

REPORTS

OF

THE SELECTMEN

AND

SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE

OF THE

TOWN OF BRISTOL,

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING MARCH 1863.

CONCORD:

PRINTED BY MCFARLAND & JENKS.

1863.



REPORT.

The Selectmen credit the Town for the year ending March, 1863, as follows :

By list of taxes assessed April, 1862,	\$2,994.21
Nonresident highway tax,	2.62
Cash in the Treasury, April 1, 1862,	193.71
Cash received on highway tax,	22.19
Cash received from literary fund,	84.51
Cash received from Railroad tax,	139.42
Cash received for use of Town House,	3.50
Cash received from Sunapee,	65.68
Cash received on taxes assessed April, 1861,	161.38
	<hr/>
	\$3,667.22

Money hired of A. J. Crockett,	\$1000.00
“ Levi Bartlett,	550.00
“ O. P. Gurdy,	450.00
“ Seth Cass,	200.00
“ Samuel Smith,	100.00
“ Samuel Brown,	100.00
“ Nathaniel Bachelder,	1000.00
“ Ira S. Chase,	500.00
“ Joseph Cass,	450.00
“ John F. Cass,	200.00
“ M. J. D. P. & A. D. Nelson,	200.00
“ Jane Bartlett,	800.00
“ Relief W. Haley,	842.00

“	Amos Brown,	325.00	
“	Horace Emons,	200.00	
“	Ira S. Chase,	900.00	
“	A. K. Simonds,	300.00	
“	Amos Brown,	130.00	
“	J. M. R. Emons,	300.00	
		<hr/>	\$8,547.00
			<hr/>
			\$12,214.22

Disbursements of the Selectmen as follows :

Paid County Tax,	\$501.50	
State Tax,	214.40	
	<hr/>	\$715.90

Abatement of Taxes.

D. & D. S. Mason & Co.,	\$25.00	
D. C. Willey, 1860,	2.50	
Isaac May, 1862,	2.07	
Frank Tennant, 1862,	2.07	
Isaac Morse, 1862,	2.07	
Jane W. Sanborn, 1862,	1.72	
	<hr/>	\$35.43

School Money.

District No. 1.	O. E. Eastman,	\$22.04	
“ “ 2.	N. B. Buttrick,	176.02	
“ “ 3.	Stephen Nelson,	36.93	
“ “ 4.	J. M. R. Emons,	30.41	
“ “ 5.	S. W. Swett.	42.09	
“ “ 6.	B. F. Sanborn.	41.73	
“ “ 7.	D. Cass, Jr.,	13.97	
“ “ 8.	P. S. Drake,	46.68	
“ “ 9.	John Hastings,	49.23	
“ “ 10.	J. T. Sanborn,	160.21	
“ “ 11.	O. F. Morse,	63.05	
	Wilson Foster,	4.69	
		<hr/>	\$687.05

New Road and Fowler's River Bridge.

Sanders Simonds,	\$82.23	
Cyrus Hobbs,	410.00	
William Sanborn,	8.00	
J. T. Sanborn,	6.00	
J. M. Sleeper,	1.75	
A. K. George,	41.22	
J. A. Haynes,	52.25	
Gilman Sanborn,	3.75	
E. Follinsbee,	1.50	
John Hastings,	29.64	
Joel Bailey,	11.00	
C. H. Mudgett,	2.75	
Benj. Wells,	5.00	
Levi Bartlett,	20.00	
D. S. Fowler,	8.34	
Jonathan Corless,	17.00	
	<hr/>	\$722.23

Highways and Bridges.

L. B. Hoit, plank,	\$27.88
D. M. Chase,	1.80
John Hastings,	14.20
S. S. Fellows,	19.25
Horace Emons,	7.85
P. S. Drake,	10.25
Stephen Nelson,	2.00
Woodbury Sleeper,	4.14
G. W. Worcester,	4.20
R. Rollins,	3.33
J. W. Sanborn,	4.80
R. Smith,	5.00
P. C. Bean,	10.70
D. S. Mason,	6.00

S. S. Fellows,	7.85	
S. W. Heath,	.75	
Rufus Page,	2.05	
Samuel Hilans,	.54	
C. L. Clay,	1.40	
Charles Kidder,	6.95	
F. H. Rollins,	23.10	
	<hr/>	\$164.04

Support of the Poor.

Mrs. Emons and Family,	\$21.10	
Mrs. Basset,	17.50	
H. B. Fowler's bill,	5.50	
William Flanders,	64.80	
Clark Fuller,	5.00	
Stephen Bohonon's wife,	30.50	
Reuben Emons, Jr.,	12.50	
William Sanborn,	65.31	
Mary Swett,	6.33	
	<hr/>	\$228.54

Town Officers' Bills.

Samuel Berry,	\$6.75	
M. W. White,	15.00	
Levi Bartlett,	45.00	
John Hastings,	45.00	
P. S. Drake,	40.00	
J. M. Bishop,	10.00	
John Currier,	30.00	
J. M. Sleeper,	43.00	
	<hr/>	\$229.75

Miscellaneous Expenses.

S. K. Mason,	\$17.00
C. Taylor & Co.,	7.44

M. W. White,	8.23	
Town reports for 1862,	15.00	
Society interest money,	6.00	
J. Minot, Esq.,	5.00	
J. B. Gordon,	17.00	
Mr. J. Colley,	3.00	
	<hr/>	\$78.67

State Aid to Families of Volunteers.

Lucinda Prescott,	\$28.00	
A. S. Smith,	48.00	
S. E. Swett,	54.00	
E. T. Emons,	72.00	
A. E. Cheney,	24.00	
M. T. Randolph,	48.00	
Ermina Swett,	48.00	
O. C. Brown,	72.00	
Priscilla Sanders,	72.00	
C. C. Dow,	96.00	
T. E. Osgood,	40.00	
M. L. Laney,	24.00	
S. B. How,	32.00	
James Mushgrove,	48.00	
	<hr/>	\$706.00

Bounty to Volunteers.

Webster Heath,	\$200.00
A. P. Horn,	200.00
C. G. Smith,	200.00
A. D. Nelson,	200.00
D. P. Nelson,	200.00
M. J. Nelson,	200.00
U. H. Kidder,	200.00
R. W. Mushgrove,	200.00
Lois Rowe,	200.00

G. C. Currier,	200.00	
A. W. Jewett,	200.00	
J. F. Chase,	200.00	
J. P. Plumer,	200.00	
H. R. Kidder,	200.00	
Timothy Tilton,	200.00	
C. S. Brown,	200.00	
H. A. Randolph,	200.00	
J. P. Fellows,	200.00	
R. Easter,	200.00	
M. B. How,	200.00	
Frank Darling,	200.00	
W. P. Harlow,	200.00	
L. B. Laney,	200.00	
Benjamin Sanders,	200.00	
J. H. Ingalls,	200.00	
Sylvester Swett,	200.00	
R. D. Swett,	200.00	
E. B. Ferrin,	200.00	
Gustavus Emons,	200.00	
T. E. Osgood,	200.00	
S. D. Hunt,	200.00	
Benjamin Swett,	200.00	
Charles Melvin,	200.00	
Frank Seabry,	200.00	
J. P. Dennison,	200.00	
George Bodwell,	200.00	
D. E. Everett,	200.00	
H. A. Fellows,	210.00	
H. B. Fowler,	204.00	
Interest paid on bounties,	12.25	
	<hr/>	\$7,626.25
Whole amount received,		\$12,214.22

Paid Out.

For State and County taxes,	\$715.90	
abatement of taxes,	35.43	
school money,	687.05	
new road and Fowler's River bridge,	722.23	
highways and bridges,	164.04	
support of the poor,	228.54	
town officers' bills,	229.75	
miscellaneous expenses,	78.67	
State aid to families of volunteers,	706.00	
bounty to volunteers,	7,626.25	
	—————	\$11,193.86
In the hands of the Collector for 1861,	\$17.09	
In the hands of the Collector for 1862,	677.37	
In the hands of the Treasurer,	366.00	
	—————	\$1,060.46

Estimated Debts of the Town.

F. Bartlett,	\$157.85	
M. C. Mudget,	206.65	
J. M. R. Emons,	330.23	
William Green,	344.13	
Mrs. J. M. Fellows,	212.00	
Miss Crawford,	589.57	
	—————	\$1,840.43
A. J. Crocket,	1,035.00	
Levi Bartlett,	567.50	
O. P. Gurdy,	463.50	
Seth Cass,	206.00	
Samuel Smith,	103.00	
Samuel Brown,	102.88	
Nathaniel Bachelder,	1,028.33	
Ira S. Chase,	514.17	
Joseph Cass,	461.25	
M. J. D. P. & A. D. Nelson,	205.00	

Jane Bartlett,	820.00
R. W. Haley,	860.95
Amos Brown,	331.83
Horace Emons,	203.00
Ira S. Chase,	911.70
A. K. Simonds,	303.00
Amos Brown,	131.30
J. M. R. Emons,	302.50

Notes given for bounty to volunteers :

Adna M. Hall,	205.67
O. P. Hall,	205.67
C. N. Drake,	205.00
H. W. Drake,	205.67
D. S. Sleeper,	205.67
D. S. Hutchinson,	205.67
H. A. Fellows,	195.50
Amos Damon,	205.67
Charles Cheney,	205.67
Blake Fowler,	204.00
	————— \$12,436.20

Due the Town.

Reuben Lowell note,	\$450.00
D. S. & Cyrus Bennett,	21.08
In Collector's hands,	677.37
In Treasury,	366.00
Due from the State,	700.00
	————— \$2,221.45

Balance against the town, \$10,214.75

LEVI BARTLETT, } *Selectmen*
 JOHN HASTINGS, } *of*
 PHILIP S. DRAKE, } *Bristol.*

BRISTOL, March 2, 1863.

R E P O R T
OF THE
SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

Your committee, in submitting this annual report of your public schools, would say that, during the past year, your schools have been generally prosperous and useful. The prudential committee have been usually fortunate in securing the services of competent teachers. There was, however, a very pleasing diversity, in respect to age, experience, temperament, attainments, mode of teaching, discipline, and government. Some are "apt to teach," and are especially adapted to the work of teaching. Their whole bearing is such as to impress the mind of the student that "to obey is better than sacrifice," and seem, without any apparent effort, to inspire respect for good and wholesome authority. Others there are, whose literary qualifications are unquestionable, who, nevertheless, "are not born to command." Such will always make failures in teaching. A teacher without skill or power to govern will be unsuccessful, and should engage in some other calling.

In the reports of the various districts, it is not to be expected that all the excellencies or defects of teachers will be exhibited. This would make the report unreasonably large. Your attention is called to some things which, in the opinion of your committee, are detrimental to the usefulness and prosperity of your schools.

In some schools, whispering is allowed. This is a great evil, and should be excluded at once. The school-room should be still

and quiet. No student can apply himself to hard thinking and study amidst the confusion induced by this pernicious habit. If the scholar wants any assistance, the teacher is there to attend to all his reasonable wants. In a majority of cases where correction is necessary, it is occasioned by this habit.

The practice adopted by some teachers of permitting their pupils to go out, to go to the stove to warm, to visit the water-pail, when they choose, without liberty, marching and counter-marching, running to the teacher with words to be pronounced, and to make inquiries about where they begin, together with a dozen hands up at the same time, produces a state of confusion which makes the school-room unpleasant, and the school nearly useless.

Another thing which is a serious drawback to the prosperity of your schools, is the want of convenient and suitable school-houses. One district has furnished a beautiful and attractive school-house : several others are quite respectable. Four or five are in a dilapidated state—poor, cold, mutilated, altogether inconvenient, and unsuited to the purposes for which they were designed. Into these cheerless and unattractive places, as gloomy and repulsive as the prison house of death, are your children compelled to go, from day to day, for the cultivation of the taste, the formation of the habits, the development of the intellect, the refinement and elevation of the moral sense. Many farmers provide quite as well for the shelter of their cattle, as parents provide for the comfort and convenience of their children in the school-room. Considering your locality, influence, wealth, and this age of enterprise and progress, I submit whether the condition of some of your school-houses is not highly discreditable to those who are immediately responsible.

Another serious evil is, many of the schools are by far too short, to make that improvement which is desirable. Six out of eleven districts have but one term, of from $3\frac{1}{2}$ to 13 weeks during the year. The average length of the schools, in town, the past year, is a fraction over 14 weeks.

Will any one who is competent to judge, with these facts before them, say that adequate provision is made for the education of our youth and children?

A wise and liberal policy should at once be adopted. Many parents are so extremely anxious to accumulate something for their children in the shape of dollars and cents, that they will suffer them to grow up in comparative ignorance, and with empty heads, and uncultivated hearts, go out into the world altogether unfitted for the active duties and responsibilities of life. It has become a question in many districts in the employment of teachers, Who will serve us for the least pay? instead of inquiring, Who will be the most useful and profitable to our children? The result has been, cheap, and inexperienced teachers have been employed, and your funds expended, to no good purpose, and the time of your children worse than wasted. The facts are, thoroughly qualified and competent teachers, will command good pay, and districts must make their calculations accordingly, and finally every parent, philanthropist, patriot and Christian, should gather around our common schools, and give them their generous and undivided support. These are the palladium of our liberties—the safe-guards of our country. A government constituted like ours, will be prosperous and permanent only as the masses become educated and intelligent. How can this be accomplished, except through the medium of common schools?

DISTRICT REPORTS.

DISTRICT No. 1. The Summer, and only term, of 8 weeks, was taught by Miss Addie H. Sargent. The school appeared well and made good improvement. But what can be accomplished in only 8 weeks for the year?

DISTRICT No. 2. Miss Rebecca P. Chase, taught the summer terms of 9 weeks each. She is an experienced teacher, and labored hard to awaken an interest in the minds of her pupils. Many of them were not in attendance half of the time

while the school was in progress. Those who attended regularly found it a profitable term. The exercises at the close, and especially the singing, were interesting.

The winter term of 11 weeks was under the care of William Reed, Jr. He entered upon his work without any previous experience in teaching. His literary qualifications were unquestionable; but the term was not as prosperous as we hoped it would have been. The first visit, your committee found about 50 scholars in attendance,—at the next, 24, and at the last, 30. As a thorough disciplinarian, he was found wanting, and failed to secure that respect and exert that controlling influence in the school-room which is so essential to the highest success.

DISTRICT No. 3. The summer term of 12 weeks was taught by Miss Sarah F. Herbert. This was a small and quiet school. The teacher gave good satisfaction.

DISTRICT No. 4. The Summer term, of 7 weeks, and the Winter term, of 10 weeks, were taught by Miss Hannah Fisher. Both terms were prosperous. A good degree of interest was manifested on the part of the teacher and scholars. The school house is the best in town, convenient and attractive.

DISTRICT No. 5. Miss Sarah M. Roby, teacher. The Summer term of 13 weeks. A small school, well conducted. Good improvement was made.

DISTRICT No. 6. The Summer term, of 6 weeks, and winter term, of 7 weeks, were taught by Miss Addie H. Emons. The school was quiet and orderly, and the improvement creditable, considering the shortness of the terms.

DISTRICT No. 7. Miss L. A. C. Bean, teacher. Summer term, $3\frac{1}{2}$ weeks. This was a model school, taught by a thorough and systematic teacher, of long experience. It was a matter of regret that she was obliged to leave the school unfinished, on account of sickness. Miss Bean has entered upon a *new* and more responsible *calling*, which is not to be measured by *terms*.

DISTRICT No. 8. Winter term, of $12\frac{1}{2}$ weeks. Miss Mary F. Fellows had the charge of this school. She is an energetic and faithful teacher. The scholars were orderly and quiet, and seemed interested in their studies.

DISTRICT No. 9. Miss Fanny E. Spalding, teacher. Winter term, of 12 weeks. Miss Spalding applied herself with diligence to promote the best interests of her pupils; and the progress was quite encouraging, considering they have but one term during the year.

DISTRICT No. 10. The Summer term, of 12 weeks, was under the care of Miss Sara M. C. Musgrove. She has the faculty to please, as well as to instruct. The closing examination was satisfactory, giving evidence of faithfulness on the part of the teacher, and diligence on the part of the scholars.

Mr. Stillman Clark taught the winter term, of 11 weeks. Mr. Clark came among us highly recommended as an able and popular teacher. In entering upon his work he brought to his aid a large experience in previous teaching. At the close of the term some of the classes gave evidence of progress, and especially in arithmetic. Had the discipline been a little more thorough it would have been much more pleasant to the teacher and profitable to the school.

DISTRICT No. 11. Miss Hattie E. Darling taught the two Summer terms. The first, of 10 weeks, and the second, of $7\frac{1}{2}$ weeks.

Miss Darling has the faculty to interest her pupils in their studies, and gave good satisfaction.

JOHN CURRIER, *S. S. Committee.*

Bristol, Feb. 26, 1863.

STATISTICAL TABLE.

DISTRICTS.	Terms of Schools.	Length of Schools, in weeks.	Whole number of Scholars.	Average attendance.	Wages of teachers per month, including board.	No. of visits by S. S. Committee.	No. of visits by Prudential Com.	No. of visits by others.
Number 1,.....	First,....	8	12	10	56 13.00	1	.....	19
Number 2,.....	First,....	9	41	34	17.00	2	.....	19
	Second,..	9	54	43	17.44	2	.....	25
	Third,..	11	50	36	26.00	3	2	11
Number 3,.....	First,....	12	16	12	13.00	2	.....	12
Number 4,.....	First,....	7	17	16	13.00	2	.....	24
	Second,..	10	19	17	13.00	2	1	38
Number 5,.....	First,....	13	11	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	12.00	2	.....	13
Number 6,.....	First,....	6	20	18	10.00	2	.....	24
	Second,..	7	19	16	12.00	2	1	10
Number 7,.....	First,....	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	13	12	12.00	1	.....	9
Number 8,.....	First,....	12 $\frac{1}{2}$	20	18 $\frac{1}{2}$	13.12	2	.....	5
Number 9,.....	First,....	12 $\frac{1}{2}$	23	21	12.67	2	.....	12
Number 10,.....	First,....	12	44	32	20.00	2	2	21
	Second,..	11	54	44	30.00	2	1	14
Number 11,.....	First,....	10	22	17	14.00	2	.....	3
	Second..	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	22	18	14 00	2	.....	4