUTSIDE TAXATION.

Received B. F. Sturtevant, highway tax,	\$7 00
" 1 pair Oxen,	176 00
" for Ash timber,	65 00
" " Wood,	227 70
" " License for Show,	2 00
" " Note and Interest Thomas & Perry,	1,112 48
	<u>\$1,590 18</u>
Total receipts during year,	\$3,650 61

ANNUAL EXPENDITURES FOR THE YEAR 1873.]

Town Officers' Bills,	\$412 27
Expense of Poor on Farm,	483 07
" " not on Farm,	120 96
Medical attendance for Poor,	42 50,
Paid interest on Debt,	104 72.
Shingles and Nails for Town Farm,	130 43
Paid Freeland Holmes' Library,	600 00
Expended on Highways,	33 63 1,927 58
	<u>\$1,723 03</u>

FINANCIAL STANDING OF TOWN MARCH 1, 1874.

Outstanding Notes,	\$1,543 00
Outstanding Orders,	7,478 33
Interest due on Notes and Orders,	400 00
Due School Districts,	683 80
Town Officers' Bills,	413 27
Other Bills unpaid, including amount due Records,	435 00
Amount claimed on Harrison Road case,	151 01
	<hr/>
Total,	\$11,105 01

AVAILABLE RESOURCES TO MEET SAME.

Money in Town Treasury,	\$917 13
Thomas & Perry, Notes and interest,	2,310 00
Due from Collectors,	1,850 00
“ “ State for Pensions advanced,	209 60
“ for Wood,	150 00
“ from Rawson & Chapman for Ash Timber,	219 41
“ from John J. Perry,	112 00
“ “ town of Minot for supplies furnished John Hale,	14 82
	<hr/>
	5,782 96
Debt above resources,	\$5,322 05

SCHOOL STATISTICS.

TEACHERS.	No. of District.	Whole Number		Average.	Instances of Tardiness.	Instances of Dismissal.	Scholars not absent one-half day.	Visits by Citizens.	Length of School in Days.	Wages of Teachers per month Exclusive of Board.	Wages of Teachers per week Exclusive of Board.
		Scholars in District.	No. attending School.								
Annie E. Estes.....	1	16	15	13	7	1	6	0	35		3 50
Rose S. Burns.....			19	18	4	2	13	0	23		5 50
Cora Young.....	2	25	18	16	74	8	5	0	33		3 00
Wm. H. H. Bryant.....			32	23	114	58	1	20	50	30 00	
Walter Stetson.....	3	215	45	36	323	27	5	10	55	50 00	
H. Emma Childs.....			42	35	212	42	2	2	55		5 00
H. Emma Childs, Fall Term..			40	33	64	37	1	4	50		5 00
H. E. Stetson.....			40	34	108		1	4	50	33 00	
E. J. Colcord.....			58	43					60	50 00	
Ida L. Faunce.....	4	39	16	13	51	16	2	3	45		3 25
Horace Sanborn.....			24	20	118	8	0	4	44	26 00	
Emma Barrows.....	5	40	12	9	6	7	2	0	44		3 00
H. D. Smith.....			14	12	88	13	3	4	53	25 00	
Clara E. Dennen.....	6	23	14	11	33	0	3	4	40		2 50
Clara E. Dennen, Winter Term			19	13	35	2	6	3	40		3 50
Alice M. Pratt.....	7	62	24	20	11	5	8	8	55		3 50
Bennie M. Pratt.....			25	18	6	14	3	8	60	26 00	
Emma E. Shurtleff.....	8	8	13	11	26	5	0	0	55		2 25
Emma E. Shurtleff, Winter...			13	11	22	4	1	2			2 25
Lewis M. Perkins.....	10	87	34	30	117	38	2		27	17 00	
Charlotte Dudley.....			38	26		202	0	8	33		3 50
Clara A. Merrill.....			38	26			1	7	50		
Emma Barrows.....	11	36	13	11	5				33		5 00
Emma Barrows, Winter.....			20	12	12				22		5 00
Angie Washburn.....	12	19	14	12	3	1	2		38		3 50
Annie E. Estes.....			10	8	8	1	4	13	40		5 00

SCHOOL REPORT.

Dist. No. 1, J. W. Morse, Agent.

In this district the people are well united and seem bound to enjoy the fullest advantages of a common school. And with such teachers as Miss Estes and Miss Burns cannot fail of general satisfaction.

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

The summer term was taught by Miss Cora Young. Miss Young is an excellent teacher, and we were much pleased with her manner of conducting her school. The order was good, and none but perfect lessons were tolerated.

The winter term was taught by Wm. H. H. Bryant, of Bethel. Mr. Bryant was an industrious, faithful teacher, and made the school show good progress.

Dist. No. 3, Seth T. Holbrook, Agent.

The primary department of this school has been under the instruction of Miss H. Emma Childs, of Rumford, for three successive terms; she is a teacher of experience, and has worked hard for the good of her pupils, and has given general satisfaction. We can say, however, that if the scholars were better disciplined at home the results of her teaching would have been more marked.

The first term of the grammar school was taught by Walter Stetson, of Sumner. Mr. Stetson is a graduate of the State Normal School at Farmington, and brought both experience and ability to his work. His school was a success.

The second term was taught by Mr. H. E. Stetson, of Sumner. Mr. Stetson needs more experience in order to either govern or teach.

We are obliged to finish the writing of our report before the

usual closing visit to the winter term. It is under the instruction of Mr. E. J. Colcord, from Colby Univeasity.

We found Mr. Colcord a firm believer in laying well the foundation of an education. Although more interested himself in the higher branches, his previous experience in the school room has rendered him alive to the difficulties of young scholars.

We found much interest manifested both by teacher and scholars upon our first visit, and improving an opportunity to spend a short time with them about the middle of the term were persuaded they were still working together with increasing zeal. We hope the parents will make it a point to visit their schools in this district. In answer to a request for a report of his school as far as possible Mr. Colcord says: "In the way of a general summing up of the whole let me say that the school is well provided with a school-house, but let me hope that the good people who have the highest interests of the school at heart will not stop with the bare school-house, for this includes none of the conveniences for teaching. Let the people of the district get some good apparatus, a little more blackboard room, and then look out for good teachers, and I will warrant such a school in this village as cannot be met with often in our State. The school is a most excellent and agreeable one, nor will this give expression to one-half the pleasure that I have taken while acting as teacher."

Mr. Colcord's advice we most heartily second, for we think that a small amount of the school money can very profitably be expended in the purchase of some apparatus for a teacher to work with. In answer to the question upon the registers, What Globes, Wall Maps, and Charts, if any, belong to the school? the solitary answer comes back from one district, Map of Maine! We are quite sure that the district may thank the charity of one of its teachers for even this! O, school agents, think how lonesome that map must be, and let it have plenty of company before another year closes.

We call the attention of the district to the fact that some-

thing must be done to preserve their school property. We notice writing and marking upon the walls of the house, both inside and out, and other ill usage, that, if unnoticed, will be only an invitation to do more. We think some stringent measures must be adopted and carried into effect at once.

We see no reason why trespassers should not be held accountable for injuries to school property as well as private property.

Dist. No. 4, C. S. Russell, Agent.

Summer term taught by Miss Ida L. Faunce, of Oxford. This was her first attempt at teaching, and she met with fair success. The classes in reading made very good improvement. Miss Faunce gave good satisfaction to the district.

Winter term. Horace Sanborn teacher. For a first attempt at teaching Mr. Sanborn's success was above the average of beginners. He succeeded in keeping the school thoroughly interested. The deportment of the large scholars in this school was worthy of much praise, but that of the smaller ones was not so good as we could have wished, both in the summer and winter terms.

Dist. No. 5, W. L. Stanton, Agent.

The summer term was again taught by Miss Emma Barrows, of Paris, with her usual good success.

The winter term was taught by Mr. H. D. Smith, chairman of your school board. One of your committee, with several teachers, took occasion to pay Mr. Smith a visit near the close of his term, and were very favorably impressed by the quiet and orderly appearance of the school. We found here one of the pleasantest school-rooms in town, and judging from the ready and cheerful attention of the scholars, the school is of the same character. Mr. Smith's method of instruction is largely practical in its character, and he endeavors to teach his scholars ideas rather than make them a mere storehouse for text books. We were particularly interested in his practical manner of teaching grammar, which included the synthesis as well as analysis of sentences.

This and several other districts have been favored with teachers who have tried to see how much they could do for their schools instead of seeing how easy it is to teach, and we think the results of their efforts show very plainly which class is the most profitable.

Dist. No. 6, W. F. Caldwell, Agent.

Both terms were taught by Miss Clara E. Dennen. Miss Dennen proved to be an excellent teacher for this school, and by her energy and zeal made a very marked improvement. The order was very good.

Dist. No. 7, H. K. Pratt, Agent.

Miss Alice Pratt, teacher of the summer school. The school made a good appearance at the closing examination, and we believe it was a profitable one.

The winter term was taught by Mr. Bennie Pratt. Mr. Pratt labored under the disadvantage of having for his pupils his former schoolmates, and the prejudice to be overcome in such cases. Yet with this difficulty he met with good success for a first attempt at teaching. The deportment and readiness to answer questions in this school are features worthy of imitation. Our visits are always pleasant to us.

Dist. No. 8, G. C. Pratt, Agent.

This school has been under the charge of Miss Emma E. Shurtleff, of Paris, who has shown herself a faithful worker in the school-room, and we think no school in town has made greater progress during the year.

Dist. No. 10, S. B. Waterman, Agent.

The first term was taught by Lewis M. Perkins, of Mechanic Falls, and was his first school. He labored well for the scholars, but lack of experience made it a hard school for a young teacher. We think that success in our schools depends on experienced teachers as well as on their ability.

The summer term was taught by Charlotte Dudley. Owing to sickness of some of the pupils the school was closed prematurely, and was not visited by your committee at the close, so that we are unable to judge of the progress.

The fall term was taught by Miss C. A. Merrill, a graduate of Wesleyan Academy, of Wilbraham, Mass. Miss Merrill came well recommended, and brought both experience and ability to aid her in her labors, and by her untiring zeal won the respect of her scholars and the confidence of her patrons. Winter term is also under her instruction, but does not close until after March meeting.

Dist. No. 11, Reuben Rich, Agent.

Both terms were taught by Miss Emma Barrows, of Paris, who met with fair success.

Dist. No. 12, Levi Dawes, Agent.

The summer term was taught by Miss Angie Washburn. The school was not well attended, owing to the fact that a teacher has not yet been found who could suit more than one or two families at a time. If one is pleased with the school it is reason enough why the rest should not like it. Miss Washburn made those that attended show marked improvement. The winter term was taught by Miss Estes, who met with fair success.

GENERAL REMARKS.

In reviewing the schools for the past year and comparing the results with those of previous years, we are gratified to find that good advancement has been made in a majority of our schools. Care has been taken in most instances to select good teachers, and we have granted certificates only where we felt certain that the candidates possessed the necessary qualifications.

An idea prevails that in a school of young scholars, "anybody will do for teacher." If there is any place where a thoroughly trained teacher is needed, it is in a primary school. Scholars form habits as readily as older persons, and if through the influence of a poor teacher they form habits of indolence or negligence, it will take years of careful training to correct them.

If one of you had a valuable horse to train you would not employ a green boy with no experience, merely because he could be hired cheaply, but you would employ a man of experience.

And yet the aim of some agents seems to be, to hire the teacher that will teach the cheapest.

In conclusion let us add if you will take the same interest in your public schools, that you do in your ordinary business affairs, we should soon have a system of schools that would be a source of gratification to every true friend of education. But until you do this you cannot expect to have first-class schools.

One word to agents and we close. We particularly urge upon agents the importance of using their best judgment in the employment of teachers. We are confident that three fourths of the success of our schools depend upon having teachers adapted to the school. We believe the employment of the teachers should be the duty of the committee. But as the town has expressed a wish to have the teachers employed by the agents, we are relieved from this responsible and sometimes disagreeable task.

HOWARD D. SMITH,
Chairman S. S. Com.