

1878

Annual Report of the Selectmen and Superintending School Committee of the Town of Palmyra, for the Year Ending March 3, 1879

Palmyra (Me.)

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ANNUAL REPORT

— OF THE —

SELECTMEN

— AND —

SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE

— OF THE —

Town of Palmyra,

For the Year ending March 3, 1879.

**DEXTER:
DEXTER GAZETTE STEAM PRINTING JOB OFFICE.
1879.**

DEPARTMENT OF OVERSEERS OF THE POOR.

TOWN FARM REPORT.

Invoice of property on the farm Feb. 17, 1879.

One pair of oxen	\$150 00	
Five cows	150 00	
One three-year-old bull	50 00	
One two-year-old	15 00	
Twenty-two sheep	132 00	
Two swine and twenty-three hens	26 50	
		523 50

PRODUCTS OF FARM, AND PROVISIONS

Twenty-four tons of hay, at \$9 00 per ton	\$216 00	
One bbl. pork, $\frac{1}{2}$ bbl. hams and chops	23 00	
" beef, 72 bush. vegetables	30 00	
125 bush. potatoes	62 50	
Soap, \$4.00; tallow, .64; candles, 2.30	6 94	
Cheese, \$10.00; Lard, 2.80; Butter, 2.24	15 04	
Corn, 12.02; beans, 12 80; barley, 29.25	55 07	
Oats, 21.20; Apples, 5.00; mince and fresh meat	30 16	
G oceries and barrels	9 71	
Cedar shingles and straw	29 40	
		477 82
		\$1001 22
Farming tools and household furniture		442 43
		\$1443 75

STOCK AND PRODUCTS SOLD.

Lambs and wool	\$106 82
One pair of oxen	135 00
Butter, cheese and eggs	52 77
Poultry, cowhide, calves and potatoes	35 50
Beans, beef and rags	12 65
Hay, shovel handles, and use of bull	27 80
Products sold by Stacy	4 47
	\$375 01

AMOUNT OF ALL BILLS OF PURCHASE.

One pair of oxen	\$135 00
One cow	17 00
All other purchases	348 97
Salary of Overseer	285 00
Whole expense of farm	785 97
Amount of stock and products sold	375 01
Deduct increase of property	191 98
Balance against farm	218 98

PAUPER BILL OUTSIDE OF FARM.

Paid Thomas Sherwood on acct. of Lizzie Sherwood	\$ 25 00
" on acct. of Boowman Eldridge	12 30
do Mary E. McCluer	27 40
do Henry Morton	11 00
do John J. Parkman	104 20
do Hiram Gardiner	44 57
do David C. Eldridge	5 00
do Amaziah Webb	10 00
do Martha Nichols	15 00
do William Gibson	20 67
do F. B. Luce	24 41
do L. F. Nason	64 49
do Mary J. Reynolds	26 40
do David Libby	8 76
do Wm. B. Morrison	115 09
do John Fernad	116 75
do Jennie V. Cowan	36 00
Paid the town of Thorndike, on acct. of C. M. Maxim	32 00
" funeral expenses of Moses Wyman	18 78
" Dr. Manson	19 00
Due the town of Pittsfield, on acct. of C. Brown.—estimated	50 00
" Dr. Porter	5 00
	<hr/>
	\$791 82
Received from other towns	28 67
	<hr/>
	\$763 15
Due from other towns:	126 14
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	\$637 01
Amount due March 4th, 1878	295 24
	<hr/>
Whole cost of paupers outside of farm	\$341 77

SELECTMEN AND ASSESSORS' DEPARTMENT.

ABATEMENTS.

A. Morrill, bills of 1873	\$ 5 60
M. Dyer, " 1874	4 02
" " 1875	3 86
" " 1876	14 94
J. P. Longley " 1877	12 11
" " 1878	14 75
L. Osborn, delinquent highway tax	6 04
F. J. White, non-resident tax	1 13
Estate of A. Haskel, delinquent tax	7 27
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	\$ 69 72

REPORT OF LIQUOR AGENCY.

Cash turned into the treasury	\$111 44
Increase of stock on hand	23 10
	<hr/>
Net profits from sales	\$134 54

AMOUNT PAID OUT ON ROADS AND BRIDGES.

Paid William J. Thomas.....	\$13 00
“ S. Farnham, Brook bridge.....	11 88
“ J. R. Leathers.....	6 15
“ E. J. Adams.....	8 80
“ Mill Stream Bridge.....	9 35
“ E. F. Pooler.....	13 50
“ Madawaska Bridge.....	14 34
“ Old Seabastcook Bridge.....	9 25
“ D. F. Cook.....	6 70
“ J. S. Spaulding road.....	8 87
“ S. S. Goodrich.....	22 40
“ Daniel Pooler.....	26 15
“ S. E. Dyer.....	8 40
“ S. C. Brooks.....	11 04
“ Howard Estes.....	9 36
Paid Isaac Goodridge.....	15 00
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	\$194 19

NEW SEBASTICOOK BRIDGE.

Freeman Davis for Pier.....	\$ 180 00
Corrugated Metal Co.....	1350 00
Keeping lights, and labor on abutment.....	5 00
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	\$1535 00

MISCELLANEOUS BILLS

Paid R. O. Robbins, printing town report of 1877.....	\$ 20 00
“ J. P. Longley, for posting notices in 1877.....	2 00
“ L. Wyman, Supervisor of Schools in 1877.....	64 25
“ for board of town officers.....	13 25
“ W. R. Davis, for horse.....	25 00
“ A. Morrill, team and expenses to Newburg.....	2 50
“ J. R. Stacy, balance for services at town farm.....	75 00
“ G. W. Christy, for services at town farm.....	213 00
“ Lewis Wyman, services as auditor.....	3 00
“ for blank books, stationery, etc.....	13 24
“ Nichols & Hall, school books.....	36 50
“ J. P. Longley, for collecting tax in 1877.....	34 54
“ for school books for H. S. Gardiner and Nathan Raymond.....	2 17
“ tax on Moses Wyman land.....	2 40
“ taxes, interest and cost, on land sold for taxes, as per deeds.....	22 80
“ for wood furnished Town House.....	1 87
“ A. Morrill, services as moderator, 1878.....	1 50
“ M. Dyer, for attending hearing in Dr. Pushor case.....	75
“ “ arresting Henry L. Harkhurst.....	1 00
Paid H. C. Webber, for attending hearing in Dr. Pushor case.....	75
	<hr/>
	\$535 52

TOWN OFFICERS' BILLS.

Paid A. Morrill, Selectman, etc.....	\$99 50
" D. S. Robinson, do	42 75
" A. S. Clement, do	37 50
" Samuel Clement, Treasurer	25 00
" D. S. Robinson, Clerk	10 00
" A. Morrill, Agent.....	5 25
Due Lewis Wyman, Auditor.....	2 25
" Laforest Robinson, School Com.....	26 75
" Lewis Wayman do	27 80
" Byron P. Hanson, do	28 33
	<hr/>
	\$305 13

RECEIPTS INTO THE TREASURER.

1878.		
March 4th.	Balance in treasury.....	\$ 652 10
	Rec'd of M. Dyer, Collector of 1876.....	115 34
	" J. P. Longley, " 1877.....	516 20
	" " " 1878.....	1680 26
	" State school fund and mill tax of 1877.....	691 12
	Rec'd on non-resident taxes of 1877.....	167 86
	" from A. Morrill, N. Parkman tax.....	2 64
	" " H. C. Webber, money from Brewer.....	10 00
	" of selectmen, the following sums:	
	From town of Plymouth	10 00
	do Brewer.....	13 67
	do Canaan	5 00
	From sale of school books.....	28 22
	" rent of Town Hall	24 50
	Profits from liquor agency.....	111 44
		<hr/>
		\$4028 35
	Amount of orders turned over and cancelled.....	3439 28
		<hr/>
	Balance in treasury.....	\$589 07

FUNDS OF THE TOWN.

Cash in the treasury	\$589 07
Due from M. Dyer, Collector for 1876.....	100 00
" J. P. Longley, " 1877.....	63 25
" " " 1878.....	552 69
Non-resident tax of 1878.....	156 33
Liquor and casks in hands of agent.....	272 95
town of Brewer	7 00
" " Winthrop.....	10 73
" " Industry	53 41
" " Pittsfield	44 57
" " Detroit.....	35 16
" " Monmouth.....	15 00
School books on hand cost	65 80
Non-resident lots sold to town for taxes for 1877	24 22
	<hr/>
	\$1990 18

LIABILITIES OF TOWN.

School funds orders outstanding.....	\$1163 33
Other towns	1313 50
Due the several school districts.....	696 72
“ J. P. Longley, collector for 1878.....	60 06
“ G. W. Christy, overseer of Farm.....	72 00
“ Thomas Sherwood, on acct. of Lizzie Sherwood.....	25 00
“ H. Pushor, on acct. of Wm. Luce.....	5 00
“ C. H. Skinner, do	24 00
“ Town of Pittsfield	50 00
Probable abatement to close col.	50 00
“ Superintending school com	84 28
“ J. P. Longley, notifying town meetings	2 00
“ Lewis Wyman, auditor.....	2 25
Interest on money hired to pay for new bridge	16 25
Due Dr. Porter.....	5 00
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	\$3569 39
Deduct amt. of funds.....	1990 18
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Balance against the town.....	\$1579 21

The Selectmen submit the foregoing as the financial standing of the town, and the expenditures, for the year ending March 4th, 1878, and ending March 3d, 1878.

A. MORRILL, } Selectmen
D. S. ROBINSON, } of
A. S. CLEMENT. } Palmyra.

I hereby certify that I have examined the bills and statements from which the foregoing report is made, and find them correct.

Palmyra, Feb. 24, 1878.

LEWIS WYMAN, Auditor.

ANNUAL REPORT

— OF THE —

SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE

— FOR THE —

Town of Palmyra,

For the School Year ending April 1, 1879.

Amount of money raised by the town,.....	\$1,058 00
State school fund, Bank and Mill tax,.....	691 11
Interest on town school fund,.....	67 98
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	\$1,817 10

Whole number of scholars in town, 410.
Number of male teachers employed the past year, 8.
Number of female teachers employed the past year, 20.
Cost of School Supervision, \$82 88.

DISTRICT NO. 1.

George D. Waterhouse, Agent. Summer term taught by Miss Celia M. Colman, of Newport. This was a quiet, orderly school, and the improvement in the branches taught was good. Though this was Miss Colman's first school, yet she labored faithfully for its advancement. Length of school, twelve weeks; whole number of scholars, 12; number reg., 7; average, 4 3-4; wages, \$2 00; board, 99 cents; amount apportioned district, \$86 92.

Winter term taught by Miss Della A. Ricker, of Detroit. Miss Ricker maintained good order in the school room. The progress was good but the drill was not as thorough as in the Summer term. Length of school ten weeks; number reg., 5; average, 5; wages, \$2 00; board, \$1 00.

DISTRICT NO. 2.

John Carr, Agent. Summer term taught by Miss Alice M. Tibbetts of this town. Miss Tibbetts maintained excellent order in the school room. The improvement was full an average with the summer term. This was Miss Tibbetts' first school. Length of school, six weeks; whole number of scholars, 17; number reg., 7; average, 6; wages, \$2 00; board, \$2 00.

No Winter term; amount apportioned district, \$94 47.

DISTRICT NO. 3.

Charles A. Wyman, Agent. Summer term taught by Mrs. F. M. Stillson of this town. This was an orderly school and the improvement an average with the Summer-terms. Length of school, six weeks; whole number of scholars, 15; number reg., 10; average, 8; wages, \$2 50; board, \$1 49; amount apportioned district, \$89 96.

Winter term taught by Miss Josephine Collins, of Stetson. At the visit at the commencement of the school, found it well organized, with a fair prospect for a successful term. A proper notice not having been given of the close of this school, it was not visited at the close. Length of school, ten weeks; whole number of scholars reg., 14; average, 11; wages, \$3 50; board \$1 45.

DISTRICT NO. 4.

A J. Foster, Agent. Summer term taught by Mrs. Belle Maddocks of this town. Mrs. Maddocks is an excellent disciplinarian and has an extraordinary aptness to impart her ideas to others. This school classed second to none among our Summer schools. Length of school, twelve weeks; whole number of scholars, 50; number reg., 34; average, 28 3-5; wages, \$3 95; board, \$1 49; amount apportioned district, \$195 50.

Winter term was, also, taught by Mrs. Maddocks. This was the first attempt to place the village school under the management of a female teacher during the Winter term. The school has several weeks to continue, and, as the closing visit has not been made, we cannot report the result.

DISTRICT NO. 5.

A. C. Parkman, Agent. No Summer term. Winter term taught by Miss Hattie Robinson of this town. When the school was visited at the commencement, it was well organized, with a fair prospect of a successful term. It has not closed and we cannot report the result.

DISTRICT NO 6.

Wm. B. Blaisdell, Agent. Summer term taught by Miss Leidia A. Morrill of this town. This school was about an average of the Summer terms. Miss Morrill has more than an average tact for order and for imparting what she knows to others. Length of school, ten weeks; whole number of scholars, 38; number reg., 23; average, 18; wages, \$3 00; board, \$1 29; amount apportioned district, \$148 58.

Winter term taught by Mr. F. B. Greene of Newport. Mr. Greene was one of the best qualified male teachers in our Winter schools. He was methodical and thorough in his work, and the pupils, who attended punctually, made good progress. But, owing to a large number of scholars being detained at home by sickness during the latter part of the term, and some feeling against the teacher on the part of some of the parents and scholars, we judge that the closing part of the term was rather unprofitable. Length of school, ten weeks; number of scholars reg., 24; average, 18.09; wages, \$26; board, \$1 43.

DISTRICT NO. 7.

B. F. Davis, Agent. Summer term taught by Miss Adah E. Spaulding of this town. Miss Spaulding succeeded in keeping up an interest in her school during the term. The order was good and the drill thorough. Length of school, ten weeks; whole number of scholars, 60; number reg., 30; average, 19; wages, \$3 50; board, \$1 00; amount apportioned district, \$234 60.

Fall term was also taught by Miss Spaulding with like good success. Length of school, 10 weeks; number of scholars reg., 35; average, 21; wages, \$3 50; board, \$1 00.

Winter term taught by Warren R. Davis of this town. Mr. Davis is a teacher of much experience. And when the school was visited at the commencement of the term, it was well organized, the order good, with a fair prospect of a successful term. It is still in session and we cannot speak advisedly as to its present condition.

DISTRICT NO. 8.

John S. Wright, Agent. Summer term taught by Miss A. Louise Bennett of this town. Miss Bennett, though young, is a fine scholar and has a pleasant faculty of gaining the good will of her pupils. Scholars made fair progress. Length of school, nine weeks; whole number of scholars, 25; number reg., 19; average, 17; wages, \$2 50; board, \$1 30; amount apportioned district, \$106 80.

Winter term taught by Miss Mary E. Parkhurst of Skowhegan. Miss Parkhurst is a graduate of the State Normal School of Farmington. When the school was visited at the commencement of the term, it was under very exact discipline and closely classified with a prospect of thorough progress. Miss Parkhurst is a very strict disciplinarian and a methodical teacher; but some of the citizens complained that she did not manifest a temper suitable to guide young minds. The school was in session at the time of making up this report and we cannot speak as to its present condition.

DISTRICT NO 9.

Lyman Pettigrew, Agent. Summer term taught by Miss Mae Libby of Detroit. When the school was visited at the commencement of the term, the order was nice, the school room was neat and pleasant, and the prospect bid fair for a profitable term. The reports of the school during the term were excellent; but at the last visit, there appeared to be a lack of control over some of the younger portions of the school. From some cause or other the scholars failed to exhibit a very commendable progress. Length of school, eleven weeks; whole number of scholars, 32, number reg., 18; average 16; wages, \$2.50; board, \$1.00 amount apportioned district, \$133 55

Winter term taught by Mr. Gilman M. Burleigh of this town. At the commencing visit, found the order of the school good and Mr. Burleigh's method of drill thorough. But after a few weeks, a part of the citizens of the district claimed that the school was unprofitable, and finally, about the middle of the term, called on the Committee to investigate. We fixed the time, notified the district and met with quite a part of the citizens. But after investigation, a majority of the Committee sustained the teacher. The closing visit found the order

good and a good progress in some of the classes. A few of the scholars had left the school. This was not a very profitable term. Length of school, twelve weeks; number of scholars reg., 26; average 20 25-66; wages, \$21.44; board \$1.14.

DISTRICT NO 10.

Rodney Lord, Agent. Summer term taught by Miss Mercy A. Thomas of this town. Miss Thomas is an experienced teacher of many years. has taught this school several previous terms and always with good success. The order and improvement were satisfactory.

Winter term taught by Mrs. F. M. Stillson of this town. Mrs Stillson's school opened under the most favorable circumstances for a profitable term. The order was good, the classification adapted to the capacity of the pupils and the recitations were conducted with ability. Some of the citizens complained that from time to time text books belonging to some of the pupils, had been found injured and that the teacher had been unable to find the guilty parties. And they finally called for an investigation. Your Committee fixed upon a time giving the proper notice, and on the 23d day of Dec., met with the more interested portion of the citizens of the district and after a rigid investigation, assisted by the citizens and teacher, owing to the conflicting testimony of the scholars, who claimed to know, your Committee could arrive at no definite conclusion and closed the investigation after admonishing the school of the evil results of such a cause and advising the pupils to refrain from such acts in the future. Owing to indisposition on the part of the teacher, the school closed one week earlier than contemplated; consequently there was no visit at the end of the school and we cannot speak particularly of the progress made during the term. Length of school, 11-2-11 weeks; whole number of scholars, 31; number reg., 26; average, 19; wages, \$3 60; board, \$1 50; amount apportioned district, \$121 21.

DISTRICT NO 11.

Charles Cowen, Agent. Summer term taught by Miss Flora A. Smith, of this town. This was a quiet and orderly school; scholars made fair progress. Length of school, six weeks; whole number of scholars, 21; number reg., 12; average, 11; wages, \$3 00; board, \$1 40; amount apportioned district, \$100 21. Spring term taught by Gilman M. Burleigh. This school has recently begun. When visited it was quiet and orderly.

DISTRICT NO. 12.

G. W. Hubbard, Agent. Summer term taught by Miss Dora Crocker, of Pittsfield. This was one among the successful Summer terms. Miss Crocker is correct and thorough in her instruction and mild but firm in her discipline.

Winter term taught by Mr. Reul Robinson of this town. Mr. Robinson is a thorough scholar and systematic in his instruction. At the time of making up this report the school had not closed; but we hear the best of reports from the resident citizens.

DISTRICT NO. 13.

W. J. Thomas, Agent. Summer term taught by Miss I Louise Prince of De-

troit. Miss Prince is one of the best qualified teachers that we have. Her methods of teaching are first class. She has an excellent natural adaptation for teaching. Scholars made good progress in sound, practical knowledge. This town will make a mistake, if it lets Miss Prince go out of it as a teacher. Length of school, ten weeks; whole number of scholars, 45; number reg., 26; average, 19; wages \$4 00; board, 1 00; amount apportioned district, \$105 57

Winter term taught by Mr. Hiram A. Hobbs of Clinton. Mr. Hobbs possesses a natural gift for teaching. He is a worker in the school-room. Scholars made excellent and thorough progress. Districts wishing to employ profitable teacher, would do well to secure his services. Length of school, 11 9 11 weeks; number of scholars reg., 31; average, 29; wages \$30; board, \$1 60.

DISTRICT NO. 14.

Isaac Goodrich, Agent. No summer term.

Winter term taught by Miss Mae Libby. This is to be a long term of school. It was visited at the commencement of the term. A little sterner discipline was then needed. We cannot report, fully, as the school is to continue several weeks. The school has been in session sixteen weeks when this is made up and there is large attendance now. We judge from this that the interest of the school is good.

DISTRICT NO. 15.

Isaac Farnham, Agent. Summer term taught by Mr. B. F. Lang of this town. Mr. Lang maintained good order. The progress was fair and the drill thorough. Length of school, six weeks; whole number of scholars, 22; number reg., 11; average, 9; wages, \$30 per term; amount apportioned district, \$99 58.

Winter term taught by Mr. S. E. Plummer of Detroit. This was a profitable term. Although the classes did not advance as far as in some other schools, yet the drill was thorough. Length of school, 9 3-5 weeks; number of scholars reg, 12; average, 11; wages, \$22; board, \$1 45.

DISTRICT NO. 16.

Not reported. Amount apportioned district, \$15 64.

CONCLUSION.

Our town has been fortunate, and some of our agents wise, in procuring the services of quite a number of well qualified and able teachers this year—teachers who understood their business. Some of these were from the College, the Seminary and State Normal School. Districts fortunate enough to procure these teachers, have in almost, if not in every instance, expended their school money profitably. And many of our young teachers have won merit in their school work this year. It is quite plain who among them will, by and by, fill the places of methodical and competent teachers. As usual among rural districts, some of our schools have fallen short of the desired result. But on an average we feel justified in saying that they will compare well with the schools of other towns.

The desired high standard of education, in our common schools, cannot be reached in a day nor a year. The mighty wheel of true education will not be turned violently, but the time is coming when high moral and intellectual training will be a prominent feature in the work of common school training. Now

the best way to hasten that time is to procure "high-school teachers. A good carpenter in building a house, will measure his lumber with one perfect rule and so every piece will conform to that rule; but each time take the measured piece to measure other pieces with, and they would fall wide of the perfect rule. But the rearing of the "mind temple" is infinitely more important. So in education: fill our schools with "common-school" educated teachers, and you will have a low grade of schools and constantly growing lower, but fill them with a high standard of teachers and you will constantly be educating and sending out a high grade of teachers.

LAFORST ROBINSON, } *Superintending*
 LEWIS WYMAN, } *School Committee*
 BYRON P. HANSON, } *of Palmyra.*