

1883

# Annual Report of the Selectmen, Treasurer & Supervisor of Schools, of the Town of Oxford, for the Year Ending February 15th, 1884

Oxford (Me.)

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/towndocs>

---

## Repository Citation

Oxford (Me.), "Annual Report of the Selectmen, Treasurer & Supervisor of Schools, of the Town of Oxford, for the Year Ending February 15th, 1884" (1883). *Maine Town Documents*. 3318.  
<https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/towndocs/3318>

This Report is brought to you for free and open access by DigitalCommons@UMaine. It has been accepted for inclusion in Maine Town Documents by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@UMaine. For more information, please contact [um.library.technical.services@maine.edu](mailto:um.library.technical.services@maine.edu).

---

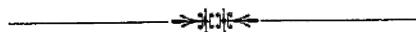
ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
TOWN OF OXFORD.

— ❖ ❖ —  
❖ 1884. ❖

---

ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
SELECTMEN,  
**Treasurer & Supervisor of Schools,**  
OF THE  
TOWN OF OXFORD,  
FOR THE YEAR ENDING FEBRUARY 15th,

→:1884.:←



NORWAY:  
Oxford County Advertiser Job Press.  
1884.

## TOWN OFFICERS BILLS, 1882.

Wm. N. Thomas services as Selectman,	\$12 00
C. S. Hayes " "	9 00
W. H. Coy, " "	6 00
Seth H. Faunce, Constable,	3 00
" " Collector,	50 00
W. E. Holmes services as Supervisor,	3 75

---

\$88 75

## TOWN OFFICERS BILLS, 1883,

Thomas Baker services as Clerk,	\$1 75
Geo. E. Hawkes " " Treasurer,	20 00
Wm. N. Thomas services as Selectman,	46 75
Cyrus S. Hayes, " "	46 85
Henry W. Coy, " "	28 25
Wm. M. Brooks, supervisor,	91 24
Seth H. Faunce, Collector,	125 00

---

\$359 84

## RESOURCES FOR THE YEAR 1883.

Total assessment,	\$9,742 44
State tax,	\$1,937 00
County tax,	531 57
For schools,	1,500 00
Freeland Holmes library,	50 00
Discount allowed Collector,	290 06
Abatements,	26 73

---

4,335 36

---

Available taxes, \$5,407 08

## RECEIPTS OUTSIDE OF TAXATION.

Town of Woodstock, support of Dennett	
Cotton family,	\$16 54
Mousum Mfg. Co. for wood,	194 18
" " " highway tax, 1883,	37 90
Lumber sold from Welchville Bridge,	21 88
Cattle sold from farm,	207 50
Bottles sold by Sheriff,	25
Denison Paper Mfg. Co. for wood,	108 04
Robinson Mfg. Co. balance on highway,	107 77
Town of Buckfield for support of Mary S. Churchill,	4 00

---

\$698 06

---

Available net resources for 1883, \$6,105 14

## PAID OUT FOR THE YEAR 1883.

Poor off farm,	\$123 28
Poor on farm,	495 76
Repairs on highways and bridges,	256 24
Cost of iron bridge complete,	1,441 90
Balance town officers bills 1882,	83 75
Town officers bills 1883,	359 84
Outstanding bonds taken up,	1,050 00
Interest on debt,	602 80
Outstanding orders taken up,	5,933 60

---

\$10,347 17

## LIABILITIES.

Outstanding bonds,	\$10,050 00
Accrued interest on bonds,	110 00
Outstanding orders,	634 71
Due school districts,	811 89

---

Total, \$11,606 60

## RESOURCES.

Due from Seth H. Faunce, Collector,	\$4,799 16
Unpaid non-resident taxes turned in and titles,	522 69
Town of Minot or Turner,	17 50
Cash in Treasury Feb. 15, 1884,	2,108 54

---

\$7,447 89

Debt above resources,	\$4,158 71
Debt in 1883,	6,890 54

---

Paid on debt, \$2,731 83

## TREASURER'S ACCOUNT.

GEORGE E. HAWKES,		DR.
To Cash in Treasury February 15th, 1883,		\$1,400 74
Rec'd from Seth H. Faunce, Coll.,		5,715 25
“ “ Non-resident taxes turned and paid,		28 66
“ “ Town of Woodstock,		16 54
“ “ Mousum Mfg. Co. for wood,		194 18
“ “ Old bridge plank,		1 42
“ “ State Free High School,		250 00
“ “ Old Bridge Timber,		10 00
“ “ Boards,		7 46
“ “ Joseph Robinson for tax deed,		30 13
“ “ Stock sold from farm,		207 50
“ “ Bottles sold by Sheriff,		25

Rec'd from State mill tax and school fund,	
years 1881 and 1883,	1,681 08
“ “ Mousum Mfg. Co. highway tax,	
year 1883,	37 90
“ “ Denison Mfg. for wood,	108 04
“ “ The Robinson Mfg. Co. balance	
highway tax, year 1883,	107 77
“ “ The town of Buckfield,	4 00
“ “ O. B. Coy for bridge boards,	3 00
“ “ Rosco Brown, Coll. year 1881,	14 21

---

\$9,818 13

CONTRA,

Cr.

By cash paid out per vouchers, examined,	\$7,586 40
Unpaid non-resident taxes turned in,	123 19
Cash in Treasury Feb. 15, 1884,	2,108 54

---

\$9,818 13

We have this day examined the accounts of Geo. E. Hawkes, Treasurer, and find the same correct as above set forth.

WM. N. THOMAS,	} <i>Selectmen</i>
CYRUS S. HAYES,	
HENRY W. COY.	

*of*  
*Oxford.*

Oxford, Feb. 15, 1884.

Mr. Charles A. Records and wife have been hired another year for the same salary as paid last to superintend the farm.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

WM. H. THOMAS,	} <i>Selectmen</i>
CYRUS S. HAYES,	
HENRY W. COY,	

*of*  
*Oxford.*

## LIST OF TOWN ORDERS DRAWN

FROM FEB. 15, 1883 TO FEB. 15, 1884.

No. of Orders, Old Series:

179, Cyrus Brown boarding teacher, Dist. No. 10,	\$39 00
180, R. S. Rounds teaching school, “ “ “	100 00
181, A. T. Stone supplies furnished Dist. No. 12,	1 28
182, M. G. Webber breaking roads Dist. No. 3,	5 00
183, Hiram Gilbert care of town house for 1882,	5 00
184, Town of New Gloucester, Morey family,	5 00
185, F. C. Merrill repairs on plows for 1882,	2 75
186, C. S. Hayes cash paid A. G. Hinds keeping tramps	1 25
187, Albert Witham labor on highway,	8 00
188, Samuel Dudley wood furnished Dist. No. 10,	9 50
189, W. W. Denning removing stump fence,	5 00
190, W. H. Thomas balance for services as Select-	

man for 1882,	12 00
191, C. S. Hayes balance for services as Select- man for 1882,	9 00
192, S. B. Yeaton breaking roads, Dist. No. 7,	5 00
193, C. E. Haskell teaching school " " 1,	21 51
194, David H. Millett supplies furnished sch. Dist. No. 1,	11 40
New Series:	
1, Geo. H. Watkins advertising non-resident taxes for 1881,	9 00
2, Geo. H. Watkins printing town reports,	24 00
3, S. H. Faunce services as constable,	3 00
4, S. E. Ripley teaching school, Dist. No. 6,	31 50
5, Bliss C. Ames care of school house Dist. No. 10,	4 00
6, W. E. Holmes services as Supervisor for 1882,	3 75
7, Belle a Boynton teaching school Dist. No. 8,	70 00
8, Abner Thayer boarding teacher and wood furnished District No. 10,	34 83
9, C. P. Fuller insurance and supplies, Dist. No. 2,	16 29
10, State Reform School, H. C. Whitehouse,	13 00
11, Mark P. Webber breaking roads, Dist. No. 3,	15 50
12, B. M. Pratt teaching school, Dist. No. 2,	70 00
13, H. S. Reckords labor on farm,	7 50
14, Albert Witham boarding teacher, Dist. No. 8,	24 50
15, H. W. Coy, saw bill and carting lumber for Welchville bridge,	10 50
16, H. W. Coy balance due as services as Select- man and cash paid out,	6 00
17, R. C. Thomas boarding teacher, Dist. No. 6,	10 50
18, M. W. Brackett breaking roads, " " 3,	6 36
19, Geo. J. Parrott wood and supplies, Dist. No. 3,	46 25
20, R. Gilbert repairs and supplies, " " 10,	14 25
21, King Iron Bridge Mfg. for bridge,	1,353 20
22, Thomas Baker supplies for Louis Strout,	2 55
23, F. H. Tilton medical attendance, Mrs. Geo. Hamlin,	3 75
24, Eben J. Pottle breaking roads,	12 00
25, C. S. Hayes, cash paid J. McDonald for tree for Harris bridge,	2 00
26, C. S. Hayes five hundred and eighty ft. plank for bridge,	7 02
27, C. S. Hayes carting lumber for Welchville bridge,	4 50
28, S. S. Billings insurance and repairs on school house, Dist. No. 4,	8 00
29, F. L. Wilson, wood furnished Dist. No. 5,	10 50
30, Morris Clark lumber for Welchville bridge,	17 78
31, J. M. Abbott labor on " " "	5 00
32, O. B. Cov stone and labor on Welchville bridge,	13 00
33, Abner Thayer " " "	8 00
34, Samuel Dudley " " "	2 00
35, H. W. Coy labor and cash paid out on Welchville bridge,	13 90

130, “ “ wood and supplies for school dist. No. 10,	13 28
131, Wm. F. Caldwell supplies for school dist. No. 6,	1 41
132, H. W. Coy expense of taking Cyrus Staples to Augusta,	15 65
133, Thomas Baker supplies furnished town farm,	8 47
134, Mrs. Cyrus N. Staples care of Cyrus Staples from Nov. 12 to Jan. 29 1883,	22 00
135, King & Holmes supplies furnished farm,	88 22
136, Geo. E. Hawkes stationery and cash paid out,	3 78
137, “ “ abatement on non-residents taxes for 1881,	14 17
138, Rosco Brown abatement on taxes 1881,	14 21
139, Charles A. Reckords labor on farm,	250 00
140, “ “ cash paid for supplies for farm,	32 27
141, C. S. Hayes cash paid out,	6 06
142, Wm. N. Thomas to Buckfield,	2 00
143, “ “ cash paid out for postage, etc.,	2 73
144, Wm. N. Thomas services as selectman,	46 75
145, C. S. Hayes “ “	46 85
146, H. W. Coy “ “	28 25



## Supervisor's Report.

---

DISTRICT No. 1. Miss Minnie A. Davy taught the summer school, and though young succeeded quite well in maintaining discipline and in stimulating her pupils to improvement.

The winter school, now in session, is under the charge of Miss Annie S. Parker, an experienced and successful teacher, who is giving the school a thorough and systematic course of instruction. The school is orderly, attentive to their lessons, and is doing good work.

DISTRICT No. 2. Summer term; Miss Mabel Davis, teacher. The school prospered well under her instructions, and the scholars made commendable progress in their lessons.

Winter term; Miss Alice M. King, an experienced instructor, taught the winter school. At the beginning of the term I found the school in a promising condition by her management, and thought the school would be attended with good results. Unfortunately for all concerned, the teacher was prevented by sickness from finishing the entire term; consequently I was unable to give the school an examination near its close.

DISTRICT No. 3. *Primary Department.* Miss E. E. Elliott taught this school the three terms of the year:—summer, fall, winter. At the different examinations held in this school during the year I noted good work had been done by the scholars and teacher, whose labors would have been more profitable to the term if there had not been so many cases of tardiness; for which I fear some of the parents are blamable in allowing excuses for trifles merely. The teacher incurred the respect, quite largely, of her scholars and labored hard for the welfare of the school.

*Intermediate Department.* Summer term; Miss E. P. Lary, teacher. I would say the results obtained by the scholars this term were hardly satisfactory to me; yet I thought those punctual and regular in attendance at school made fair progress in their studies. Her discipline, perhaps, was too lenient; in some other school her labors, I presume, would be crowned with better results. Tardiness and dismissals were detrimental to the best interests of the school; for which evils, I conclude, some of the parents in this district are largely blameworthy.

Miss Ella Haskell, formerly of Bates College, an experienced and practical teacher, had the care of the fall term of this department. Good order and thoroughness of class drill were marked characteristics of this school. Results as shown at the examination; the scholars made rapid improvement and could not only talk *book* but *ideas* quite largely. The winter school now in successful operation, is taught by Miss Ella Haskell. I anticipate good results from this term's work.

*Grammar Department.* Summer term; Miss D'Albra S. Young, teacher. Miss Young is emphatically a *live* teacher;

being ambitious and desirous of excelling, she inspires her pupils with the same laudable ambition in prosecuting their studies. We were pleased to notice quite a delegation of parents and other citizens interested in schools present at the examination of this and other departments of the schools. We regretted that Miss Young decided to resign the position as teacher of this department.

Fall term; Miss Alice A. Webber, a teacher of experience, succeeded Miss Young as principal of the school. Working and attentive scholars, good interest in reading and spelling, supplementary reading, practical test questions in studies pursued, grammatical and arithmetical analysis, are among the good traits of this school. The fall examination showed the scholars had made good progress in their studies. Miss Webber is successfully conducting the winter school; the school will be fortunate, no doubt, in making this a successful term of school.

DISTRICT No. 4. Summer term; Miss Ella Haskell taught the summer school of 8 weeks. For a short term much work was done, and the scholars made good improvement in their studies. The teacher drilled the scholars in English and Arithmetical analysis, in those too frequently neglected branches, reading and spelling, and interested the little ones in recitations as well as the more advanced.

Winter term; Mr. F. N. Barker, of the University of Vt., taught the winter school. In school work, as the teacher, to a certain extent, is the school. I found this school a working school; scholars interested in their lessons, orderly and respectful in their deportment: that the more advanced classes ranked from 80 to 100 per cent in their test questions, given every two weeks; and English and Arithmetical analysis were important factors in recitation. The examination exhibited the fact, the scholars had made good proficiency in their studies, and could give somewhat of the *why* and *how* of the things studied.

I would recommend the district to remove the old, dilapidated seats and desks in the school-room, and to replace them with modern school seats and desks.

DISTRICT No. 5. Summer term; Miss M. S. Hodgdon, teacher. It is difficult for a teacher to arouse the same interest in a school so small as this was, as in a school of larger numbers; yet I regard the teacher's labors as successful.

The winter school taught by Miss H. A. Johnson was larger than the summer school. The teacher secured the respect and attention of her pupils, drilled them well in their recitations; by reason of which management the school made satisfactory improvement.

DISTRICT No. 6. Summer term; Miss Josie F. King, teacher. I heard no complaint concerning this school, and the examination showed the scholars had made fair improvement.

Winter term; Miss Frankie P. Tuttle, teacher. This teacher came to us with good recommendations, and passed a satisfactory examination. At the beginning of the term I

thought the indications gave promise of being a profitable one. Near the middle of the term, being informed that unhappy differences had arisen among the parents, relative to the merits of the school, I gave the school a somewhat lengthy examination, and I thought that, though the discipline and interest in the school had been injured by these unfortunate dissensions, yet the scholars had made good advancement in their studies and had passed a creditable examination. Pacific means, looking to the welfare of the school, and the peace and reputation of the district, were advised. At the last visit I made in this school, it appeared well disposed and attentive.

DISTRICT No. 7. Summer term; Miss Evie G. Pratt taught the summer school. Miss Pratt ranks well as a teacher; she gave the school a thorough course of instruction, making her school a success. Advancement good.

Winter school, (now in session at this writing) is under the charge of Miss Bertha A. Phillip, an experienced teacher. At the visits made in this school, I noticed the teacher had secured the confidence and respect of her pupils, good order and the attention of her scholars: unmistakable elements of success in a school. I regard it a profitable term; a thorough and analytical course of instructions is given.

DISTRICT No. 8. Summer term; Miss A. B. Everett, teacher. Though a beginner in the art of teaching, I think the teacher succeeded well and the scholars made a stride forward in their lessons.

Winter school, now in session, (at this writing) is under the charge of Miss B. A. Boynton, an experienced and popular teacher, is prospering well by the successful management of the teacher. School is orderly, interested and doing thorough work.

DISTRICT No. 10. Summer term; Miss Alice A. Webber, teacher. The teacher had many obstacles with which to contend; succeeded in reducing the noisy, chaotic and mixed state of things in this school, to a more rational standard. The examination exhibited the fact that a forward movement along the whole line of their studies had been made by the scholars. The teacher secured proper deportment outside of the school house as well as inside.

Fall term was taught by Miss S. E. Dresser. This teacher labored hard for the school and enjoyed the respect of most of the scholars. There was one insubordinate scholar whose expulsion seemed to be a matter of urgent necessity; after which, the school moved on in its work more quietly and gave creditable results of improvement.

The winter school, now in session, (at this writing) is under the management of Geo. W. Bates, an experienced teacher, who has the tact to secure order in school, the respect of his scholars, and to interest them in their lessons. I would recommend this district to fit their school-room for a graded school or to build a new school house for that purpose.

DISTRICT No. 11. Summer term; Miss Mamie C. Jones. In

this, her first attempt at teaching, she succeeded well; and judging from the manner of the teacher's conducting the school, from the good advancement of the scholars, I would say I think she has a natural tact for teaching.

Winter school was taught by Mr. F. B. Andrews, esq. At the commencement of the term, I noticed the scholars and the teacher were interested in school work, and thought the school having an experienced teacher, it would be a success. The day appointed for examination, I was sick and unable to visit it at its close. From what I saw and learned in relation to the merits of the school, I think the district were pleased with the results of the term. The teacher presented the school with some maps.

DISTRICT NO. 12. Summer term; Miss Alice M. King taught the summer school. It was orderly and the scholars did good work.

The winter school was taught by Miss Annie S. Parker with her usual success. The course of instruction was thorough and practical; reading and spelling, the fundamental branches of an education, in common with other branches, received due attention. The school made excellent improvement.

During the past year the town has been generally fortunate in securing the services of competent teachers, by whose labors the schools are in a progressive and prosperous condition.

Our free schools being an essential and fundamental element in our State and national governments, to bring them, our public schools, to a higher degree of excellence, is a matter of the greatest importance; by as much as we elevate the character and standard of our public schools, by so much we insure the safety of our liberties and the perpetuity of our republic.

One of the most effective means by which to improve the character of our public schools and to equalize school burdens, is to abolish the school district system of schools and to adopt the town system of schools.

Among the disadvantages of the school district system of schools, I will mention two:

1st. Ungraded condition of the schools. In consequence of the mixed condition of the schools in the farming districts, we find in most of the schools almost as many classes as scholars, requiring the teacher to make frequently forty daily recitations, averaging from three to ten minutes each. How can a teacher, how can a school do desirable and satisfactory work in so brief a period of time for recitations? How can a teacher so arrange a programme of recitations that the order of recitations for one day, in point of time, may become the order of recitations for subsequent days of the term.

2d. Unequal distribution of school privileges. A man, having \$3000 in a neighborhood of ten scholars, pays the same tax as the man having \$3000 in a neighborhood of fifty scholars. Should not the former enjoy equal school privileges with the latter? Practically, this equality does not obtain.

These are some of the advantages claimed for the town system of schools:

"1st. Equal school privileges. All the schools throughout the town being of the same length.

2d. Equal school burdens. Poor districts or neighborhoods being obliged to bear only their equal share of the expense of building and repairing school houses.

3d. Better school houses especially in the poorer districts.

4th. Better teachers, selected more for fitness than because of cheapness or because of relationship.

5th. Better supervision, the committee becoming wholly responsible for the success of the schools, and naturally giving them more care and attention.

6th. Economy in repairs and supplies."

7th. No district quarrels over building or locating school houses.

8th. Gradual consolidation of weak and small schools where practicable.

9th. The convenience of grading schools.

10th. The securing of a uniformity of text books and teaching throughout town.

11th. Because there is equity in it by dividing the expenses equally according to every man's ability to pay.

12th. It makes *somebody* responsible for the success or failure of the schools.

13th. All places, towns, cities and States, having tested the town system of schools, are unanimously in its favor."

For these and other reasons which might be named, I respectfully and earnestly recommend the town, by vote, to abolish the school district system of schools and adopt the town system of schools.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

WM. M. BROOKS, *Supervisor.*

n. n. Thomas  
C. S. Hooper  
S. P. Stewart } Selectmen

Geo. W. Jones, Treasurer  
Thomas Baker, Select Agent  
C. S. Cummings, Supervisor  
John Chadbourne, Constable

# School Statistics of the Town of Oxford.

No. of District.	TERMS.	NAMES OF TEACHERS.	NAME OF AGENTS.	Length in Days.	Whole No. of Scholars in District.	Whole number attending school.	Average.	No. between 7 & 15 not attending school.	No. Absent $\frac{1}{2}$ day.	Amount of Money.	Wages Paid.	Tariffness.	Dismissals.	Daily Recitations.	Visits of Citizens.
1	Summer.	Minnie A. Davy.	A. W. Dunn.	40	16	14	11	2	2	\$110.31	\$3.00	61	1	27	2
	Winter.	Annie S. Parker.	A. W. Dunn.	60	16	16	14				5.00				
2	Summer.	Mabel Davis.	A. W. Harris.	50	22	15	13	1	1	121.00	2.50	16	11	22	15
	Winter.	Alice M. King.	A. W. Harris.	35	22	15	13				5.00	19	27	18	6
3	Summer.	E. E. Elliott.	Geo. J. Parrott.	45	195	44	39		2	820.05	5.25	56		24	15
	Fall.	E. E. Elliott.	Geo. J. Parrott.	50	195	49	41		5		5.25	136	40	21	10
	Winter.	E. E. Elliott.	Geo. J. Parrott.		195										
	Summer.	E. P. Lary.	Geo. J. Parrott.	45	195	23	19				6.00	20	40	41	9
	Fall.	Ella Haskell.	Geo. J. Parrott.	50	195	21	19		1		6.00	42	16	9	16
	Winter.	Ella Haskell.	Geo. J. Parrott.		195										
	Summer.	D'Albra S. Young.	Geo. J. Parrott.	45	195	26	22				7.00	29		17	26
	Fall.	A. A. Webber.	Geo. J. Parrott.	50	195	21	19		1		7.00	96	23	8	10
	Winter.	A. A. Webber.	Geo. J. Parrott.		195	25	20				7.00				
4	Summer.	Ella Haskell.	S. S. Billings.	40	35	13	11			154.10	4.00		6	1	
	Winter.	F. N. Barker.	S. S. Billings.	60	35	22	16				22.00	90	15		36
5	Summer.	M. S. Hodgdon.	George W. Richards.	40	13	6	5	3	2	46.80	2.75	7	3	20	
	Winter.	H. A. Johnson.	George W. Richards.	55	13	10	7		3		3.00	33	10	34	2
6	Summer.	Josie F. King.	J. F. Fuller.	35	35	17	15		6		5.00			34	9
	Fall.	Frankie P. Tuttle.	J. F. Fuller.	50	35	24	22		6	162.21	4.50	36		26	15
	Winter.	Frankie P. Tuttle.	J. F. Fuller.	50	35	14	13				4.50				
7	Summer.	Evvie B. Pratt.	F. Sargent.	40	37	16	13	3	1	165.71	4.00	7	5	22	11
	Winter.	Bertie Phillips.	F. Sargent.	60	37	11	9				6.00				
8	Summer.	A. Berthia Everett.	A. Witham.	40	15	9	7.9	3	4	111.00	2.75	3	3	26	6
	Winter.	B. A. Boynton.	A. Witham.	60	15	9	8				5.00				
10	Summer.	Alice A. Noble.	R. Gilbert.	50	99	37	30		1	356.40	5.00	73	12	34	
	Fall.	S. Lizzie Dresser.	R. Gilbert.	50	99	44	38		7		5.00	115	51	36	11
	Winter.	G. W. Bates.	R. Gilbert.	50	99	44	35				30.00				
11	Summer.	Mamie C. Jones.	J. Smith Martin.	40	20	15	13	2	2	111.00	2.50	42	4	21	
	Winter.	F. B. Andrews.	J. Smith Martin.	52	20	14	11	1	1		28.00	94	3	22	10
12	Summer.	Alice M. King.	Freeman Brown.	40	13	9	7			105.92	3.50	30	2	15	
	Winter.	Annie S. Parker.	Freeman Brown.	50	16	12	9	1	3		4.50	18	2	18	