

# REPORT

OF THE

## SELECTMEN

AND

SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE

OF THE

TOWN OF BRISTOL, N. H.,

**For the Year ending March, A. D. 1854.**



CONCORD :

STEAM PRINTING WORKS OF McFARLAND & JENKS,  
REAR OF LOW'S BLOCK, MAIN STREET.



## SELECTMEN'S ACCOUNTS.

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*The Selectmen credit the Town for the year ending March, 1854, as follows :*

By list of taxes assessed in April, 1853,	\$1515.99	
June 6, 1853. School house tax in dist. No. 3,	259.70	
Highway tax paid in money,	209.84	
Literary fund for 1853,	48.87	
Railroad tax for 1853,	127.40	
Non-resident highway,	12.08	
March 9, '53. Cash of Reuben Rollins, collector,	230.04	
Cash on C. P. Fellows' note,	134.24	
County pauper claim,	47.00	
Cash on Gilman Ingalls, Jr.'s note,	100.00	
Cash of the selectmen of Pittsfield,	7.60	
Cash on Dan'l Hoyt's account,	1.00	
Cash on Dan'l Sleeper's note,	3.90	
Cash for services of Elijah Trewell,	10.00	
Cash for the use of town hall,	1.00	
Money in the treasury, last Report,	308.45	
	\$3017.11	

### DISBURSEMENTS BY THE SELECTMEN.

*Paid for support of Schools.*

June 25.	Dist. No. 1.	Paid Ariel Dickinson,	\$20.60
	"	2. Paid J. S. Chase,	117.96
	"	3. Paid Oren Nelson,	32.90
Nov. 26.	"	4. Paid J. M. R. Emmons,	24.23
	"	5. Paid Gustavus Emmons,	44.01
	"	6. Paid Timothy Chandler,	38.02
Sept. 24.	"	7. Paid Seth Spencer,	12.76
June 6.	"	8. Paid P. S. Drake,	38.94
Nov. 26.	"	9. Paid Walter Haywood,	41.64
July 30.	"	10. Paid J. B. Favor,	104.56
June 25.	"	11. Paid D. B. Bartlett,	44.31
Jan. 6, 1854.		Paid Peter Whittemore,	2.37
			\$522.30

*School House Money.*

Dec. 31. Paid building committee, school house money, \$250.00

*Repairing Highways and Bridges.*

March 26, '53.	Paid J. B. Favor, for lumber,	\$6.27
June 25.	Paid Hosea Ballou, for labor,	15.00
	Paid F. Kidder, for labor,	7.00
July 30.	J. S. Chase, for serving road notices,	1.00
	Paid Thomas Holt, for damage in crossing his land,	3.00
Aug. 1.	S. C. Brown, for land damages,	60.00
Sept. 24.	D. S. Mason, for labor,	6.88
	Moses Cheney, for damage in crossing his land,	2.00
Oct. 3.	D. C. Willey, for building road,	39.60
Oct. 29.	John A Fuller, for labor on highway,	1.12
	Alpheus Edgerly, for labor on highway,	2.90
	A. P. Smith, for land damage,	12.00
Dec. 21.	Walter Haywood, for lumber, and labor on highway,	10.73
	B. Q. Fellows, for labor on highway,	2.25
Dec. 31.	Joseph Kidder, for labor and damages on highway,	5.50
	Dearbon & Kidder, for lumber for highway,	73.48
	Aaron Sleeper, for labor on highway,	3.50
	Uriah Wells, for lumber for highway,	21.21
	Joseph Kidder, for land damages,	3.00
	Joseph Rollens, for lumber for highway,	1.94
	P. S. Drake, for labor,	7.50
	Aaron Kidder, for labor,	3.25
	D. S. Fowler, for labor,	2.75
	F. Bartlett, money paid,	1.79
	Josiah Mason, for labor,	2.00
	J. W. Sanborn, for lumber,	2.70
	D. B. Bartlett, for labor,	4.00
	John S. Gale, for land damage,	9.00
	Wm. Chase, for lumber,	5.52
	Joseph Moor, for labor,	2.76
	R. M. Mason, "	12.00
	John Robie, "	2.50
	Calvin Swett, " and lumber,	9.22
Feb. 25, 1854.	Asa Darling, "	7.76
	Hosea Ballou, "	8.48
	J. M. R. Emmons, for lumber,	1.20
	Bartlett & Taylor, for labor,	1.00
		<hr/>
		\$361.81

*Abatement of Taxes.*

1851. Paid J. S. Chase, \$2.40

1852.	Reuben Rollins,	13.68	
	J. S. Nelson, for error in valuation,	.79	
	F. Kidder, " "	.42	
	Hiram Heath, " "	.52	
1851.	Dan'l Tyrrell,	.52	
			<hr/>
			\$18.33

*County Claims.*

Feb. 25, 1854.	Paid M. C. Hoyt, for medical attendance upon A. Hutchinson,	1.50	
	Attendance on T. Tilton,	21.00	
	Solomon Cavis, for goods furnished for J. Tilton,	1.23	
	J. S. Chase, medical attendance on J. Tilton,	4.50	
	M. C. Sawyer, for articles furnished for T. Tilton,	4.09	
			<hr/>
			32.32

*Support of the Poor.*

Mar. 29, 1853.	Paid Jonathan Merrill, for hay for A. Hutchinson,	2.80	
	D. B. Bartlett, for the support of Mary Ann Gurdy,	5.50	
	For the support of Lydia Glidden at the Asylum,	83.79	
	Asa Darling, for the board of Polly Simonds 9½ weeks,	19.00	
	Joseph Rollins, for wood for D. Eaton,	.85	
Jan. 28.	" J. K. George, for rent of place,	20.00	
	Wm. Chase, for goods delivered to Mr. Brock,	1.43	
	Warren White, for shoes for Polly Lowell, 1852,	1.25	
Feb. 25.	" M. C. Hoyt, for medical attendance by contract,	9.00	
	Charlotte Sargent, for boarding and nursing Polly Simonds,	70.00	
	Asa Darling, for clothing Polly Simonds,	1.80	
March 4.	" Solomon Cavis, for goods for D. Eaton,	22.98	
	Solomon Cavis, for Stephen Simons,	8.54	
	Paid Solomon Cavis, for goods for Mr. Brock,	6.17	
	Solomon Cavis, for goods for Mr. Simonds,	3.33	
	Bartlett & Taylor, for goods for D. Eaton,	5.61	
	Bartlett & Taylor, for goods for Stephen Simonds,	1.62	

	Gilman Sanborn, for the support of Polly Lowell,	40.00	
	J. D. Prescott, for the support of C. Ashton,	5.87	
	<i>Current Expenses.</i>	—	309.54
Mar. 16, 1853.	Paid for printing reports, 1852,	16.25	
	D. B. Bartlett, for invoice and collector's book,	1.40	
	Robert Smith, for grave-stones for Thomas Fuller and wife,	25.00	
August 7, "	County school com'r, for teachers' institute,	10.98	
	J. T. Sanborn, for enrolling soldiers,	3.00	
Dec. 31, "	Robert Smith, for services as agent and surveying,	4.00	
	Calvin Swett, for paid for use of the town,	6.50	
	D. E. Everett, for enrolling soldiers,	2.00	
	Bartlett & Taylor, for stationery,	1.00	
	F. Bartlett, for freight of guns, &c.,	2.00	
	M. C. Sawyer, for stationery,	2.13	
	J. P. Prescott, for horse hire,	6.25	
	N. B. Bryant, for money paid and services as attorney in the Tyrrell case,	31.00	
March 29. "	Caleb Whittemore's note,	319.90	
Nov. —. "	State treasurer,	189.70	
	County "	277.71	
	Outstanding orders of 1853,	65.80	
		—	964.62
	<i>Town Officers' Bills.</i>		
Mar. 4, 1854.	Paid G. M. Cavis, for services as town clerk,	15.00	
	Levi Locke, for collecting taxes,	24.39	
	D. B. Bartlett, services as selectman,	30.00	
	Calvin Swett, for services as selectman,	33.84	
	F. Bartlett, for services as selectman,	29.18	
	Solomon Cavis, for treasurer,	15.00	
		—	147.41
March, 1854.	<i>Estimated Debts against the Town.</i>		
	Miss Whittemore's note,	180.03	
	J. M. R. Emmons' note,	194.67	
	Aaron Kidder, outstanding bill,	50.00	
	Charlotte Sargent, outstanding bill for the support of the poor,	20.00	
	Asa Darling's claim, about	62.00	
	Mary Moor's claim for boarding Thomas Tilton, county pauper, unsettled.		
	George Tenney, outstanding order,	30.00	

## School money unappropriated in Dist.

No. 2,

3.45

540.15

*Schedule of Notes and Claims due the Town, March, 1854.*

Names.	Dates.	Prin.	Int.	Am't Due.
Reuben Lowell,	June 22, 1843,	\$150.00	\$129.37	279.37
Timothy Wiggins,	Oct. 31, 1849,	9.00	2.52	11.52
Benj. Cass,	Feb. 26, 1853,	26.00	1.56	27.56
Abbot Lovejoy,	Mar. 6, 1853,	8.00	.48	8.48
D. B. Bartlett,	Aug. 2, 1853,	100.00	3.00	103.00

*County Pauper Claim, \$32.32*

Mary Moor's bill, unsettled.	
Money in collector's hands,	\$119.47
Money in the treasury,	14.00
Railroad tax,	127.40
Literary fund,	48.87
Reuben Rollins' tax of 1852,	4.50

Amount of claims of the town,	\$776.49
Amount of the debts of the town,	540.15

Balance in favor of the town,	236.34
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Which is respectfully submitted.

D. B. BARTLETT,	} <i>Selectmen</i>
CALVIN SWETT,	
F. BARTLETT,	

*of*  
*Bristol.*

Bristol, March 7, 1854.





REPORT  
OF THE  
SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
FOR THE YEAR  
1853-4.

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IN presenting the annual report of schools for the past year, your Committee would submit, that after having taken the oath of office, and examined the provisions of the law prescribing its duties, it became necessary to ascertain the condition of the schools, the means in use, and to compare its present with its past advantages—to endeavor, if possible, the more effectually to derive for the schools the greatest amount of good, which an enlightened public sentiment, large experience, and liberal legislation have provided.

It being very generally understood that under a system of government like our own, and in which all the people exercise an important and effective part in sustaining and perpetuating it, very little reliance could be placed upon it, in hope of its continuance, except in the general intelligence of an educated people.

The law has, therefore, created certain offices, prescribed the duties, and provided the means of performing them.

The Prudential Committee are to select and hire teachers, provide board, furnish fuel, make occasional repairs, notify the Superintending Committee of the commencement of the schools, and give him all such information and assistance as may be necessary for the performance of his duties.

The duty of the Suprintending Committee is to examine every person professing to teach any district school in town, visit the schools, inquire into the regulations and discipline, and make necessary suggestions; to examine the proficiency of the scholars, and use his influence that the youth may profit by the school. He shall act in the dismissal of teachers and scholars; direct the class-books to be used, make report to the town, &c.

The duty of the teacher is equally specific and imperative. He shall diligently impress upon the minds of the scholars the principles of piety and justice, regard for truth, love of country, humanity and benevolence, sobriety, industry and frugality, chastity, moderation and temperance, and all other virtues which are the ornament and support of human society, the blessings of liberty; to preserve a republican form of government, &c.

Before he is permitted to enter upon the discharge of those duties, he shall produce a certificate for the Superintending Committee, of his suitable qualifications to teach, and also evidence of good moral character. This should be done before the commencement of the school. Even then, he is not entitled to his wages, unless, at the close of the school, he has made his report to the Superintending Committee, as by the register which is furnished him.

Prudential Committees should look well to this, as any money paid over before these requisitions are complied with is paid at their own peril.

These are some of the more essential and imperative duties of committees and teachers, the exact observance of which would, in no small degree, contribute to the improvement and perfecting of a system, upon which depends the perpetuity of republican institutions and civil liberty.

The observation and experience of the past year has induced me to think that the very frequent omissions which have occurred, and often resulting in quite material inconvenience, is rather to be attributed to an imperfect understanding of the requisite duties to be performed, than to an unwillingness to do them. It was, therefore, determined to specify some of them particularly. For further directions and full enactments, reference may very readily be had by consulting the Digest of School Laws, and Reports of the Board of Education on file in the office of the clerk of each district in town.

The schools have been quite fortunate in the selection of teachers the past year; and, although in some instances the school at its close did not meet our expectations and hopes, still nothing has occurred to interrupt the usual course of its progress in any one of the eleven districts in town. All the teachers who actually entered upon their duties sustained a satisfactory and careful examination in all elementary studies. Some of the teachers attended a session of the Teachers' Institute.

But only a small proportion of all did so. It is quite to be regretted

that it becomes necessary to employ, or that any should attempt to teach the elements of what has never been elementarily investigated; and until some other means shall be devised, it is earnestly recommended that every person proposing to teach should avail himself of the advantages of a session at a well-directed Institute.

The amount of money appropriated for Schools the past year is quite too small; being only the amount by law required, though the omission was by mistake. It is suggested that the additional sum of two hundred dollars will be small enough, and will doubtless be voted.

The condition of the School Houses is much improved within the last few years. One new one has been built the past season, and the district would not, probably, be willing to exchange it even for several as good as the old one. Two or three others are really unfit for use.

It will, doubtless, be desirable before long to re-district the town, to meet the demands incident to the changes which have occurred in business and population; and it requires but little argument at the present time to show that the advantages to be derived from the union of contiguous settlements, upon the principle already adopted in many towns, has many superior advantages.

The most valid objection is probably on account of the distance increased. But the matter of half a mile, or a mile, even, is hardly to be regarded in comparison with having a good School for a poor one, or perhaps none at all.

The advantages of having the School House near by, and no funds for the School, or even a short one, or a poor one, for want of more funds, would hardly be worth the pains to get it.

The schools have been visited, the progress noted, and some suggestions relating to each district are given as follows :

#### DISTRICT NO. 1.

The summer term taught by Miss Susan E. Bartlett, of Hill. There was an appearance of good order, and quiet attention in this school, throughout. A small school, yet gave good evidence of improvement; and both teacher and scholars deserved much credit. Particular attention was given to reading and spelling.

#### DISTRICT NO. 2.

Summer term taught by Miss Julia A. Peabody, of Topsham, Vermont. This school has the largest number, and perhaps the great-

est diversity of scholars ; and apparently the one the most difficult to teach successfully. The teacher, however, succeeded ultimately in organizing and managing ; and it proved to be one of the very best schools, and resulted in a good degree of interest and improvement.

The winter term, taught by Miss Emily Eaton, of Wentworth, indicated a good degree of interest on the part of both teachers and scholars. A more efficient and energetic system might have been more favorable. Improvement, however, was quite apparent. The progress observable quite commendable. Although from previous reports there appears to have been an indifference of long standing, in both parents and scholars, the indication is more favorable. There is yet hope.

#### DISTRICT NO. 3.

There was no summer term. The winter term was taught by Mr. David Plummer, of Meredith. The District have built a new and commodious house the past year ; and the teacher began in hope of seeing all the scholars zealous to do well. The result indicated that although not vicious, there is need of a careful and constant vigilance that the result shall be entirely satisfactory. The improvement was quite commendable.

#### DISTRICT NO. 4.

There was only one term in this district. This was taught by Miss Sarah J. Woodman, of New Hampton. She had taught in this school before. The examination was thorough, and well sustained ; a few very good scholars ; a very good school, and entitled to much credit. If warranted, would speak as well of the house.

#### DISTRICT NO. 5.

There was no summer term. The winter term was taught by Mr. Reuben Rollins, an old and experience dteacher. A good degree of interest was manifested, and commendable improvement. The house is not quite what it should be. The teacher says, " It is rather below "mediocrity, compared with what the other houses will average. It is very cold, and uncomfortable in cold weather." It is suggested that an improvement be made in this and in Districts No. 4.

#### DISTRICT NO. 6.

The summer term was taught by Miss Lucy Ann Hardy, of Groton. There was not enough interest in, or application to the studies yet there was very commendable progress. About an average school.

The winter term was taught by Mr. A. S. Edgerly, of Meredith. The appearance of the school gave early indication of a good result. The closing examination established that it was one of our best winter schools; a state of things quite sure to result from systematic instruction and practical analysis. Shall be glad to see him again.

#### DISTRICT NO. 7.

Only one term; taught by Miss Lydia C. Bean, of Bristol. Small school; good order and attention to studies; a good black board has been procured; the house is not quite sufficient.

#### DISTRICT NO. 8.

The summer term was taught by Mrs. R. E. Wells, of Bristol. School was very quiet, and there was good attention to studies. A good degree of improvement, as appears from previous reports. Order and progress very good.

The winter term was taught by Mr. Levi N. Leavitt, of Meredith. A very short term; but they endeavored to make the best of it, and probably did so. But those who expect much can be done in three or four weeks only, would probably be satisfied after having once made the trial.

#### DISTRICT No. 9.

There was no summer term. The winter term was taught by Mr. Alpheus Mitchell, of Bridgewater. One of the best regulated and most efficient schools. Zealously and actively interested, there was need of but little more to ensure success. Let him return to us again.

#### DISTRICT No. 10.

Summer term taught by Miss Maria G. Ayer, of New-Hampton. Very good order, and quiet. In reading poetry the *sing song* style was quite prevalent. Appearance rather idle and heedless; a sort of negative school, with some good scholars. Small progress, perhaps. The register has not been delivered to the committee.

The winter term was taught by Miss Susan D. Hazeltine, of Chester. The first appearance of the school was very much improved. The progress great. It was nearly a model school, and deserving the best commendation. In answering to the question of discipline, the teacher says:—"Upon entering the school room, this motto, 'Order is Heaven's first law,' is placed over the door, and each pupil required to observe it, by *persuasion* if possible, if not, by *severer*

“*measures*. It seems pleasant, next, to secure the love and confidence of all such as can be gained without sacrificing strict discipline for the sake of pleasing. These give each scholar *regular and sufficient employment*, teaches them to think, improve time, have some definite object in view, some fixedness of purpose,—in short, to act as rational minds should, from a sense of duty rather than the impulse of the moment.”

#### DISTRICT No. 11.

There was only one term in this district, and that taught by Miss Harriette A. Wright;—a small school, and mostly small scholars. Very good progress. Some scholars rather inclined to be idle, but by being drawn by strict discipline, and incited by correct motives, this inclination is set in the right direction. Somewhat larger and improved from last year.

In conclusion, let me urge upon the attention of parents, patrons, committees, the inhabitants of the districts, and all who are or ought to be interested for the promotion of popular and universal education—a general diffusion of knowledge, promoting the intelligence and welfare of society, and exalting the social, mental and moral capacities, that they shall hold supreme, yet associated control of physical and subordinate existence.

A table is prepared as well as the imperfect condition of the registers would furnish the means, showing many particulars not otherwise appearing, and is appended to this report.

All which is respectfully submitted.

GEORGE TENNEY,

*Superintending School Committee.*

Am't paid for tuition in academies and private schools.																								165.15
Number of incorporated academies.																								348
Number of school houses built during the year.																								121
Number of visits by citizens.																								1344
Number of visits by prudential school committees.																								202
Number of visits by superintending school committees.																								13.40
Amount appropriated for each scholar.																								7.964
Amount of railroad tax for support of schools.																								1.524
Amount of income from the literary fund.																								
Amount of income from the local funds.																								
Amount of local funds for the schools.																								
Amount contributed in board, fuel, etc., to prolong the schools.																								
Amount of money raised by taxes for the schools.																								
Number of female teachers in the winter schools.																								
Number of male teachers in the winter schools.																								
Number of female teachers in the summer schools.																								
Number of male teachers in the summer schools.																								
Number of persons between 14 and 21 years of age that can neither read nor write.																								
Number of children between 4 and 14 years of age, not attending school anywhere.																								
Number of scholars over 16 years of age, attending school not less than 2 weeks.																								
Number of scholars between 4 and 16 years of age, attending school not less than 2 weeks.																								
Average attendance of scholars in winter schools.																								
Average attendance of scholars in summer schools.																								
Number of scholars four years of age and upwards, attending winter schools not less than 2 weeks.																								
Number of scholars 4 years of age and upwards, attending summer schools not less than two weeks.																								
Wages of female teachers a month exclusive of board.																								
Wages of male teachers a month, exclusive of board.																								
Length of winter schools in weeks.																								
Length of summer schools in weeks.																								
Whole number of different scholars 4 years of age and upwards, attending school not less than 2 weeks.																								
Districts.																								

Whole number of scholars attending School two weeks,

Length of all the Schools, in weeks, during the year,

Average attendance in Summer Schools,

Average attendance in Winter Schools,

Average wages of Male Teachers, per month,

Average wages of Female Teachers, per month,

Amount appropriated to each Scholar,

