1898

Annual Report of the Board of Selectmen with Reports of Treasurer and Superintendent of Schools, of the Town of Topsham for the Year Ending February 1st, 1898

Topsham (Me.)

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ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE TOWN OF

TOPSHAM

FOR THE YEAR ENDING FEB. 1,

1898.
ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
——with——
REPORTS OF TREASURER
——and——
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS,
OF THE
TOWN OF TOPSHAM,
FOR THE
YEAR ENDING FEBRUARY 1st,
1898.

***

BRUNSWICK, ME.
Brunswick Telegram Office.
1898.
TOWN OFFICERS.

For the Year Ending February 1st, 1898.

Selectmen, Assessors and Overseers of the Poor.

JOSEPH WHITNEY,
A. Q. GOUD,
EUGENE THOMAS.

Town Clerk.
WARREN W. GOUD.

TOWN AGENT.
EUGENE THOMAS.

Town Treasurer.
W. R. HILDRETH.

Town Collector.
W. R. HILDRETH.

Superintendent of Schools.
J. F. CHANEY.

Auditor.
W. S. ROGERS.
SELECTMEN'S REPORT.

The Selectmen of the Town of Topsham submit the following statement of the financial condition of the affairs of the town for the financial year beginning Feb. 1st, 1897 and ending Feb. 1st, 1898.

The value of the taxable property on the first day of April, 1897, was as follows, viz:

Resident Real Estate, $386,706 00
" Personal Estate, 94,452 00
Non Resident Real Estate, 313,173 00
" " Personal Estate, 26,558 00

Total valuation, $820,889 00

Number of Taxable Polls, 537.
Assessed on each poll, $3.00.
Rate of taxation on a dollar, 17 mills.

ASSSESSMENTS.

Common Schools, $2,000 00
High School, 600 00
Poor in the House, 300 00
Poor out of the House, 300 00
Abatements, 300 00
Interest, 600 00
Miscellaneous, 800 00
Fire Department, 900 00
School Books, 300 00
Electric Lights, 600 00
Overlayings, 157 35
Highways, 3,000 00
New Schoolhouse and lot, 1,500 00
Lot of ground back of High School bld., 100 00
Amt. to pay for land adjoining village
School property, provided ownership can be shown in anyone besides the Town of Topsham, 300 00

Total amt. for town purposes, $11,757 35
State tax, 2,530 95
County Tax, 1,272 51
Supplemental tax, 440 39
Highway Deficiency for 1896, 521 52

Total commitment, $16,522 72

ABATEMENTS.

1897.
Feb. 1. To Balance, 29 72
Feb. 20. R. K. Holbrook, dead, '96, 3 00
George Whitehouse, prop. not had, '96, 1 30
W. O. Peary, poor, '96, 3 78
W. T. Gaptill, not a resident, '96, 3 00
John Dennison, property not had, '96, 85
Geo. W. Briggs, non resident, '96, 3 00
Frank Barnes, in State Prison, '96, 3 00
E. M. Brown, '96, 1 25
Samuel Knight, overvaluation, '96, 1 95
Actor P. Tate, heirs of, overvaluation, '96, 5 20
Feb. 27, Cyrus Flagg, overvaluation, '96, 5 33
Feb. 27, Harriet A., Sarah E., and Elizabeth Purinton, overvaluation, '96, 6 50
Apr. 24 \hs W. R. Hildreth, Col. poll tax of Miss
5\hs Ulalie Lacourse for '96, 3 00

June 12, S. T. White, property not had, '96, 3 32
June 12, S. T. White, property not had, '97, 4.3
Aug. 21, Betsey Morse, overvaluation, 3 40
Sept. 4, W. R. Hildreth for Narcisse Gaudreau,
Non Resident, 3 00
Sept. 11, J. P. C. Fall, poll tax '97, 3 00
Oct. 2, Philip Bibeau, unpaid highway tax '96,
paid, 80
Oct. 23, Mitchel Bilette, property not had, '97, 2 12
Oct. 30, A. J. Dennison, poll tax, '96, 3 00
Nov. 13, Michel Leveque, property not had '97, 10 20
Nov. 20, Geo. R. Powers, poll tax, '97, 3 00
Dec. 4, Frank J. Wood, overvaluation '97, 2 55
Dec. 11, Geo. Whitehouse, property not had '97, 1 70

1898
Jan. 8, Hector Gaudreau, highway tax of
96 worked out and not credited on Surveyor's book, 2 85 107 26
Jan. 22, W. R. Hildreth Col. as follows:
Edgar Barron, non resident, 3 80
W. Bush, non resident, 3 80
Albert Bush, non resident, 3 80
Stephen Cripps, dead, 3 00
Thurman Christopher, not of age, 3 00
Michard Chasimer, taxed twice, 3 00
Heirs of Joseph Drinkwater, property not had, 34
Geo. E. Goodwin, non resident, 3 80
Everett Gould, non resident, 3 00
Alfred Outhier, gone to Canada, 3 80
Irving Strout, non resident, 3 80
Alphonse Saindon, error highway book, 35 94

W. R. Hildreth Col. as follows. Taxes 96:
Joseph Antelle, away, 3 00
Harry Barron, away, 3 00
Albert Bush, away, 3 00
Joseph Barney, away, 3 00
William Bass, away, 3 00
J. Barnett, away, 3 00
Earnest Bush, away, 3 00
George F. Crowley, away, 3 00
Stephen Cripps, away, 3 00
Jan. 22,  
John Crane, dead, 3 00  
Enoch Dingee, away, 3 00  
Isaac Day, away, 3 00  
Harry Hackey, away, 3 00  
Walter Jack, non resident, 3 00  
Fred Leavitt, non resident, 3 00  
Louis Pollicant, away, 3 00  
Thomas Rideout, non resident, 3 00  
Fred Shepard, non resident, 3 00  
Michell Racine, taxed twice, 1 63  
John Fournier, taxed twice, 1 63  
Charles Micho, property not had, 1 50  
Joseph Micho, property not had, 1 50  
Ned Libby, taxed twice, 1 63  
Frank Fish, non resident, 3 00  
Howard Colby, not of age, 3 00  
Geo. E. Goodwin, non resident, 3 00  
________________________  70 89  
Balance, Feb. 1st, 1898, 214 69  
CR. 85 91  
$300 00  
By Appropriation,  
$300 00  

HIGHWAYS AND BRIDGES.  

Bills of 1896.  

DR.  

To balance from 1896, $261 60  
C. H. Mitchell, 1 75  
Louis Dubes, 5 00  
J. M. Howland, 25  
Geo. L. Roberts, 1 25  
Alexander Bros., 1 30  
C. H. Barnes, 4 60
To L. E. Cunningham, 1 30
Holman Foster, 3 50
Charles E. Meserve, 2 00
E. M. Brown, 11 80
L. L. Barrell, 10 27
Aaron H. Goodwin, 17 78
W. S. Noyes, 5 00
Frank S. Trufant, 9 92
W. S. Rogers, 13 75
C. P. Edgecomb, 26 33
George B. Luce, 9 13
J. A. Tarr, 4 29
A. W. Hunter, 25 78
C. H. Barnes, 37 04
George M. Graves, 13 23
C. W. Purinton, 3 59
W. S. Noyes, 53 65
C. Albert Ward, 7 61
W. L. Alexander, 17 09
E. C. Tarr, 23
Brunswick Box Company, '95, 72
Cyrus Flagg, 25 62
C. H. Alexander, 118 03
George M. Patten, 35
Wm. M. Howland, 46 00
L. H. White, 79 17
L. H. White, 9 95
E. W. Mallett, 2 14
Llewellyn Cobb, 6 74
Samuel Knight, 3 36
John W. Tarbox, '95, 5 00
Edward Peters, '95, 3 00
Town of Lisbon—Bridge, 51 97
Jordan White, 6 37

$909 86
8

Bills of 1897.

To Fred L. Grows, 3 12
Abraham Bouchard, 18 75
W. T. Wilson, 5 00
C. H. Brawn, 2 50
Herbert Stuart, 6 75
Charles C. Haskell, 9 12
W. A. Crocker, 17 30
Joseph R. Alexander, 10 00
A. F. Leavit, 5 90
W. M. Howland, 50 00
Faustin Carrier, 5 00
George R. Tedford, 25 55
Charles P. Edgecomb, 55 00
W. T. Wilson, 27 00
C. F. Wilson, 20 35
George H. Berry, 14 50
J. A. Tarr, 8 40
E. B. Frye, 12 45
C. H. Williams, 24 35
George W. Thompson, 51 75
T. Herbert Williams, 49 20
Thomas Hunter, 3 86
William Gillispie, 6 88
Chas. C. Haskell, 22 50
Edward Atkins, 7 20
Thomas Carrier, 6 45
C. F. Wilson, 3 37
C. E. Meserve, 27 00
C. C. Leavitt, 3 00
Z. H. & W. S. Noyes, 164 19
T. Carrier, 12 00
W. A. Crocker, 27 25
Peter Cottier, 10 50
Charles C. Haskell, 54 22
L. H. White, 162 88
To Nathan Stuart, 15 31
Abraham Bouchard, 33 25
Wm. M. Howland, 80 63
E. M. Brown, 32 20
W. H. Brown, 7 06
Bowdoin Paper Mfg. Co., 24 38
J. R. Alexander, 7 50
Charles Robinson, 6 43
Herbert Stuart, 3 42
C. C. Leavitt, 1 50
Wm. M. Howland, 20 75
George R. Tedford, 25 00
G. A. Hunter, 8 25
Caleb C. Ridley, 15 81
Samuel P. Graves, 14 79
A. Farrin, 35 75
J. F. Mallett, 7 50
C. H. Colby, 17 30
W. B. Staples, 11 50
A. F. Leavitt, 1 25
John Gray, 1 05
J. L. Foster, 37 05
Herbert Stuart, 7 59
C. C. Haskell, 15 82
Wilbur H. Rumrill, 11 70
C. E. Williams, 8 25
John Furbish, 75 71
Charles Robinson, 14 38
A. Farrin, 11 25
W. B. Staples, 8 00
G. A. Hunter, 16 50
Alfred Jack, 5 00
A. H. Carr, 15 00
William Gillispie, 20 00
S. P. Graves, 16 50
Joseph D. Gagnon, 20 97
Abraham Bouchard, 62 87
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<td>Daniel A. Hall</td>
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<td>Abraham Bouchard</td>
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<td>George R. Powers</td>
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<td>C. H. Alexander</td>
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</table>
George B. Luce, 3 05
Caleb C. Ridley, 12 24
James H. Ramsey, 9 60
C. E. Mustard, 4 20
W. Cann, 3 00
John Tarbox, 3 00

$3,209 49

CR.

By appropriation, $3,000 00
Cash received from C. H. Alexander, Surveyor, 6 31
Cash rec'd from W. H. Haley, Sur, 7 00
Unp'd Highway taxes of 1896, 521 52
Cash from E. M. Brown, overp'd money returned for clay, 12 20
B. B. Barrell, money returned, 26
J. A. Tarr, " " 21
Isaac Allen, " " 07
A. W. Hunter, Aldine Granleaf's tax '96, 99
Howard S. Carey, money returned, 1 92
Loan by special vote of the town, 500 00
Balance overdrawn, 69 72

$4,120 20

As will be seen this account is overdrawn to the amount of $69.72. This is partially accounted for by the fact that bills to the amount of $60.37, of the year of '95 and '96, were presented for payment after the special town meeting and which had to be paid. One of these bills was from the town of Lisbon for our part of replacing a bridge between Topsham and Lisbon, which was carried away during the freshet of the Spring of 1896.
COMMON SCHOOLS.

To Teaching.

Clara M. Coombs, $14 00
Hattie H. Fisher, 55 00
Evelyn Williams, 57 00
Helen L. Smith, 75 00
Winifred M. Stevenson, 55 00
Mary L. Jack, 50 00
Emma P. Williams, 57 50
Clara E. Coombs, 80 00
Clare P. Hussey, 75 00
Martha R. Purington, 60 00
Clarance Colby, 65 00
Abbie E. Hunter, 81 00
A. A. Plummer, 64 00
Emma P. Williams, 57 50
Evelyn Williams, 60 00
Hattie H. Fisher, 55 00
Edith M. Thompson, 60 00
Clarance Colby, 65 00
Abbie E. Hunter, 65 00
Clare P. Hussey, 75 00
Martha R. Purington, 60 00
Helen L. Smith, 75 00
Blanche Minot, 85 00
Ella C. Whitney, 55 00
Blanche Minot, 93 50
Clare P. Hussey, 83 50
Helen L. Smith, 83 50
Belle G. Sampson, 84 00
Emma P. Williams, 84 00
Hattie H. Fisher, 84 00
Annie L. Barron, 91 00
Martha R. Purington, 84 00
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<td>Edith M. Thompson</td>
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<td>Ella C. Whitney</td>
<td>77 00</td>
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<td>Abbie E. Hunter</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,525 00</strong></td>
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**SUPPLIES.**

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<td>A. C. Shorey, printing</td>
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<td>E. C. Patten, wood</td>
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<td>George B. Luce, wood</td>
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<td>Foster B. Meserve, wood</td>
<td>12 25</td>
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<tr>
<td>E. W. White, wood</td>
<td>9 13</td>
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<tr>
<td>L. M. Williams, wood</td>
<td>8 50</td>
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<tr>
<td>W. T. Wilson, transporting scholars, winter term, '96-'97</td>
<td>20 00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sadie Allen, transp'tg scholars, winter term, '96-'97</td>
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<tr>
<td>J. A. Cone, care of schoolhouse, for others</td>
<td>22 50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aaron H. Goodwin, wood</td>
<td>15 00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Edward E. Babb &amp; Co. supplies</td>
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<tr>
<td>W. T. Wilson, cleaning vaults</td>
<td>2 00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Melville Smith, tuning piano and organ</td>
<td>3 50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Frank Hunter, supplies</td>
<td>1 55</td>
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<tr>
<td>Everett Furbish, transporting scholars</td>
<td>25 00</td>
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<tr>
<td>J. A. Cone, for others, care school house</td>
<td>22 50</td>
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<tr>
<td>W. Gillispie, preparing fuel, etc.</td>
<td>5 34</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eliza J. Grover, cleaning school house, Dist. No. 3</td>
<td>2 50</td>
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<tr>
<td>W. H. Haley, wood</td>
<td>10 00</td>
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<td>John Furbish, supplies</td>
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<td>Mrs. John Grover, cleaning school house, District No. 5</td>
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<td>J. Guy Merriman, wood</td>
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E. W. White, wood, 10 37
A. W. Townsend, supplies, 2 50
J. A. Cone, for others, care school house, 22 50
George B. Luce, wood, 13 75
Wm. Gillispie, cleaning cistern, school house, 50
Everett Furbish, transporting scholars, 25 00
L. M. Williams, wood, 12 25
E. W. Mallett, wood, 13 00
J. F. Chaney, supplies, 6 04
J. F. Chaney, wood and coal, 116 38
M. A. Tarr, wood, 10 25

Total amount of supplies, $450 48
Total for teaching and supplies, 2,975 48
Balance due, 2,370 41

$5,345 89

CR.

By Bal. Feb. 1st, 1897, $2,005 49
Appropriation, 2,000 00
Sale of old windows to C. Ward, 2 00
Interest on school fund, 33 36
State Mill Tax, 1,299 01
Tuition from John Barrett, 6 00

$5,345 89
HIGH SCHOOL.

DR.

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<td>John Rolfe, supplies</td>
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<td>Care of School-house</td>
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<td>Howard &amp; Brown, diplomas for grad.</td>
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<td>A. C. Shorey, Printing Blanks</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melville Smith, tuning musical instruments</td>
<td>2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J. A. Cone, Supplies</td>
<td>6.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W. Gillispie, preparing fuel, removing ashes, etc.</td>
<td>1.78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J. F. Chaney, Diplomas</td>
<td>4.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J. F. Chaney, Coal</td>
<td>37.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance due</td>
<td>245.58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$1,102.74</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CR.

$252.74

By Balance Feb. 1st, 1897, $252.74
By Appropriation, 600.00
By State Treasurer, 250.00

$1,102.74

MISCELLANEOUS ACCOUNT.

Bills of 1896.

DR.

To balance overdrawn, Feb. 1, 1897, 197.08
W. W. Goud, Town Clerk, recording births and deaths and administering oaths, 15.00
A. Q. Goud, auditing town accounts, 5.00
To Eugene Thomas, balance of services as
Supt. of Schools for '96, to Apr. 10, '97, 36 20
J. C. Purinton, supplies for Selectmen's and Supt. of Schools' offices, 3 34
E. L. Hunter, bal. service Selectman, '96, 36 50
W. S. Rogers, “ “ “ '96, 22 50
W. P. W. Purinton, services as Justice
of the Peace for Selectmen and Supt.
of Schools, 1 50
C. H. Alexander, bal. services as Selectman for year of '96, 13 50
W. W. Goud, bal. of services as Town Clerk and recording births and deaths, 6 50
Bath Times Co., printing town reports, '96, 32 30
W. R. Hildreth, Treas., salary, stamps and stationery for year of '96, 43 15
M. C. Hall, services as election clerk, Sept. '96, 2 00
Alton S. Frost, preparing and heating hall for annual meeting '96, 1 50
William Barron, services as election clerk for Sept. and Nov. '96, 4 00
Executrix of M. V. Adams, reporting births and deaths '96, 2 50
C. H. Cumston, M. D., do., 2 75
W. E. Frost, storage of road machine, 1 00
W. J. Wilson, storing booths, 2 00
J. C. Purinton, agt., balance office rent for Selectmen and Supt. Schools to and including '97, 177 88
W. R. Hildreth, commission collecting taxes, '96, 100 00

$706 20
MISCELLANEOUS ACCOUNTS.

BILLS OF 1897.

DR.

To Joseph Dionne, interpreter taking valuation, 1 13
W. W. Goud, services, in part, Town Clerk,  8 00
Eugene Thomas, services in part Selectman,  45 00
Eugene Thomas, supplies Selectman's office,  50 00
J. C. Purinton supplies for Selectman's office,  1 16
Loring, Short & Harmon, valuation books, blanks, etc.,  5 13
Loring, Short & Harmon, Town Order book, Record Book, etc.,  10 50
Thurman Christopher, assisting Selectmen in procuring list of taxpayers and militia men,  1 25
A. Q. Goud services in part as Selectman,  70 00
Albion S. Jack, sheep killed by dogs,  3 00
Eugene Thomas, services in part as Selectman,  15 00
Joseph Whitney, services in part as Selectman,  50 00
Eugene Thomas, expenses for himself and Joseph Whitney, carrying Hattie Wilson to Insane Asylum,  7 25
Joseph W. Michaud, Insurance on new school house,  25 00
Caleb C. Ridley, watching fires, 3rd and 4th July,  4 00
Eugene Thomas, services in part as Selectman,  10 00
Josiah Orr, Trucking for Selectman's office,  50
A. Q. Goud, Labor on Selectman's office,  7 50
Eugene Thomas, services in part as Selectman,  30 00
Joseph Whitney, services, in part as Selectman,  30 00
Richard Hammond, repairs on Selectman's office building,  6 75
Wm. M. Howland, lumber for repairs Selectmen's office,  3 54
J. L. Foster, Trucking safes, etc., to new Selectmen's office,  2 50
Lyman E. Smith, Treas, rent of Fair Hall for '97, March meeting,  25 00
Jordan White, sheep killed by dogs,  20 00
To E. C. Patten, sheep killed by dogs, 3 00
John Rolfe, supplies and repairs, Selectmen's office, 1 62
W. S. Cash, labor fixing Selectmen's office, 12 80
A. Q. Goud, cellar window, Selectmen's office, 60
W. R. Hildreth, posting warrants and notifying town officers, 5 30
H. O. Curtis, Board of Health, salary and supplies, certificates of births and deaths, 51 50
S. T. Brown, Lumber for Selectmen's office, 16 46
Joseph Whitney, services as Selectman in part, 25 00
A. Q. Goud, 30 00
E. W. White, sheep killed by dogs, 15 50
Johnson Clark, sheep killed by dogs, 8 00
A. W. Townsend supplies for Selectmen's office, 50
C. P. Edgecomb, wood for Selectmen's office, 3 00
J. F. Chaney, services as Supt. of Schools, 140 00
J. C. Irish reporting Births and deaths, 1 23
G. M. Elliot, 1 50
C. H. Cumston, 2 25
G. J. Roy, 8 50
W. R. Hildreth, collecting taxes of '97, 200 00
W. R. Hildreth, Treas., money pd E. Cornish, expense selling advertised property, 31 90

Total, $1,647 59

CR.

By appropriation, 800 00
License for Merry-go-round, 8 00
State Treasurer, dog license returned, 85 12
John Bryant, money paid for expense advertising property, 2 00
R. R. and Telegraph Tax, 122 31
Balance, 628 16

$1,647 59
### SCHOOL BOOKS.

**DR.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>To Balance Overdrawn Feb. 1st, 1897</td>
<td>$82 29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eugene Thomas, Express on Books</td>
<td>560</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. C. Heath &amp; Co., Books</td>
<td>5 34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ginn &amp; Co., Books</td>
<td>22 40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M. C. R. R., Freight on Books</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thompson, Brown &amp; Co., Books</td>
<td>8 00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maynard, Merrill &amp; Co., Books</td>
<td>36 70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ginn &amp; Co., Books</td>
<td>71 34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ginn &amp; Co., Books</td>
<td>12 40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Franklin Pub'g Co., Chart for French School</td>
<td>12 50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leach, Shewall &amp; Sanborn, Books</td>
<td>114 75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J. F. Chaney, Express on Books</td>
<td>4 75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$371 62</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**CR.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>By Appropriation</td>
<td>$300 00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance</td>
<td>71 62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$371 62</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SCHOOL HOUSE REPAIRS.

DR.

To Elmer E. White, $13.19
Geo. E. Stinson, 2.60
Ridley & Eaton, 100.00
W. A. Foster, 8.24
U. S. School Furniture Co., 191.78
F. H. Purinton, 6.35
E. W. Mallett, 2.25
Llewellyn Cobb, 6.87
Ridley & Eaton, 74.51
H. Campbell, 2.50
J. F. Chaney, 26.40
F. H. Purinton, 2.78
I. H. McKenney, 5.00
G. H. Berry, 1.50
H. Stuart, 50
E. E. White, 2.75
Geo. E. Stinson, 9.50
Harvey Stetson, 22.52
A. W. Townsend, Supplies, 2.20
C. E. Hacker, Repairs Building Chimney, &c., 17.29

$498.73

CR.

By Balance Feb. 1st, '97, $316.67
Cash from Charles Ward for old windows, 2.00
Cash from Frank Wilson for old windows, 1.00
By Cash from George Graves for old lumber, 25
Cash from A. Q. Goud for old blackboards, 1 00
Cash from Milton Ward for old windows, 75
Cash from A. Q. Goud for old doors, 2 00
Balance Feb. 1st, '98, 175 06

$498 73

FIRE DEPARTMENT.

DR.

To Balance overdrawn in 1896, $621 01
Herbert Stuart, labor on cisterns, 1 25
Brunswick Electric Light and Power Co., Lights, 1 50
C. I. Giveen, Clerk, pay roll, 26 25
W. S. Cash, watching at White's fire, 2 00
Herbert Stuart, cleaning snow from cisterns, 1 75
Herbert Stuart, cleaning cisterns, 50
Frank J. Wood, labor at McFadden fire, 2 00
Brunswick Electric Light and Power Co., Lights, 1 50
J. E. Noyes, labor and materials on Engine Hall, 6 00
C. I. Giveen, Clerk, Fire Co. at N. G. Curtis' fire, 9 50
C. I. Giveen, Clerk, pay roll, 32 00
Brunswick Electric Light and Power Co., Lights, 1 50
A. Farrin, labor on Engine Hall, 2 55
Brunswick Electric Light and Power Co., Lights, 1 50
To Stanley T. Brown, lumber for repairs of hall, 33 00
Brunswick Electric Light and Power Co., Lights, 1 50
George A. Crowley, labor on house, 2 55
C. I. Giveen, Clerk, pay roll, 39 50
Brunswick E. L. & P. Co., Lights, 1 50
Brunswick  “  “  1 50
Johnson Brothers, Flag, 3 50
Brunswick E. L. & P. Co., Lights, 1 50
Brunswick  “  “  1 50
C. I. Giveen, Clerk, pay roll, 25 50
John Rolfe, Supplies, 1 31
Brunswick E. L. & P. Co., Lights, 1 50
E. S. Bodwell, Rubber Coats, 8 00
J. F. Chaney, Coal, 13 00
Alexander Bros., Supplies, 2 81
Balance Feb. 1st, 1898, 51 02

--- $900 00

CR.

By Appropriation, $900 00

ELECTRIC LIGHTS.

DR.

To Brunswick Electric Light & Power Company, $60 7
Balance Feb. 1st, '98, 80 37

--- $688 14

CR.

By Balance Feb. 1st, 1897, $88 14
Appropriation, 600 00

--- $688 14
TOWN FARM.

DR.

To Inventory Feb. 1st, 1897, $788 38
Chas. Ward, Salary, to April 15, '97, as Superintenden, 160 00
Eugene Thomas, use of telephone in regard Hannah Cole's burial, 40
Ezra R. Groves, Salary in part as Supt., 18 75
S. A. Walker, Assignee of Ezra R. Groves' wages, 75 00
W. S. Rogers, milk cans. 2 00
S. A. Walker, supplies furnished farm, first quarter, 39 41
A. Q. Goud, account book for farm, 50
A. Q. Goud, fruit jars for town farm, 1 10
H. O. Curtis, M. D., medical attendance at the farm, 4 00
Ezra R. Groves, supplies for farm to Dec. 8, '97, 54 39
H. O. Curtis, M. D., medical attendance at farm, 3 00
Charles Ward, balance of bills paid at farm, 15 02
S. A. Walker, Assignee, part payment Ezra Groves, salary, 25 00

$1,386 95

CR.

By Balance, $98 51
Appropriation, 300 00
Cash paid by Charles Ward, 17
Inventory, Feb.'1, 1898, 530 70
Balance, 462 57

$1,386 95
The bad showing of the poor farm account is due in part to shrinkage in the inventory. Also the unfavorable season reduced the income from the crops.

POOR OUT OF THE HOUSE.

**BILLS OF 1896.**

**DR.**

To Balance overdrawn Feb. 1st, 1897, $35.34
- Bills paid for E. T. Dyer on acc't of Town of Harpswell, $45.74
- W. P. W. Purinton, rent for Ed. Brawn, $32.00
- Supplies and medical aid for O. A. Bragdon, on acc't of Town of Freeport, $17.15
- F. M. Stetson, Supplies for Mr. Carter, $1.00
- Harvey Stetson, Casket for old Soldier, $30.00
- Dunning Bros., Hearse for old Soldier, $5.00
- Manning S. Campbell, board and supplies for C. J. Colby, $32.46

**$198.69**

**BILLS OF 1897.**

**DR.**

To H. O. Curtis, Examination mental condition of Hattie E. Wilson, $3.00
- F. E. Crosman, coffin and undertaker's services and supplies for Wm. Berry, $38.00
26

To John Rolfe, supplies for Julien Longtain, 3 28
Cyrus Flagg, rent for A. J. Dennison on acc’t of Town of Brunswick, 6 00
W. J. Wilson, digging grave and transporting body of Wm. Berry, 5 00
C. E. Lancaster, M. D., medical supplies etc., for Newall O. Fish on account of Town of Monmouth, 11 10
Eugene Thomas, use of Telephone, Minnie Deojay case, on account of City of Bath, 35
Cyrus Flagg, rent for A. J. Dennison, 6 00
Town of Lisbon, board for Mrs. Ricker, 5 00
Manning S. Campbell, 147 26
Cyrus Flagg, rent for A. J. Dennison, 6 00
H. V. Stackpole, shoes for Minnie I. Deojay, on acc’t of City of Bath, 1 25
A. D. Gahan, supplies for Minnie I. Deojay, 2 00
Supplies furnished Mrs. M. J. Taylor, on account of Town of Harpswell, 4 89
Alexander Bros., supplies for Shepard and Longtain families, 12 86
Cyrus Flagg, rent for A. J. Dennison, 6 00

$257 99

Total Bills Paid, $456 68

CR.

By Appropriation, $300 00
Town of Yarmouth, Robert Higgins account, (old bill) 6 00
Cash from Julien Longtain, money returned for supplies, 3 28
Overseers of Bath, on acc’tof Minnie I. Deojay, 3 60
By Amount from Town of Harpswell, on account of bills paid for E. T. Dyer and Mrs. M. J. Taylor.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>State Treasurer, warrant No. 634, for burial of old Soldier</td>
<td>50 63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town of Freeport for bills of O. A. Bragdon</td>
<td>35 00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town of Monmouth for bills of Newall O. Fish</td>
<td>36 90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance overdrawn</td>
<td>10 17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

$456 68

MUSTARD FUND.

DR.

To bills paid for Flora Farr for wood and preparing same.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Supplies furnished Flora Farr</td>
<td>$13 25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supplies furnished Thomas Coolen</td>
<td>3 50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bal. to be added to principal</td>
<td>12 80</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

$102 81

CR.

By interest on Fund at 3½ per cent. for one year to Feb. 1st, 1898.

$102 81
NEW SCHOOL HOUSE

NEAR FREE BRIDGE.

DR.

To Z. H. & W. S. Noyes, Land for Lot, $200 00
W. P. Gahan, building house, laying underpinning, etc., 1,158 35
M. C. R. R., freight on Desks and Black-boards, 21 36
Wm. Gillispie, Labor grading around the house, 3 12
Abraham Bouchard, Labor grading the lot, 2 50
Z. H. & W. S. Noyes, labor grading the lot, 8 75
U. S. School Furniture Co., desks, 107 09
Wm. J. Wilson, Trucking, 1 50
M. C. R. R., freight on school desks, 6 34
Michel Leveque, labor grading the lot, 3 13
M. C. R. R., freight on school desks, 94
O. D. Case & Co., slate blackboards, 21 49
J. F. Chaney, trucking blackboards, etc., 1 00

$1,535 57

CR.

By Appropriation, $1,500 00
" Balance overdrawn, 35 57

$1,535 57
NEW SAFE.

DR.

To E. A. Crawford freight and carting, $13.75
" The Mosler Safe Co., for Safe, 169.25

$183.00

CR.

By Balance Feb. 1, 1897, $166.94
Amount overdrawn, 16.06

$183.00

COLLECTOR'S ACCOUNT.

ELBRIDGE CORNISH, COLLECTOR.

DR.

To Balance due the Town, Feb. 1st, '97, $954.80

CR.

By pd. Town Treasurer during past yr., $106.17
Balance due the Town, Feb. 1st, '98, 548.63

$954.80

WM. R. HILDRETH, COLLECTOR,
TAXES OF 1896.

DR.

To Balance due Feb. 1st, '97, $3,388.40

CR.

By pd Town Treasurer during year, $3,189.74
Bal. due the town, Feb. 1st, '98, 198.66

$3,388.40
WM. R. HILDRETH, COLLECTOR,

TAXES OF 1897.

Dr.

To Commitment, $16,522 72

Cr.

By pd. Town Treasurer during the yr., $10,855 87
Bal. due the town Feb. 1st, ’98, 5,666 85

$16,522 72
TREASURER'S REPORT.

TOWN OF TOPSHAM IN ACCOUNT WITH W. R. HILDRETH, TREAS.

DR.

To town orders pd. from Jan. 30, '97, to  
Feb. 1st, '98, $13,177 95

Paid State tax, 2,530 85

County tax, 1,272 51

on loans, 2,800 00

By balance in Treasury Feb. 1st, '98, 49 41

$19,830 82

CR.

By balance in Treas., Jan. 30, '97, 170 50

E. Cornish, Collector, 106 17

Interest, 7 47

W. R. Hildreth, Coll taxes, '96, 3,189 74

" " " " " " '97, 10,855 87

" " " " Interest, 28 00

State of Maine Mill tax, 1,299 04

" " " R. R. and Tel. tax, 122 31

" " " soldier's burial, 35 00

" " " High School, 250 00

Town of Yarmouth, 6 00

" " Harpswell, 50 63

" " Freeport, 36 90

" " Monmouth, 11 10

State Treasurer dog license refunded, 85 12

City of Bath, 3 60

John Barrett, tuition, 6 00

High School, old windows, etc., 7 00

Merry-Go-Round, 8 00

Money returned by Surveyors, 16 76

Julien Longtain, 3 28

E. M. Brown, overpaid road bill, 12 20

Chas. Ward, overpaid bill, 17
By John Bryant, taxes on real estate sold, 16 00
John Bryant, interest and expenses, 3 96
Loans, 3,500 00

$19,830 82

THE CARRIE E. HUS FUND.

Balance Oct. 1st, 1896, 235 32
Interest on same to Oct. 1, '97, 7 68

$243 00

Paid W. J. Wilson, care of lot, 6 00
Balance Oct. 1, 1897, 237 00

$243 00

LIABILITIES.

Mustard fund, 2,937 50
Bonds, 2,300 00
School Fund, 667 28
School Building Loan, 6,000 00
Bridge Loan, 1,000 00
Temporary Loan, '96, 500 00
Temporary Loan, '97, by vote of Town, 700 00

Interest bearing debt, $14,104 78
Common Schools, 2,370 41
High School, 245 58
Electric Lights, 85 37
Cisterns, 26
Repairs on Town Farm Buildings, 65 06
Mustard Fund, 9 28
Old Order, 1 87
Outstanding orders, 779 94
Abatements, 85 91
Fire Department, 51 02
Interest Account, 73 11

$3,762 81

$17,867 59
RESOURCES.

Due from Elbridge Cornish, Collector, 848 63

" " Wm. R. Hildreth, " 5,865 51

" " Town of Brunswick, 24 00

Non resident taxes of 1889, 56 00

" " " 1890, 33 08

Balance in Treasury Feb. 1st, 1898, 49 41

\[\text{Total} = 848.63 + 5,865.51 + 24.00 + 56.00 + 33.08 + 49.41 = 6,876.63\]

Town Debt, 10,990 96

\[\text{Total} = 6,876.63 + 10,990.96 = 17,867.59\]

INTEREST.

DR.

To Balance, Feb. 1st, 1897, 20 57

W. R. Hildreth, Treas., Interest paid, 439 94

Paid Trustees Mustard Fund, 102 81

Balance due Feb. 1st, '98, 73 11

\[\text{Total} = 20.57 + 439.94 + 102.81 + 73.11 = 636.43\]

CR.

By appropriation, 600 00

received from John Bryant, 96

Wm. R. Hildreth, Col., 28 00

Elbridge Cornish, Col., 7 47

\[\text{Total} = 600.00 + 96.00 + 28.00 + 7.47 = 636.43\]

APPROPRIATIONS RECOMMENDED FOR 1898.

Abatements, 250 00

Miscellaneous, 1,000 00

Poor in the House, 400 00

Poor out of the House, 200 00

Fire Department, 300 00

Highways for the ensuing year, 2,000 00

Electric Lights, 600 00

Interest, 600 00

Town Debt, 1,000 00
RECOMMENDED BY THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

Common Schools, 2,000 00
High School, 800 00
School house repairs, 400 00
School Books, 400 00

Respectfully submitted.

JOSEPH WHITNEY, / Selectmen, Assessors
A. Q. GOUD, / and Overseers
EUGENE THOMAS, / of the

Poor of Topsham.

I have examined the accounts of receipts and expenditures presented by the Selectmen as Selectmen, Assessors, and Overseers of the Poor for the Town of Topsham, for the year to Feb. 1st, 1898, and find them correctly kept, and properly vouched for.

The accounts of the Treasurer, Wm. R. Hildreth, I have examined and found correct.

W. S. ROGERS, Auditor.
The financial account will be found in the Selectmen's Report.

The whole number of pupils of school age in town was on April 1st, 1897, 536. The whole number attending school for the year ending June 1st, 1897, was 260. The whole number of weeks taught, 36. The whole number of weeks taught this year will probably be 35, but on account of the increased cost of maintaining the French school the school year ending June 1st, 1899, will probably contain but 32 weeks, unless the appropriation is increased.

The schools the past year we think have made a good average progress, yet there is much room for improvement in some, and we hope to see them all better. The most of our teachers have labored faithfully and well, and are deserving of much credit for their painstaking efforts. A few, however, we regret to say, though they may have worked just as hard as the others, yet owing to the want of a previous training, experience and natural ability perhaps, have met with rather poor success. Our charity and sympathy will have to do for them.

There is as yet in our schools too little teaching and too much hearing of recitations for best results. No teacher should let a recitation pass without having tried at least to impart some information to the class not found in the text book. To do this successfully and well, more thought,
study and care should be given to their daily work, simple though it may be, than now in some cases is.

An improvement in parents, at least in some parents, in regard to school matters, is something also to be earnestly desired. They should more often visit the schools and kindly consult and advise with the teachers than they do. Idleness and disobedience of scholars in school should be more heartily discouraged by swift and sure punishment at home. A better and more constant attendance should in some cases be required, and no stay-at-homes allowed because they do not happen to like the teacher. Fewer disparaging stories of doubtful veracity should be circulated, and personal prejudice have no influence in school affairs.

If for any reason a change of teachers is desired the superintendent should be notified at once, that such a change may be made at the earliest possible date, as the interest of the school may seem to require.

The school officers desire to please parents as well as pupils, so far as they can, knowing full well that a hearty co-operation of all school influences in the right direction is necessary for the best results.

FRENCH SCHOOL, NOYESVILLE.

At the last annual meeting $1,530 was appropriated for a school house and lot in this district. A double lot was purchased of Zina Noyes & Son for $200. The contract for building the house was let to Wm. P. Gahan, of Brunswick; his bid being $100 lower than the next lowest bid, and about $200 lower than several other bids.

The house contains one large school room with a seating capacity of 50 scholars; has an ample hall way, with dressing rooms, a wood shed and an out house with a cement vault, connected with it by a covered way. The house has hard wood floors throughout, is finished in hard pine,
and is furnished with ample slate blackboards and modern hard wood single desks. It is very convenient and is in every way well adapted to the purpose for which it was built. Owing to the grading necessary and some few other incidentals the appropriation was exceeded by a few dollars.

The French seem to be well pleased with the house, as they should be, and have manifested the proper interest in the scheme. The children are neat, orderly, and anxious to learn; and so far the school has proved to be a decided success.

The average attendance last term was 45, mostly primary scholars.

**HIGH SCHOOL.**

We have been highly pleased with this school all through the year. Mr. Cone has worked with the same untiring energy as usual, and the pupils have appreciated his efforts by a good average attendance and close application to study. More time, however, is required on some of the recitations than we now have to spare, and an assistant teacher is very much needed. The next fall term will have four classes, with a probability of over 50 scholars. With this condition of things it will be clearly seen how impossible it will be for one teacher to hear all the classes and give all the pupils time to recite. An increase in the appropriation of at least $150 or $200 for this school we trust will be readily granted. If the purposes of the present school board are carried out an assistant teacher will be employed to spend the forenoon in the high school, and the afternoon in the grammar school, where also more time is needed on the recitations.

The High School-house lot has been enlarged by one acre of land, purchased of Mrs. Ann H. Pendleton for $100, in accordance with the vote of the town at the last March meeting. This affords an ample playground, and is an im-
provement that will be highly appreciated by the scholars. A fence should be built around the lot at the earliest opportunity.

REPAIRS.

The town report last year showed a balance of $316.67 in favor of this account, but we found after the old bills were all in and paid the balance was on debtor side quite a sum. Some repairs, however, had to be made, though we had no money to make them with; but such only were made as the health and comfort of the pupils and the care of the houses absolutely required.

The houses themselves are now all in quite good condition, but one school yard fence at least ought to be built new and one or two others repaired, so a small appropriation should be made this year.

We would like all the houses supplied with new desks as soon as the town can afford it. There are now but four houses without them, and all should be served alike, besides the comfort and convenience of the pupils demand it. It will take about 90 desks to make the change, and the cost would be about $275.

SCHOOL BOOKS.

This account is seldom satisfactory, the present year being no exception. There seems to be a great waste here, hard to understand by those not acquainted with the circumstances. The most of the school books published at the present time are very poorly bound. They are made evidently with the intention that they shall soon fall apart and others be bought to take their place; and for this the town has to suffer. Besides, scholars under the new law cannot be made to take so good care of the town's books as when under the old law the books were owned and cared for by their parents.
The past year we have had to furnish all the schools with a whole new set of spelling and writing books and many new readers, and some new histories besides to take the place of those worn out or used up. The French school of about 50 scholars have required an extra supply, and an advancing high school class of about twice the usual size has demanded many more.

The law requires that every scholar attending school shall be supplied with all necessary books regardless of the appropriation. We have tried to obey it, but not to exceed it. The adverse balance and unpaid bills last year was about $250; this year they amount to about $200. It would seem best to raise enough money to pay these overdue bills and leave us with at least $200 for the coming year.

Respectfully submitted.

EUGENE THOMAS, School
J. A. FISHER, Committee
F. C. WHITEHOUSE,

J. F. CHANEY, Superintendent.