

1855

# Report of the Selectmen of the Town of Winthrop, for the Financial Year 1854-5, Ending March 12, 1855

Winthrop (Me.)

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**REPORT**

**OF THE**

**SELECTMEN**

**OF THE**

**TOWN OF WINTHROP,**

**FOR THE**

**FINANCIAL YEAR 1854-5,**

**ENDING MARCH 12, 1855.**

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**AUGUSTA:**  
**RUSSELL EATON, PRINTER.**

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**1855.**

## TOWN OFFICERS FOR THE YEAR 1854.

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JOHN MAY,  
MOSES BAILEY, } *Selectmen.*  
JOSHUA WING, }

JOHN M. BENJAMIN, *Town Clerk.*

E. W. KELLEY, *Treasurer.*

SETH MAY, *Agent.*

M. B. SEARS, *Collector.*

JOSEPHUS STEVENS, }  
RANDALL NEVENS, } *Constables.*  
HENRY WOODWARD, }  
M. B. SEARS, }

CHARLES MUNGER, }  
RUFUS M. SAWYER, } *Superintending*  
DAVID CARGILL, } *School Committee.*

# REPORT OF THE SELECTMEN

## FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 10, 1855.

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|                                                                    |           |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| For the support of Schools, there was raised, by vote of the town, | \$1077 00 |
| Interest on the School Fund,                                       | 175 00    |
| Bank Tax received from the State,                                  | 161 55    |
| Total,                                                             | \$1413 55 |

This sum was apportioned to the several Districts, according to the returns of the School Agents of the scholars. Allow us here to say that a majority of the Agents were rather tardy, and consequently put us to unnecessary trouble in obtaining the returns in season to apportion the money. The law requires them to make their returns of scholars in the month of May, as they existed on the first day of said month. In the month of July they were nearly completed. Another year it is hoped there will be no cause of complaint.

Orders have been drawn in favor of the Districts to the amount, (March 3d,) of \$952,87. In some of the Districts, the schools have not closed, and in others the bills have not been presented, so that we have no means of knowing the exact amount expended for the support of schools, but probably from two to three hundred dollars less than the sum apportioned to the several Districts. The report of your Superintending School Committee will show the length and value of the schools during the past year, and enable you to determine what amount of money it is best to raise for the ensuing year. We are obliged to raise not less than sixty cents for each inhabitant.

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### REPAIR OF HIGHWAYS.

The sum of \$1500 was raised, by vote of the town, for the repair of highways, to be expended in labor, at prices fixed by the town, at the annual meeting; also, \$600 in money, to be expended by the direction of the Selectmen. We have authorized to be expended in the several Districts, as appeared to us to be needed, the sum of \$373 42. This sum, added to the amount for breaking roads, as per schedule, (\$278,56,) will exceed the six hundred dollars, to the amount of fifty-one dollars and ninety-eight cents. Doubtless we might have expended the whole sum, (\$600,) to advantage, but inasmuch as the snow bills were to be paid out of the treasury, we deem it advisable to apply the balance towards defraying these bills.

The roads crossing the Meadow, west of the old Kezer farm, and

the bog near the Free Will Baptist Meeting-house, in the west part of the town, will need to be raised the ensuing year, or the town will be liable to indictment, as they are inundated with water at times in Spring and Fall, so much as nearly or quite to render them impassable. Five hundred dollars expended would make them, in our opinion, safe and passable.

There have been no suits against the town, and we have settled no claims for damages by reason of bad roads, the past year. Several claims have been presented, but, doubting their validity, we have declined to settle.

We have no doubt but what the amount of Highway bills in hands of Surveyors is nearly worked out and expended, as the law requires, but of this, we in most instances, have no means of knowing, as but few of the Surveyors have made any returns of bills. Mr. Daniel Gale asserts that he has lost his bills, and consequently can make no return. The amount of them was from \$200 to \$300, and being so great a sum, we designed to have examined his bills at the end of the year, provided he had exhibited them.

If the usual course for repairing highways in summer, and breaking out the roads in winter, is adopted, (that is, by tax, to be paid in labor,) at least \$2000 should be raised for the year ensuing, aside from the amount required to raise the afore-mentioned Meadow roads. We think a much less sum raised in money would repair all the roads, should the town see fit to adopt that course.

*Schedule of Expense of Breaking Roads in Winter of 1853-4; and settled by Town Orders drawn by us according to the vote of the Town, viz :—*

|                      |        |                       |          |
|----------------------|--------|-----------------------|----------|
| Paid Nathan Kimball, | \$3 79 | Paid Calvin Chandler, | 1 87     |
| N. H. Sturtevant,    | 1 66   | Elias Armstrong,      | 6 74     |
| Francis Perley,      | 7 34   | Elijah Farnham,       | 3 76     |
| J. E. Brainerd,      | 7 86   | F. B. Williams,       | 11 54    |
| M. H. Metcalf,       | 5 12   | Oliver Foster,        | 4 50     |
| Cephas Thomas,       | 5 12   | Rufus Berry,          | 8 00     |
| Alanson Southworth,  | 3 13   | Sherburn Morrill,     | 40 50    |
| B. C. Joy,           | 10 00  | Daniel Gale,          | 58 51    |
| Eben Marrow,         | 4 39   | George A. Longfellow, | 1 27     |
| I. T. Dexter,        | 1 95   | Isaac Briggs,         | 5 00     |
| G. W. Merrill,       | 8 84   | J. Sedgely, Jr.,      | 5 37     |
| S. B. Page,          | 9 00   | Hervey Lowell,        | 5 12     |
| Sewall B. Page,      | 8 25   | S. B. Pullen,         | 11 54    |
| Hiram Ladd,          | 5 12   | Shubael Wing,         | 4 15     |
| John Frost, Jr.,     | 1 33   | Samuel Clark,         | 5 25     |
| Z. A. Marrow,        | 2 75   | M. B. Sears,          |          |
| Seth Hammond, Jr.,   | 3 03   | estimated due,        | 8 00     |
| J. K. Lowell,        | 4 70   |                       |          |
| B. W. Chandler,      | 4 06   | Total,                | \$278 56 |

SELECTMEN'S REPORT.

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CURRENT EXPENSES FOR THE YEAR PAST,

EXCLUSIVE OF SCHOOL AND HIGHWAY TAXES.

|                                                                                                                                   |          |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| For Breaking Roads in winters of 1853-4,                                                                                          | \$278 56 |
| “ repairs of Highways by direction of Selectmen,                                                                                  | 373 42   |
| Estimated bills for services of town officers,                                                                                    | 300 00   |
| “ unsettled bills vs. the town,                                                                                                   | 40 00    |
| Expenses incurred by Selectmen and C. Foster in defence of<br>an indictment for riot, D. A. Fairbanks complainant, as<br>follows: |          |
| To Counsel, S. May,                                                                                                               | \$42 00  |
| “ witnesses, time and other expenses,                                                                                             | 66 33    |
|                                                                                                                                   | <hr/>    |
|                                                                                                                                   | \$108 33 |

FOR SUPPORT OF POOR OFF THE FARM.

|                                                                     |          |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Widow Patience Dexter, at Hallowell,                                | \$60 00  |
| Charles Cloudman's two children, at Poland, sick with<br>small pox, | 89 80    |
| Michael Welch, transient,                                           | 13 00    |
| Isabella Foster, a minor,                                           | 1 50     |
| Hope Briggs, at Insane Hospital,                                    | 46 26    |
| John McDuffie, in town, (Dr. Snow's bill,)                          | 17 00    |
|                                                                     | <hr/>    |
| Total,                                                              | \$227 56 |

EXPENSES ON THE FARM.

Dr.

|                                                                                                                    |          |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Physician's bills,                                                                                                 | \$23 50  |
| Moses Bailey, for apple trees and apple barrels,                                                                   | 12 70    |
| B. P. Hight, coffins for D. Gitchell and T. Brooks,                                                                | 6 00     |
| C. Bishop, store bill,                                                                                             | 98 19    |
| C. C. Fairbanks, for hay,                                                                                          | 8 00     |
| D. Carr, grave clothes for paupers,                                                                                | 2 25     |
| Sundry bills paid by Superintendent of Farm, including<br>\$38,50 paid for sheep, as per his account on Farm book, | 106 25   |
| Due Charles Foster, for one year's labor,                                                                          | 200 00   |
|                                                                                                                    | <hr/>    |
|                                                                                                                    | \$456 89 |

CR.

|                                                                                                                                                                             |                 |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| By the products of Farm, disposed of by Mr. Foster,                                                                                                                         | \$162 89        |
| " products, stock, &c. on Farm, more than at commencement of the year, (March 13th,) undisposed of,                                                                         | 54 70           |
| Total,                                                                                                                                                                      | \$217 59        |
| Taken from debit, \$456,89, makes the whole expense of supporting paupers on Farm, including the salary of Mr. Foster, <i>two hundred thirty-nine dollars thirty cents,</i> |                 |
|                                                                                                                                                                             | <u>\$239 30</u> |

The number of paupers on the Farm at the commencement of the year was nine, and there is the same number at the present time. The whole number for the year is twelve. Mr. David Gitchell died at the farm-house in the month of July. Patience Dexter came from Hallowell in the month of November. Expense of her support in said town \$1,50 per week. George Piper and Isabella Foster, minors, remained a short time. Thomas Brooks, a stranger, fell into distress while passing through the town, was taken to the Farm, where he was sick about ten days, and died. The persons now supported at our alms establishment are Mary Witham, H. Allen, H. & E. Davenport, H. Smith, A. Woodcock, Beulah Lambert, H. Follet and Patience Dexter. Mrs. Bonney has moved from the farm-house, where she has been furnished a room and fire-wood for several years. Hope Briggs is now supported at the Insane Hospital, the physicians having decided that she was a suitable subject for that institution, at \$2,25 per week. The persons supported on the Farm are so infirm that they are unable to render much service in doors and out. Heretofore they have been able to help the Superintendent very much.

#### INVENTORY OF THE PERSONAL PROPERTY ON THE FARM, MARCH, 1855.

|                          |                       |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Pair Oxen,             | 2 Crow Bars,          |
| 4 Cows,                  | 2 Ox-Yokes,           |
| 3 one year old Heifers,  | 2 Ox-Sleds,           |
| 13 Sheep, and 7 Lambs,   | 1 Stone Drag,         |
| 2 Swine,                 | 8 tons of good Hay,   |
| 1 Ox Cart, with rigging, | 50 bushels Corn,      |
| 3 Plows,                 | 18 bushels Oats,      |
| 1 Harrow,                | 4 bushels Peas,       |
| 1 Cultivator,            | 30 bushels Potatoes,  |
| 3 Hoes,                  | 300 pounds salt Pork, |
| 1 Shovel,                | 67 pounds Ham,        |

|                             |                          |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 Horse Rake,               | 36 pounds Lard,          |
| 2 Axes, Beetle and Wedges,  | 5 bushels Beets,         |
| 2 Hay Forks,                | 20 bushels Turnips,      |
| 3 Rakes,                    | 20 bushels Carrots,      |
| 1 Dung Fork,                | 50 pounds Butter,        |
| 1 Grind Stone,              | 400 pounds dried Apples, |
| 2 Scythes and Snaths,       | 5 barrels Apples.        |
| 3 Chains, Whiffletree, &c., |                          |

Beds, bedding and wearing apparel in pretty good condition.

We are of the opinion that the difference of supporting the poor on the Farm and that of setting them up at auction, (leaving the principle out of the question,) as was usual in many towns, is fifty per cent in favor of the town. Prior to our Poor Farm establishment the cost of supporting the poor varied from seven to twelve hundred dollars per annum, while now, with a greatly increased population, the amount is between four and five hundred dollars.

The present Board of Selectmen believe that Mr. Foster and his wife have managed the affairs of the Farm to advantage, and been industrious, prudent and faithful.

Mr. Foster has set out the trees (87) for an orchard the past year, which in future time will be of profit to the farm.

The Overseers of the Poor were notified last March, that one Mary Peare had fallen into distress in the town of Leeds, and would be supported at our expense unless we removed her. After investigating the case we concluded that the town was not holden for her support.

#### LAW SUITS.

Among the first things we learnt, after our induction to office, was that a suit, L. Whitman vs. the town, for injury alleged to have been received by reason of a culvert being out of repair, near the house of Cyrus Estes, in the east part of the town, was pending, and to be settled by arbitration, Hon. Job Prince, Oliver Bean and David Thurston, Esqrs. being the arbiters. The time alleged was about two years since, if we recollect rightly, when the accident occurred. At the time appointed by the referees, the parties met and tried the case. Some score of witnesses were introduced by the Ptf. and some half dozen by the town. There was awarded to him, greatly to our astonishment, the sum of *two hundred and seventy-six dollars and sixty-eight cents*, as damages and costs, to which must be added the counsel fees of L. M. Morrill, Esq., employed by the town, twenty-five dollars, and some few other items—making the whole sum over \$300. We consider that the expenses of this suit ought to be charged to a former year.



An action was commenced against N. Currier, Jr., the past season, for violation of his bond given as liquor agent for the town, 1853, and is now pending in Supreme Judicial Court, Kennebec County, probably to be tried the present term.

Another action against D. A. Fairbanks, at same court, will come on for trial the present term, brought for obstructing the way, and preventing the Superintendent of Poor Farm, Mr. Charles Foster, from crossing with team over farm of the late Elijah Fairbanks, after hay, to land owned by the town, on the south side of Narrows Pond.

Out of the last mentioned case grew the notorious riot, when a majority of the board of Selectmen, together with the Superintendent of the Poor Farm were arraigned before the Supreme Court of the State, for a riot—tried and acquitted; and in lieu of being convicted of unlawfully assembling together in a violent and tumultuous manner, to do a wicked deed, it appeared that they were in the discharge of their lawful duty, which their oaths required them to perform. The Superintendent, also, was arrested and dragged before Judge Mulliken, at Augusta, and tried for an assault on the said D. A. Fairbanks, and bound over to some court where his accuser never appeared to prosecute his complaint. His offence was for doing what the Board directed him to do. As these transactions were laid before the town at a former meeting, it is unnecessary to go into details at the present time. What makes the case so aggravating, is that there appears to be no remedy to recover the cost of defence, which is no small sum—still the town generously voted to indemnify the officers for cost and trouble. While the author of the whole trouble escapes with his neck out of the noose, justice requires that he should be answerable for the expense.

#### LIQUOR AGENCY.

In the month of June last, Mr. Henry Woodward was appointed Agent to sell alcohol, and the remainder of what liquor the town had on hand received of N. Currier, Jr.

|                                                |                                  |                     |
|------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------|
| On settlement with Mr. W. we find that he sold |                                  |                     |
|                                                | of Alcohol, 30 gallons, 1 quart. |                     |
|                                                | of Brandy, 5 " 2 " 1 gill.       |                     |
|                                                | of Wine, 1 " 3 gills.            |                     |
| He received for the same,                      |                                  | \$55 03             |
| " paid out for freight, &c.,                   | \$1 44                           |                     |
| " received for his services,                   | 15 00                            |                     |
|                                                |                                  | <hr/> 16 44         |
| Belonging to the town,                         |                                  | <hr/> <hr/> \$38 59 |

SELECTMEN'S REPORT.

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The quantity taken of the old Agent and put into the hands of the present Agent, consisted, as gauged, of 23 1-2 gallons Brandy,  
6 1-2 " Wine.

The quantity of Alcohol purchased by the town for the agent, one barrel, billed at 40 "

In estimating the quantity of liquor now on hand and adding it to what has been sold the present season, there appears to be a small deficiency, whether it is owing to wrong gauge, leakage, evaporation or any other cause, we are unable to say.

RECAPITULATION.

|                                                  |                  |
|--------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| For breaking roads in winter of 1853-4,          | \$278 56         |
| " repair of highways, by direction of Selectmen, | 373 42           |
| " estimated bills for services of town officers, | 300 00           |
| " unsettled bills against the town,              | 40 00            |
| " Poor supported off the Farm,                   | 227 56           |
| " " " on "                                       | 239 30           |
| " expenses in riot case,                         | 108 33           |
| Total,                                           | <u>\$1567 17</u> |

LIABILITIES OF THE TOWN.

|                                              |                  |
|----------------------------------------------|------------------|
| For outstanding orders,                      | \$3273 90        |
| " interest estimated thereon,                | 175 00           |
|                                              | <u>\$3448 90</u> |
| " balance of school money not expended,      | 460 68           |
| " labor of C. Foster on Farm, due April 1st, | 200 00           |
| " estimated bills of town officers,          | 300 00           |
| " unsettled bills against the town,          | 40 00            |
|                                              | <u>\$4448 58</u> |

RESOURCES OF THE TOWN.

|                                                                   |                  |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| Amount of taxes uncollected and cash in hands of Treasurer,       | \$2152 85        |
| Note against H. G. O. & Priscilla Morton,                         | 48 00            |
| " " Dexter Dill,                                                  | 56 00            |
| " " Thomas Lancaster,                                             | 10 00            |
| Due from C. Robbins, Geo. Hayward and others, estimated,          | 60 00            |
| Due on School Fund not yet received, but accredited to districts, | 450 00           |
|                                                                   | <u>\$2776 85</u> |

|                                                        |                  |
|--------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| Liabilities,                                           | \$4448 58        |
| Resources,                                             | 2776 86          |
|                                                        | <hr/>            |
| Indebtedness of the town over and above its resources, | <u>\$1671 72</u> |

We would here state that a part of the demands due the town may be considered doubtful.

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The amount of School Fund originally was	\$3093 16
Allowed to outlaw and now considered worthless, notes against I. Bonny, as principal, and T. Newman, as surety, and J. Trufant and surety,	150 00
	<hr/>
Present amount,	\$2943 16

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The town is paying interest on outstanding orders, while the interest on the above fund, amounting at times to four hundred and fifty dollars, has remained uncollected. We hope the town will adopt some measures to enforce the collection of the School Fund interest as well as the amount of tax bills in the hands of Collectors, so that the accruing of interest may be stopped. The law pointing out the duties of officers is sufficient if only complied with. Were the collector to be instructed by the town to make a small discount to persons paying their taxes in the early part of the season, the town would be greatly benefitted. Out of a commitment of about \$2700,00 less than \$800 have been paid during the past year.

In submitting this report allow us to say, that, novitiates as we were in transacting the business of the town, we are not without our fears that we may have committed many errors, for to err is human, but we have a consciousness that we have acted with an intention to forward the interests of the town, and would not be guilty of tarnishing her good reputation by unfaithfulness. We regret that we cannot make the indebtedness of the town less, but we trust that is not chargeable to our fault. We are of the opinion that the town at the commencement of the financial year was in debt to the amount of some ten hundred dollars. This year the expenses have been greatly enhanced by the amount expended for repairs of highways, breaking roads, heavy pauper bills, lawsuits, &c. On reviewing the items of expense for the present year we perceive that the amount paid for breaking roads ought not to be charged to the current expenses of this year; deducting the same from \$1567,15 it makes the current expenses for the year \$1388,61. The whole amount of or-

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ders drawn on the Treasury since March 13th up to the time of present writing by the present Board of Selectmen, is three thousand nine hundred and twenty-two dollars and thirty-six cents.

The amount of money raised for the town (\$2557,) County (666,08,) and State taxes (\$984,61,) at the last annual meeting was \$4207,69.

It will be necessary to raise a larger amount of money this year, if we have not erred in our financial calculation, than the year previous.

All of which is most respectfully submitted in compliance with the vote of the town.

JOHN MAY,  
MOSES BAILEY, } *Selectmen.*  
JOSHUA WING, }