

1882

Annual Report of the Town Officers of the Town of Pittsfield, for the Municipal Year Ending February 28, 1882

Pittsfield (Me.)

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

Repository Citation

Pittsfield (Me.), "Annual Report of the Town Officers of the Town of Pittsfield, for the Municipal Year Ending February 28, 1882" (1882). *Maine Town Documents*. 3355.
<https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/towndocs/3355>

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.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

TOWN OFFICERS

OF THE

TOWN OF PITTSFIELD,

FOR THE

Municipal Year Ending February 28, 1882.

PITTSFIELD:
C. B. HASKELL, PRINTER.
1882.

REPORT OF THE SELECTMEN
OF THE
TOWN OF PITTSFIELD.

Schools.

Raised by vote of town.....	\$1,530 00	
State school fund and mill tax.....	930 07	
Undrawn, March 1, 1881.....	766 90	
Total		\$3,226 97
Amount drawn for year	\$2,493 10	
Undrawn, March 1, 1882.....	733 87	
		\$3,226 97

Poor Farm Account.

DR.

Cash paid for supplies.....	\$63 82	
Paid for use of furniture	10 00	
Salary of J. V. Frederic and wife.....	200 00	
Interest on farm and stock.....	66 00	
Decrease in value of stock and produce.....	52 00	
Insurance.....	4 13	
Net income to balance.....	9 98	
		\$405 93

By balance of cash from sales	\$363 32	
By labor on highway.....	4 80	
By board of foreign paupers	37 81	
		<hr/> \$405 93

Cost of Poor Off of Farm.

Mary Noble.....	\$13 35	
Joanna Cobb, including burial.....	51 75	
Cynthia J. Whitten and family	57 08	
James Fowler and family.....	145 20	
Lebbeus Bearce.....	2 75	
George W. Spaulding, burial	24 50	
Myrtle M. Libby.....	12 00	
Thomas L. Eldridge and family	48 00	
Shepherd Hart, burial.....	13 00	
J. W. Carr and family.....	39 69	
Annie Salley.....	10 00	
Charles Salley	35 00	
Lydia P. Witham, at Hospital	68 74	
		<hr/> \$521 06
Deeduct net income of farm		9 98
		<hr/>
Leaving actual cost of poor for year.....		\$511 08
Including physicians' bills of \$151.75.		

Old Liabilities Paid and Incurred.

Breaking and repairing roads, 1880	\$131 42	
Building Phinney road	110 20	
Balance for digging well, 1880.....	5 00	
A. Whitten, Moderator, 1880.....	2 50	
G. H. Hunter, Collector for 1877.....	82 23	
H. S. Nickerson, service of bastardy processes, 1879	19 26	
H. S. Nickerson, Constable, 1880	5 92	
Abatements, 1878	10 71	
Abatements, 1879	12 16	
Abatements, 1880	52 32	
Printing reports of 1880.....	13 00	
		<hr/> \$444 72

Current Cash Expenses Chargeable to Fiscal Year 1881,

Paid and Incurred.

Stove.....	\$9 00
Insurance on town farm buildings	12 50
Signs for bridges.....	3 50
Cemetery fence near L. F. Rolfe's.....	243 86
Attorney fees and legal expense.....	60 57
Constable's fees.....	13 14
Fire of March 16, 1881	76 25
Sewers	797 20
Use of hall	60 00
Office rent, wood and lights.....	15 00
Books and stationery.....	10 05
Car fare, teams, &c.....	41 18
A. P. McMaster, Selectman, &c	137 00
C. H. Foster, same.....	66 50
C. A. Farwell, same.....	59 00
Alonzo Patten, Fire Committee.....	75
A. D. Mitchell, Town Clerk.....	25 00
T. S. Dexter, Treasurer	25 00
I. H. Lancey, Collector.....	220 63
E. C. Bryant, Superintending School Committee....	31 75
Levi Greenleaf, same	50 45
C. A. Milliken, same	24 30
Abatements	112 06
State tax	2,527 96
County tax	600 98
Schools.....	2,460 07
Poor	511 08
Roads and bridges, repairing and building	2,091 64
Breaking roads, paid and estimated.....	388 88
Fire department, including engine house.....	2,997 08
Printing reports	13 00
Balance of interest, estimated.....	700 00
	—————\$14,385 38

Receipts.

State, county, and town taxes	\$11,056 71
State school fund and mill tax.....	930 07
Received from other towns.....	102 69
Delinquent highway taxes.....	20 80
Liquor cask confiscated.....	90
	————— \$12,111 17

Old Liabilities Paid and Assumed.

Breaking and repairing roads, 1880	\$131 42	
Building Phinney road	110 20	
Pethuel Holmes, services digging well, 1880	5 00	
A. Whitten, Moderator, 1880	2 50	
G. H. Hunter, Collector, 1877.....	82 23	
H. S. Nickerson, service of processes, 1879	19 26	
H. S. Nickerson, Constable, 1880	5 92	
Abatements, taxes of 1878.....	10 71	
Abatements, taxes of 1879.....	12 16	
Abatements, taxes of 1880.....	52 32	
	<hr/>	\$431 78

Liabilities of the Town.

Orders outstanding, interest included	\$31,334 65	
School money undrawn	733 87	
Unpaid bills, (estimated).....	90 00	
Percentage due Collector of 1879	71 63	
Due State Liquor Commissioner	113 40	
Due Liquor Agent, on salary	26 00	
Due J. V. Frederick, salary, &c	210 00	
	<hr/>	\$32,579 55

Resources of the Town.

Due on tax bills of 1879.....	\$539 60	
Sixteen Collector deeds, face value	207 00	
One Treasurer deed, face value	18 42	
G. Hathorn note, unpaid principal.....	4,600 00	
Interest on G. Hathorn note, unpaid	559 55	
Cash in hands of Liquor Agent, reported by him...	85 60	
Liquors and vessels on hand, (estimated)	205 97	
Due from other towns.....	298 53	
Value of town farm, stock, tools, &c	1,650 00	
Value of engine house, engine, hose, &c.....	1,500 00	
Cash in hands of J. V. Frederic.....	363 32	
Cash in treasury	8,681 28	
	<hr/>	18,709 27
Total		<hr/>
Excess of liabilities over resources		\$13,870 28

Respectfully submitted.

A. P. McMASTER,
C. H. FOSTER,
C. A. FARWELL,

Selectmen, Assessors, and Overseers of the Poor, of Pittsfield.
March 1, 1882.

REPORT OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

OF THE

TOWN OF PITTSFIELD.

The undersigned respectfully submit the following as their report of the Schools of Pittsfield for the year ending March 1, 1882:

Amount of money raised by Town for schools	\$1,530 00	
State school fund and mill tax	930 07	
	\$2,460 07	

The above amount was apportioned among the several school districts as follows:

District No.	1.....	\$162 00	
" "	2.....	109 85	
" "	3.....	198 59	
" "	4.....	306 60	
" "	5.....	227 37	
" "	6.....	109 79	
" "	7.....	623 53	
" "	8.....	162 00	
" "	9.....	171 17	
" "	10.....	133.49	
" "	11.....	107 68	
" "	12.....	20 16	
" "	13.....	50 00	
" "	14.....	20 16	
" "	15.....	57 68	
		\$2,460 07	

The districts numbered 12, 13, 14, and 15, are union districts with other towns. The whole number of scholars in town, as per last report to the State Superintendent, was 607. Amount of money per scholar, \$4.05 and a fraction. This shows a good increase over former years.

District No. 1.

Moses Witham, Agent. Miss Carro M. Packard, of Canaan, was teacher of the summer term. Length of term, ten weeks. Whole number attending school, 20; average, 17. Wages of teacher per week, excluding board, \$3.00; board, \$1.50.

For so young and inexperienced a teacher, the term can well be considered a successful one. We hope there is no necessity of reminding the public, and especially some of the nearest inhabitants to the school-house, that in summer time schools can be easily disturbed, and even seriously injured by boisterous exclamations outside.

There should be built a wood-shed and privy; also, repairs to the school-house, should be made.

The winter term, of fourteen weeks, was taught by Charles C. Weeks, of this town. Whole number attending, 24; average number, 21. On account of impassable roads, we failed to make a visit at the close of the term, but we can safely say that this school, with Mr. Weeks at its head, could not fail to be a success. Whole number of scholars in the district, 39. Wages of teacher per month, \$22.42; board, \$2.40.

District No. 2.

Charles C. Weeks, Agent. Summer and winter terms were both taught by Miss Etta E. Parks, of this town. Whole number of scholars in the district, 16; number attending school, 12; average number, 11. Wages, in summer, \$2.50; in winter, \$3.50. Board, for summer term, \$1.26; winter term, \$1.60. The summer term was ten weeks in length, and the winter term twelve. Miss Parks gave general satisfaction; and the district can well feel that their money was profitably expended.

District No. 3.

Timothy Jacobs, Agent. The summer term, of eight weeks, was taught by Miss Etta M. Abbott, of Clinton, with good success, and she should have been retained for the fall term. Agents fail of their duty when they allow either friendship or relationship to displace experienced teachers. Number of scholars in district, 49; number registered, 31; average, 26. Wages, \$3.50. Board, \$1.75.

The fall term was taught by Miss Sybil E. Maine, of this town, with fair success for a beginner. Undoubtedly experience will make her a good teacher. Length of term, eight weeks. Number attending school, 33; average number, 23. Wages, \$3.00. Board, \$1.75.

The winter term, of eleven weeks, was taught by Geo. W. Higgins. Through the failure of the Agent to notify your Committee, we failed to visit the school at its close. The school at its commencement gave promise of a successful term. Whole number attending school, 36; average, 31. Wages per month, \$28.00. Board, \$1.95.

District No. 4.

N. B. Runnells, Agent. The summer and fall terms were taught by Miss Myra Connor, of this town. The summer term was eight weeks in length. Whole number attending, 42; average, 34.

The fall term was also eight weeks, with an average attendance of 35. Wages, \$6.00. Board, \$2.00. With Miss Connor in this school, not only the *scholars* can appreciate it, but the *parents* can well congratulate themselves that their children are under the very best of instruction, and are attending a first class school.

The winter term, of eight weeks, was taught by George R. Keene, of Dexter, with an attendance of 36, and an average of 29. Wages, \$36.00 per month. Board, \$3.00 per week. Whole number of scholars in the district, 89.

While Mr. Keene is one of the most finished scholars we ever had occasion to examine, and his method, too, of imparting instruction was fair, yet he seemed to be wanting in that particular aptitude that a successful schoolmaster must possess.

District No. 5.

David Browning, Agent. The summer term, of nine weeks, was under the instruction of Miss Emma A. Smith, of Palmyra. Miss Smith's teaching was excellent, but from lack of coöperation on the part of some families in the district, the attendance was not what it should have been. If parents would strive as hard to sustain teachers as they often do to "break them down," our schools would be more successful. Number of scholars in district, 66; number registered, 30; average, 23. Wages, \$5.00. Board, \$1.70.

Miss Ida M. Holmes, of this town, taught the fall term, of eight weeks, with her usual good success. We can recommend Miss Holmes as a prime teacher. Number attending, 34; average number, 26. Wages, \$4.75. Board, \$2.00.

The winter term, of twelve weeks, was taught by Mr. J. W. Higgins, of this town. We can assure the public that Mr. Higgins is an energetic and faithful teacher; and that the school, for the first ten weeks, especially, was a successful one. After scholars have applied themselves continuously for ten weeks, it requires more than an ordinary teacher to keep them all interested much longer. Number registered, 28; average, 27. Wages, \$26.00 per month. Board, \$2.15.

District No. 6.

F. P. Davis, Agent. The summer term, of nine weeks, was taught by Miss Clara M. French, of Hartland, with medium success. This being Miss French's first school, she labored under difficulties that experience will obviate. Whole number attending school, 14; average number, 10. Wages of teacher, \$2.25 per week. Board, \$0.97.

The winter term, of ten weeks, was taught by Mr. Leander D. Rand, of this town, with more than ordinary success. He labored faithfully and well, and the scholars under his care were highly benefited by him. Whole number attending, 11; average, 6. Wages, \$19.00 per month. Board, \$1.50 per week. Whole number of scholars in the district, 15.

District No. 7.

GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

James F. Connor, Agent. The school year consists of four terms, of eight weeks each. Whole number of scholars in the district, 181. The summer, fall, and winter terms, were taught by T. M. Griffin, of this town, who fully sustained his reputation as a prime teacher. The examination gave evidence of hard labor and thorough drill. Number registered in summer term, 53; average, 44. Number registered in fall term, 53; average, 47. Whole number attending winter term, 51; average, 43. Wages, \$40.00 per month. Board, \$2.50 per week.

Mr. Charles W. Atkins, of Canaan, is now engaged in teaching the spring term, and is evidently meeting with gratifying success.

PRIMARY SCHOOL.

The school year is the same as in the Grammar School. The summer term was taught by Cora E. Forbes, of Brooks. She gained the good will of her pupils, and kept them interested in their work. Number attending school, 45; average, 40.

Miss Nellie M. Lancey, of this town, taught the fall and winter terms, and is now engaged in teaching the spring term. She has fully sustained her well earned reputation as a successful teacher. The wages paid in this department the past year have been \$7.00 per week—the teacher paying her own board. Whole number attending fall term, 53; number attending winter term, 47; average for each term, 41.

District No. 8.

Henry Carr, Agent. The summer term, of nine weeks, and the winter term, of ten, were taught successfully by Eva A. Stinson, of this town. She is earnest and thorough in her labors—hence a successful teacher. Number registered in summer term, 26; average number, 24. Wages, \$3.50 per week. Board, \$2.00. Whole number in winter school, 29; average, 26. Wages, \$3.00. Board, \$2.00. Whole number of scholars in district, 39.

District No. 9.

Harvey Willis, Agent. Miss Ada E. Spaulding, of this town, taught the summer term, of seven weeks, with ordinary success. Natural *tact* and qualifications, not education alone, make the teacher. Number of scholars in the district, 42; number attending the summer term, 16; average number, 13. Wages, \$3.00. Board, \$1.45.

The winter term, of thirteen weeks, was taught by Mr. F. L. Stinson, of this town. This was Mr. Stinson's second school, and in his own district; but, nevertheless, he taught a very commendable school, and at the close the examination showed that he had labored faithfully and well. Whole number attending the school, 20; average number, 17. Wages, \$18.00 per month. Board, \$1.90.

District No. 10.

William Dyer, Agent. Miss Nellie M. Taylor, of this town, taught the summer term, of eight weeks. Miss Taylor seemed anxious for the advancement of her pupils, and the progress was about an average for schools of this character. Sickness in the district caused a meagre attendance, and interfered with the efficiency of the school. Whole number registered, 10; average, 6. Wages, \$3.00 per week. Board, \$1.65.

The fall term of five weeks, and the winter term of ten, were taught by Geo. B. Woodbury, of this town. Mr. Woodbury began his first term here as an inexperienced teacher, but he sustained good order, and employed excellent methods in his instruction. Whole number registered in fall term, 19; average, 13. Number registered in winter term, 18; average, 14. Wages for each term, \$19.00 per month. Board, \$2.00 per week. Whole number of scholars in the district, 28.

District No. 11.

Solomon Watson, Agent. The summer term of eight weeks, was taught by Miss Hattie J. Murray, of Burnham. Number attending school, 10; average, 9. Wages, \$2.25 per week. Board, \$1.75. The first part of this term was not satisfactory, but the last few weeks were an improvement. Whole number of scholars in district, 13.

The winter term was taught by Miss Alice D. Hodges, of Clinton, with satisfactory results. As no register has been returned for this term, the statistics are unavailable.

It is an old and oft-repeated maxim, that "a word to the wise is sufficient;" but it seems that either a majority of our townsmen are not of the class mentioned, or the maxim is untrue. The attention of our citizens has been repeatedly called to glaring defects in many of our school-houses, to timely suggestions in regard to furnishing them with the necessary appliances, to the selection of teachers, hints to agents, &c.—still they go undeeded. Nevertheless, until we see a decided change for the better, we shall give you "line upon line, and precept upon precept."

With all the leading educators of the State, we believe the most effective way to remedy the defects and evils in our schools and school-houses, is to adopt the "town system," and we entertain the hope that the time is not far distant when a majority of the voters of Pittsfield will arrive at the same conclusion. Nearly all the defects in our schools are directly traceable to the "district system."

With the "district system," school agents hold an important place in

the ranks of school officials—and they should better acquaint themselves with the duties of their office. A majority of the Agents have failed to notify the Committee of the commencement and closing of their schools, and many have not returned the fiscal and census blanks required by law.

If Agents would consult with the Committee before employing their teachers, we think that more efficient and experienced teachers could be obtained. There are many who can KEEP school, but few can really TEACH one. It is one thing to know what a text-book contains, and another thing to teach the pupil how to *use* the text-book, and cultivate habits of comparison, reflection, and observation. The mind should be *cultivated* more, and “*crammed*” less.

Our school-houses are in about the same condition as last year; but few repairs have been made. We consider the school-house in District No. 10, a disgrace to the town; and unless some action is taken by the District soon, the Committee may feel it their duty to attend to the case themselves, in accordance with Chap. 11, Sect. 28, of the Revised Statutes. The Grammar department of District No. 7, is also unfit for its present purposes. We would recommend that a sufficient sum of money be raised to paint and re-plaster the room, furnish new seats and benches, and lay a new floor; or, if thought more advisable, the District can vote to use ten per cent. of their regular school fund for the same purpose.

Our schools are the hope, and they should be the pride, of our town. In them is the germ of all true progress; and we commend them to the wise, generous, and active regard of the people.

E. C. BRYANT.	} S. S. Committee	
L. GREENLEAF.		of
C. A. MILLIKEN.		Pittsfield.