

REPORTS

OF THE

SELECTMEN

AND

SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE,

OF THE

TOWN OF BRISTOL, N. H.,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING

MARCH 7, 1856.

CONCORD:

JONES & COGSWELL, PRINTERS.

1856.

REPORT.

The Selectmen Credit the Town for the Year ending March, 1856, as follows:

	By list of taxes assessed in April, 1855, . . .	\$2,237 20
	School-house tax in School District No. 10, . . .	25 00
	Literary fund for 1855,	76 83
	Railroad tax for 1855,	120 64
May	Money hired of F. Bartlett,	100 00
Nov.	Money hired of Polly W. Eaton,	450 00
Jan. 1, 1856.	Money hired of Mary Mudgett,	136 00
Feb. 1856.	Money hired of Rebecca Taylor,	105 00
	Cash of Collector 1854,	69 11
May, 1855.	Received on County pauper claim,	47 25
	Received of Gilman Ingalls, on note,	8 79
	Cash on D. B. Bartlett's note,	6 18
	Cash on Abbot Lovejoy's note,	10 08
	For use of town hall,	4 00
	For liquors of G. P. Smith,	341 43
	Received Blodgett estate,	76 80
		\$3,814 31

DISBURSEMENTS BY THE SELECTMEN.

Outstanding Orders, Bills and Claims.

1854-55.	R. S. Blaisdell, robe for H. C. Johnson and Mrs. Polly Simons,	\$2 12
	Reuben Emmons, for stone,	2 20
	Ruth Smith, for work at Blodgett's,	3 00
	Joseph Kidder, for labor on road,	4 00
	J. B. Chase, for goods for David Eaton,	2 50
	D. S. Mason, for planting, " "	8 05
	Robert Smith, " "	6 94
	J. M. R. Emmons, services,	34 00
	S. Cavis & Son, for goods,	36 35
	D. S. Fowler, for labor,	26 11
	William Chase, Joseph Sanborn, for support of Polly Lowell,	2 84

	G. M. Cavis, Town Clerk,	\$15 00	
	Printing Reports and express,	16 25	
	Benjamin Kidder, for support of Mrs. Allen,	52 00	
	S. Page, for coffin for Mrs. Simons,	4 00	
	Sanborn Gale, for labor,	6 40	
	Dr. J. S. Chase, medical aid,	12 00	
	S. S. Sanborn, for labor,	11 30	
	Stephen Nelson, for labor,	13 50	
	Daniel Tyrrell, labor,	14 92	
	Augustus Atwood,	11 00	
	Ezekiel Follansbee,	3 00	
		<hr/>	\$287 48
1855.	Paid State tax,	\$189 70	
	Paid County tax,	250 33	
		<hr/>	\$440 03

1854. *Abatement of Taxes.*

	Abel Hart,	\$1 47	
	L. S. Dustin,	1 60	
	Michael Clarry,	2 27	
	George Schoonover,	1 60	
	W. L. Gillfilin,	1 60	
	Samuel Goodwin,	1 71	
	C. P. George,	2 29	
	William Sanborn,	1 60	
	L. Brock,	1 68	
	R. Swett,	1 60	
	Alfred Philbrick,	1 60	
	Joseph Wood,	1 60	
	Fred. Cross,	1 60	
	E. Sene,	1 60	
	Richard Greenwood,	1 60	
	Francis Crooker,	1 60	
	David St. James,	1 60	
	Adolphus Tarrier,	1 60	
	L. D. Bunnell,	2 27	
	Dexter Brown,	2 44	
	Michael Cook,	1 60	
	Cumnil Nouri,	2 33	
	W. C. Brown,	1 60	
	Bruno Busha,	1 64	
	A. P. Hart,	1 60	
	Moses Ash,	1 60	
	Michael Clarry, School House tax,	11	
	Eben Prescott, " "	6	
	Dexter Brown, " "	5	
		<hr/>	\$35 52

1855.	James Musgrove,	\$1 84	
	Blodgett Place,	4 59	
	Daniel Pattee,	1 84	
	George Webster,	1 84	
	Benjamin Follansbee,	1 84	
	Abel Hart,	2 83	
	John Kidder,	1 84	
	Lyman Rollins,	1 84	
		<hr/>	\$18 46

School House Money.

1855 Jnne.	G. Bartlett, District No. 10,	\$25 00
------------	-------------------------------------	---------

School Money.

	R. Smith, District No. 1,	\$15 86	
	J. C. Blaisdell, " 2,	140 00	
	O. S. Hall, " 3,	36 85	
	J. M. R. Emmons, " 4,	27 87	
Jan.	J. S. Gilman, " 5,	43 45	
	Benjamin Kidder, " 6,	45 80	
	Seth Spencer, " 7,	15 19	
	Moses Cheney, " 8,	40 74	
Feb.	John Hastings, " 9,	50 95	
	Abbot Lovejoy, " 10,	145 40	
	R. H. Sawyer, " 11,	54 05	
	Caleb Whittemore, prop.,	2 47	
		<hr/>	\$618 63

Highways and Bridges.

April 6.	R. B. Rollins, labor,	32 60
	B. Q. Fellows, labor,	17 70
	Samuel Higbland, labor,	1 00
	Abram Dolloff, labor,	13 52
	J. T. Kendall, lumber,	8 40
	P. C. Bean, labor,	21 37
	Joseph Rollins, lumber,	18 80
	Warren White, use of derrick,	5 00
	Gilman Ingalls, labor,	15 39
	Kidder & Dearborn, lumber,	4 16
	Bartlett & Taylor, nails and spikes,	4 76
May.	James Gilman, labor,	1 50
	H. M. Emmons, labor,	9 60
	Moses Cheney, labor,	45 05
	Caleb Whittemore, stone and lumber, . . .	3 00
	B. L. Wells, labor,	4 00
	S. T. Hoit, labor,	4 37

	D. S. Fowler, labor,	\$2 60
	Joseph Fogg, labor,	2 20
	Joseph Kidder, labor,	4 00
	P. S. Drake, labor,	7 87
	Kiah Wells, labor,	8 25
	F. P. Nutting, lumber, &c.,	76 25
	J. S. Gilman, labor,	3 00
	Gould & Haines, for bolts,	36 63
	William Chase, lumber,	35 37
	John Hastings, labor, &c.,	12 42
	J. B. Smith, labor,	4 00
	R. Smith, labor and lumber,	27 93
	Levi Bartlett, lumber,	48 28
July	E. W. Cheney, labor,	9 62
	O. S. Hall, labor and lumber,	63 56
	J. T. Sanborn, labor,	27 00
	S. S. Brown, labor and lumber,	17 50
Nov. 15.	Gulf bridge lost,	325 75
	Ten mile brooks bridge and Dist.,	38 61
	D. S. Mason, lumber and labor,	69 00
	John Sleeper, labor,	4 00
	Amos Brown, labor and lumber,	1 50
	John Hastings,	1 00
	Peter Whittemore, lumber and boards,	5 00
	Enoch Rowe, labor,	1 25
	T. G. Currier, for use of blocks,	1 50
	John Peasley, for use of blocks,	1 25
		<hr/> \$1034 56

1855.

Support of the Poor.

May 1.	Paid N. H. Asylum for support of Lydia Glidden,	\$93 79
	Dr. J. S. Chase, for doctoring the poor,	15 00
	Dr. T. Rogers, doctoring Josiah Hubbard's family,	15 00
	For support of Mrs. Blodgett and Polly Lowell,	237 97
	Ruth Kidder, for support of Mary Allen,	60 00
	Josiah Brown, for support of William Sanborn,	51 62
	For support of David Eaton,	65 69
	S. S. Brown, for support of Elijah Trull,	44 00
		<hr/> \$583 07

1855.

County Claims.

April.	Paid Joseph Kidder for support of Sarah P. Tucker,	\$56 85
--------	---	---------

Dr. H. B. Fowler, for doctoring J. P. Prescott,	\$6 00	
Philip Mitchell, for doctoring Prescott, . .	9 00	
		<u>\$71 85</u>

1855. *Current Expenses.*

Oct.	F. Bartlett, crossing land,	\$8 50	
	O. F. Morse, crossing land,	5 00	
	J. P. Dolloff, crossing land,	17 50	
	Moses Cheney, crossing land,	2 00	
	Thomas Holt,	2 00	
	Caleb Whittemore,	2 00	
	E. N. Worthing, tolling bell,	6 00	
April.	James T. Sanborn, enrolling soldiers, . .	3 00	
	D. E. Everett, enrolling soldiers,	1 00	
	Lovejoy & Kelly, horse damage,	25 00	
	J. D. Prescott, horsehire,	5 87	
	J. T. Sanborn, expenses to Manchester, and money paid out,	3 25	
	F. Bartlett, to Franklin,	1 50	
	O. F. Morse, for board,	1 00	
	Paid for liquors,	451 00	
			<u>\$534 62</u>

1855. *Town Officers' Bills.*

March.	Levi Locke, Treasurer,	\$10 00	
	George Tenney, services as Sup. School Committee,	30 00	
	D. E. Everett, services as clerk,	14 17	
	Abbott Lovejoy, collector,	31 66	
	D. S. Mason, services as Selectman, for the year 1855,	36 25	
	James T. Sanborn, do	46 75	
	S. S. Brown, do	35 00	
			<u>\$203 83</u>

RECAPITULATION.

Whole amount received,	\$3814 31
Paid outstanding orders,	287 48
State and County tax,	440 03
Abatement of taxes, 1854 and 1855,	53 98
School house money,	25 00
Support of Schools,	618 63
Highways and bridges,	1034 56
Support of Poor,	583 07

Current Expenses,	\$534 62
Town Officers,	203 83
County claims,	71 85
	<hr/>
Whole amount paid,	\$3853 05
Whole amount received,	3814 31
	<hr/>
Balance due the Treasury,	\$38 74

ESTIMATED DEBTS AGAINST THE TOWN, MARCH 7TH,
1856,

Mrs. P. W. Eaton's note,	\$202 06
J. M. R. Emmons, two notes,	247 78
F. Bartlett, note,	105 00
Mrs. P. W. Eaton, note,	459 00
Mrs. M. C. Mudgett, note,	137 36
Mrs. R. Taylor, note,	105 52
Calvin Swett, note,	37 10
Outstanding orders,	522 49
	<hr/>
	\$1816 31

Schedule of Notes and Claims due the town March 7th, 1856.

Persons.	Principal.	Interest.	Amount.
Reuben Lowell, June 22, 1843,	\$150 00	\$163 89	\$313 89
Benjamin Cass, Feb. 26, 1855,	26 00	4 96	30 96
D. B. Bartlett, Aug. 2, 1853,	100 00	3 00	103 00
D. L. Bennett, Nov. 7, 1855,	14 45	30	14 75
County Pauper claim,			15 00
Money in Collector's hands, 1855,			191 97
Money due C. P. Fellows, 1854,			75 00
Due from Lowell Co.,			50 00
Balance in Treasurer's hands,			260 16
			<hr/>
Total,			\$1054 73

Amount of Town Debts, \$1855 05
 Amount of Claims of the Town, 1054 73

Balance against the Town. \$800 32

Which is respectfully submitted,

DANIEL S. MASON, } *Selectmen*
 JAMES T. SANBORN, } *of*
 SILAS S. BROWN, } *Bristol.*

REPORT
OF THE
SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE
FOR THE YEAR
1855-6.



SCHOOL COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

The past year has witnessed the usual successful operation of the schools. And although they are not yet advanced to a condition which is most desirable, there has obviously been in some respects, very perceptible improvements. It cannot reasonably be expected that the fullest advantages should be derived from them, until a more liberal patronage is bestowed upon them, and the usual interest manifested in the education of the children, that is accustomed to be felt in the ordinary affairs of life. It is due to the Prudential committees, to say that their very ready and efficient services have contributed in no small degree to render the labor of superintending them, as light as possible. But in some few of the Districts there seems to have been an unfortunate neglect of their clearly prescribed duties, resulting in some inconvenience to the Superintendent. And it may not be improper to suggest that enough importance should be attached to the office, and sufficient care exercised, in the selection, to promote their best interest in a judicious discrimination in procuring teachers, and appropriating the funds of the district.

The schools have been somewhat shorter the past year, in consequence of there having been no appropriation beyond the amount required by law to be raised. This want has been in some measure supplied, in several of the districts, by private schools, sustained either by subscription, or voluntary assessments. The better way is, doubtless, and the investment more judicious, to raise by vote two or three hundred dollars in addition to be appropriated in the ordinary manner. And it will doubtless be voted for the next year. The sum might be reasonably increased each year, without detriment, until \$1000 shall be annually appropriated for their support.

The whole number of weeks which the schools have kept during the year is 144. The length of the summer schools was 80 weeks, and the winter schools 64 weeks.

The whole amount of school money to be appropriated for that purpose the past year, was \$616 16. Of this sum \$573 33 was divided among all the districts according to the valuation, and \$142,83 was divided according to the number of scholars. This sum divided equally among all the scholars gave to each \$2.14. In the several districts it varied from \$1.23 to \$6.20 as will appear by referring to the table.

Whether any division is more just and equitable, than that based upon the principle of taxation is a matter for the citizens to consider, as a division according to the number of districts is of much assistance to the smaller ones, and very considerably lengthens their schools.

The whole number of scholars who have attended the schools two weeks or more during the year, is 287. Of this number 264 were between 4 and 16, and 23 were over 16 years of age. The whole number of those who attended the summer schools, was 209. And the number of those who attended the winter schools was 189. The average number in summer, was $26\frac{1}{2}$ and the average attendance was 20. The average number in winter was $31\frac{1}{2}$ and the average attendance $22\frac{1}{2}$. The registers show a number of scholars 50 less than were reported last year.

There has been some improvement made in the school-houses during the past year. In Nos. 3 and 8, the windows are now furnished with curtains, and in No. 4, instead of the old stone hearth and fireplace, with each particular stone askew, is now seen a good and firm one of brick. In No. 10, the grounds have been graded and a neat and substantial fence has been erected around them. It has before been furnished with curtains, and a set of Bliss' Outline Maps. The addition of a few trees in the grounds, in the spring would be a pleasing addition. Some of the others still ought to be improved.

In the report of last year it was suggested that the union of Nos. 2, 10, and 11, would be advantageous, and the suggestion is renewed. It was also suggested that there was much need of some apparatus for the use of the schools. Such as a globe, a set of Outline Maps, and a Dictionary to which both teachers and scholars should have access. The expense would be quite inconsiderable compared with the advantages to be derived from their use. It is doubtful if an exact knowledge can be attained without them. Here is much leisure time for the smaller ones, and in fact all have more or less, and a bare wall has few attractions and present very little to arrest the attention. But if the walls were hung with Maps, Charts, Pictures, Sketches of Landscapes, scenery, or other objects of interest, as the eye wanders over them, some thought or motive might be aroused, which would incite the ambitious, and give a new direction to the ideas, and instruction would be imparted in an almost imperceptible manner.

The selection of teachers has, for the most part, been quite fortunate. And they were generally successful in securing the obedience and respect of the scholars. In no case has any one been under the necessity of surrendering the charge of the school, having assumed it. And it is believed they have given very general satisfaction. In some districts it would seem that to attempt to please all, would be quite a hopeless task, And it is to be regretted that any should be found, who, instead of extending their sympathy, and exciting their influence to promote the best interest of the schools, seek to stir up strife and disorder. The teacher's task is no sinecure, whether well or ill done,

and being properly qualified, and worthy of patronage, ought never to fail of receiving a ready cooperation. It is an important trust, and they who assume it with the bare expectation of sustaining the examination, have a conception of its demands quite too narrow. To teach even the elementary studies successfully requires a full knowledge of the sciences and familiar illustration, and great tact to seize upon, and explain, or suggest with facility. It is perceptible that there has been an improvement in the deportment of the scholars. And that the cultivation of good manners has not been entirely neglected. There is, no doubt, a necessity of still more attention to it. And any omission, or neglect, in that, should receive the constant attention of the teacher. Good manners, in fact, properly observed, would restore to both teacher and scholars that uniform courtesy which would avoid all the annoyance and weariness, incident to the constant watchfulness which is so often the greatest care.

In most of the schools there is usually a very great amount of tardiness and absence. In the largest school in town the past winter there was only one scholar who was present every half day and only seven who were not tardy at all, during the term of fourteen weeks. It is a matter to which the parents should attend, and quite likely a little care would prevent its future occurrence.

In some of the schools the advantageous use of the blackboard is getting to be known, that it may be as usefully used in Geography, as Arithmetic. In No. 4, the geography class appeared to better advantage if possible at the board, than otherwise, small scholars whose time is not occupied with studies and recitations, may profitably spend a portion of the time in drawing or learning to write.

The studies pursued in the schools for the most part were limited to reading, spelling, writing, geography, history, arithmetic and grammar. Yet in several of them were physiology, philosophy, algebra and book keeping. Besides, there were, in many of them rhetorical exercises, consisting in declamations, compositions, and in a few a paper was sustained by contributions from the more advanced scholars, and a very great facility was thus acquired in the expression of their thoughts, and the construction of sentences.

In many of the districts, the teachers were able to sing, and wherever it was practicable, it was made a daily exercise, and afforded a pleasant relief from the more severe laborious studies, exerting a favorable influence on the mind and feelings, and it is hoped will afterwards beguile many lonely hours, and awaken pleasant memories.

In closing this report, it may be added, that to sustain the schools, and make them productive of the greatest good, requires the aid and sympathy of all our citizens. And that liberal appropriation for their support is the most judicious investment for the children.

GEORGE TENNEY, *Superintending School Com.*

Bristol, March 1856.

STATISTICS OF SCHOOLS.

TEACHERS.

	PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEES.	SUMMER SCHOOLS.	WINTER SCHOOLS.
1	Robert Smith,	Kate S. Sawyer,	Mary F. Ferson, Abbie A. Locke. Olive J. Cheeny.
2	John C. Blaisdell,	Annie M. Pierce,	
3	O. S. Hall,		
4	Charles Heath, } J. M. R. Emons, }		Maria A. Pike. Calista E. Doten.
5	John S. Gilman,	Calista E. Doton,	
6	Benjamin Kidder,	Laura A. Cass,	
7	Seth Spencer,	'Sarah M. Nickerson,	
8	Moses Cheeny,		S. J. Hawkins. } Priscilla W. Pike. } John Sanborn.
9	John Hastings,		
10	Abbott Lovejoy,	Mary F. Ferson,	
11	Richard H. Sawyer,	Kate S. Sawyer,	

No. of Districts.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
Whole No. attending School.	8	72	30	14	7	29	10	21	28	42	26	287
No. attending Sum. Schools.	8	71		14		14	10	21		46	26	209
No. attending Win. Schools.		63	30		7	24				42		189
No. over 16.		4	3			4		2	4	6		23
Average attendance of Scholars in summer.	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	49	5-7			18 $\frac{1}{2}$	9	1-16	17	5-6		20
Average attendance of Scholars in winter.		48 $\frac{1}{2}$	20	1-6		18	9-10		20 $\frac{1}{2}$	30	5-6	22 $\frac{1}{2}$
Length of Summer Schools in weeks.	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	12				6	8		8			80
Length of Winter Schools in weeks.		14	10		8 $\frac{1}{2}$	81-6			12 $\frac{1}{2}$	11		64
Number of female teachers in Summer.	1	1		1		1	1			1	1	7
Number of female teachers in Winter.		1	1			1	1					4
Number of male teachers in Winter.										1		1
Amount appropriated for each scholar.	1 98	1 94	1 23	1 92	6 20	1 54	1 52	1 96	1 81	3 46	2 08	2 14
Wages of Female teachers per month.	6 00	11 00	10 00	8 00	12 00	8 00	8 50	11 00	10 00	11 00	8 00	103 50
No. of visits by Supt. Com.	2	7	3	2	1	3	1	3	2	5	5	7 35
No. of visits by Prud. Com.		4						3				7
No. of visits by citizens.		8	6			8	12	1	65	4		187



