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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SELECTMEN, TREASURER,

AND

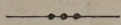
SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE

OF THE

TOWN OF WEBSTER,

FOR THE

Year ending March 1, 1876.



CONCORD, N. H.:

PRINTED BY THE REPUBLICAN PRESS ASSOCIATION.

1876.

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NEW YORK
STATE

REPORT.

Whole amount of taxes committed to the collector for 1875, was	\$3,059.96
The collector has discharged himself as follows:	
Paid town treasurer, cash, abatements, and receipts for non-resident highway taxes worked out,	2,330.30
	\$729.66
Amount due from collector,	\$729.66

RECEIPTS.

Received of former treasurer,	\$1,004.93
Dog tax,	38.00
State bonds,	4,000.00
P. W. Whittier, collector, 1873,	128.79
" " 1874,	1,049.22
" " 1875,	2,330.30
Atherton Sweatt, for state bond, No. 552,	527.50
Jesse D. Sanborn, " 559,	500.00
" " 560,	500.00
John Sanborn, " 558,	500.00
State treasurer, interest on bonds,	210.00
" savings bank tax,	783.00
" railroad tax,	204.54
" literary fund,	63.21
County, support of paupers,	142.25
	\$11,981.74

SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURES.

Paid miscellaneous bills,	\$183.59
roads and bridges,	173.44
school money,	833.39
abatements,	13.44

Paid support of paupers,	\$407.56
state and county tax,	1,682.04
bonds and interest,	3,558.14
non-resident highway tax, paid in labor,	65.21
town officers,	263.04
cash in treasury,	631.64
dog tax,	65.00
state bonds in treasury,	2,000.00
town treasurer, state bonds sold,	2,000.00
school-house tax,	40.00
September appraisal,	65.25
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	\$11,981.74

MISCELLANEOUS BILLS.

Paid George Little, services selectman for 1874,	\$2.25
E. C. Eastman, for blanks,	4.58
George Little, for inv. book for town-clerk and express,	5.40
H. G. Stone, sheep killed by dogs,	10.00
J. C. Jackman, refreshments,	2.00
C. C. Kimball, services selectman, 1874,	2.25
I. C. Waldron, surveyor, breaking roads,	17.40
Hollis Jackman, digging graves, care of town- house and cemetery,	14.70
C. F. Blanchard, digging grave,	2.00
Republican Press Association, printing reports,	32.00
F. L. Burbank & Son, for plank,	9.79
P. R. Stevens, for water,	3.00
Walter H. Flanders, digging grave,	1.50
C. C. Kimball, for water,	3.00
J. L. Gerrish, expense perambulating town line,	5.00
“ horse hire,	4.75
“ blanks and postage,	2.97
C. C. Kimball, postage and stationery,	1.50
“ horse hire and expenses,	6.25
H. G. Stone, “	7.00
“ perambulating town line,	1.50
Atherton Sweatt, board and room rent,	15.00
Thomas Elliott, water,	2.50
Perley Jackman, digging graves and care of yard,	7.50
W. W. Burbank, services selectman, 1874,	2.25

Paid P. W. Whittier, blanks and postage,	\$3.50
O. H. Fitz, for water,	2.00
N. H. Arey, for board,	6.00
Jos. H. Sanborn, for water,	2.00
Abiel Trumbull, notifying town officers,	4.00
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	\$183.59

Non-resident highway tax, paid in labor,	65.21
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ABATEMENTS.

Paid Wm. W. Austin, on tax 1873,	9.45
sundry abatements on tax 1874,	3.99
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	\$13.44

ROADS AND BRIDGES.

J. S. Adams, snowing bridge,	\$1.50
Ira P. Whittier, on Elliott bridge,	7.75
H. G. Stone, work on bridge,	2.00
T. J. Hardy, cutting bushes on road,	5.00
C. P. Little, work on highway,	1.50
D. G. Holmes, plank, and use of horse,	3.00
J. A. Flanders, work on road,	1.35
C. E. Putney, work on roads,	3.50
D. N. Couch, work on highway,	1.50
M. T. Stone, “	3.00
Wm. Clough, “	6.00
J. H. Sanborn, “	5.00
Wm. A. Huntton, “ and culvert,	8.33
F. A. Shepard, surveyor, 1874, work on road,	11.97
Lyman Roby, “ “	3.00
D. C. Eastman, “ “	3.00
H. H. & J. L. Gerrish, “ “	11.62
I. F. Balch, “ “	22.30
A. G. Kimball, drawing shavings for road,	10.50
T. C. Sweatt, work on road, 1874,	6.20
M. A. Pillsbury, “	3.38
L. A. Rice, breaking road,	4.88
Cyrus Dustin, “	2.00
G. W. Jackman, work on road,	1.50
John Kilborn, “	13.25

C. C. Kimball, lumber	\$1.00
“ work on roads,	19.25
O. H. Fitz, “	3.00
Jane O. Couch, “	3.00
Jos. Cross, “	4.16
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	\$173.44

SCHOOL MONEY.

Paid Atherton Sweatt,	District No. 1,	\$67.95
Tyler C. Sweatt,	“ 2,	61.34
Moody A. Pillsbury,	“ 3,	113.69
David C. Rolfe,	“ 4,	62.64
Tristram Sanborn,	“ 5,	47.13
Charles H. Fitz,	“ 6,	104.38
William W. Austin,	“ 7,	63.31
Joseph B. Thurber,	“ 8,	175.93
Francis S. Putney,	“ 9,	129.95
Sherman Little,	“ 10,	7.07
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		\$833.39

STATE AND COUNTY TAX.

Paid state tax,	\$888.00
county tax,	794.04
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	\$1,682.04

SCHOOL-HOUSE TAX.

Paid Joseph B. Thurber, District No. 8,	\$40.00
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SUPPORT OF PAUPERS.

Paid N. H. Asylum, support of Moses Sawyer,	\$114.91
Roxalana Jackman, support of Ira Jackman,	30.00
Lewis Florence, support of Alfonsine LeFevre,	16.00
D. C. Hubbard, goods for Geo. Smart,	5.00
G. T. Sanborn, support of Susan Sweatt,	50.00
Thomas Foote, coffin for Call child,	3.00
Pearson & Little, goods for I. Jackman,	31.83
F. A. Shepard, procuring coffin,	1.00
Thomas Hardy, support of Abigail Hardy,	10.00
N. H. Arey, medical attendance, Call and Jackman,	24.75
T. J. Corser, arrest and trial of a tramp,	16.82

H. P. Fairbanks, funeral expense, Lydia R o	
E. Silver, drawing wood to Jackman,	9.00
L. Silver, cutting six cords of wood for Jackman,	5.25
J. C. Jackman, support of transient pauper,	1.00
G. T. Sanborn, support of Susan Sweatt,	25.00
R. E. French, support of Call family,	61.00
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	\$407.56

BONDS AND INTEREST.

Paid by order John Sanborn, interest on bonds,	\$70.20
Jesse D. Sanborn, "	154.44
Albe C. Sweatt, "	35.10
C. C. Kimball, "	35.10
Miriam G. House, interest and bonds,	321.06
E. Wyman, interest on bonds,	84.24
Ch. D. Glitten, "	105.30
Eldad Austin, "	35.10
Calvin Little, "	35.10
J. L. Gerrish, "	35.10
Wm. Burpee, "	28.08
H. L. Dodge, "	210.60
Ira Call, "	35.10
Geo. Little, "	35.10
Wm. B. Burpee, interest on note, dis- trict No. 8, Boscawen,	11.28
Jesse D. Sanborn, bonds and interest,	707.00
Geo. Watson, interest on bonds,	14.04
Jesse D. Sanborn, bonds and interest,	1,025.60
John Sanborn, "	512.80
F. B. Sawyer, "	67.80
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	\$3,558.14

TOWN OFFICERS.

Paid Cha's C. Kimball, selectman and overseer of the poor,	\$48.75
Hiram G. Stone, "	40.50
James L. Gerrish, "	41.25
Atherton Sweatt, town-clerk,	21.54
" town treasurer,	20.00
Phineas W. Whittier, collector, 1875,	40.00

Paid Ephraim Little, services S. S. Committee,	\$15.00
Warren Abbott, " and books,	23.00
James M. Snyder, services as S. S. Committee,	13.00
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	\$263.04

SEPTEMBER APPRAISAL.

Paid C. C. Kimball, services,	\$24.75
H. G. Stone, " "	18.00
J. L. Gerrish, " "	22.50
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	\$65.25

DEBT OF THE TOWN MARCH 1, 1876.

In bonds,	\$11,800.00
In note, school district No. 8, in Boscawen,	188.00
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	\$11,988.00

ASSETS.

Due from state, volunteers' bounties, advanced in 1864,	\$958.40
Due from P. W. Whittier, collection, 1873,	32.67
" " " 1874,	125.72
" " " 1875,	729.66
Stock of liquor,	34.43
State bonds,	2,000.00
Cash in treasury,	631.64
" dog tax,	65.00
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	\$4,577.52
Balance against the town,	7,410.48

CHARLES C. KIMBALL,	} <i>Selectmen</i>
HIRAM G. STONE,	
JAMES L. GERRISH,	
	} <i>of</i>
	} <i>Webster.</i>

REPORT

OF THE

SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

To the citizens of the town of Webster :

The schools, during the past year, have, for the most part, been unusually satisfactory. Not less than half of them have been taught by persons of large experience, who love their work, and have thrown into it their best efforts. Some of the younger instructors, too, have done splendidly, and give promise of taking high rank in their chosen vocation.

DISTRICT No. 1 (*Sweat's Mills*).

Summer term—Miss Mattie George, teacher. Wages per month, including board, \$26; length of school, in weeks, $10\frac{1}{2}$; whole number of pupils, 11; average attendance, 10.

The presence of many parents and friends, at the close of the term, gave evidence of an interest beyond the school-room. The examination was very satisfactory. Miss George is a teacher of large experience, and ranks among the best in town.

A.

DISTRICT No. 2 (*Pleasant St.*).

Summer term taught by Miss Esther D. Gill. Wages per month, including board, \$20; length of school, in weeks, 11; whole number of pupils, 16; average attendance, $14\frac{3}{4}$.

Notwithstanding this was Miss Gill's first term, she gave general satisfaction. A larger experience, with her scholarly attainments, will enable her to rank well as a teacher. A.

Winter term—Miss Lovina D. Tebbetts, teacher. Length

of term, 8 weeks; wages per month, exclusive of board, \$12—board given by the district; whole number of pupils 17; average attendance, $15\frac{1}{3}$.

It was evident, at the commencement of the school, that a part of the pupils were determined to do their best, and the conclusion was irresistible, that, to them, the term would be profitable,—while the teacher seemed to try to make it so to all. What success attended her efforts we are unable to say, for, failing to receive notice when the school was to close, the committee missed being present. L.

DISTRICT No. 3 (*Corser Hill*).

Summer term taught by Miss Fannie Sawyer. Length of school, 8 weeks; wages per month, including board, \$22; number of pupils, 14; average attendance, 11.

Miss Sawyer is an excellent young lady, with a fine education, and thus not only has a good influence over her pupils, but causes a true foundation to be laid upon which to build an education.

Winter term taught by W. Abbott. Wages per month, including board, \$37; length of school, 8 weeks; whole number of pupils, 19; average attendance, $17\frac{1}{2}$. A.

DISTRICT No. 4 (*Battle St.*).

Summer term—Miss Addie T. Little, teacher. Length of school, in weeks, 6; wages per month, including board, \$20; whole number of pupils, 6; average attendance, $5\frac{1}{4}$.

The closing examination showed that good progress had been made. The promptness in answering, and the good understanding of the various branches taught, not only spoke well for the pupils, but for the faithfulness of Miss Little as a teacher.

Not absent or tardy during the term, Lewis Rolfe, Clinton Jackman, Ina Stone, Alice Harriman. A.

Winter term—Mr. Cyrus A. Stone, teacher. Length of school, 7 weeks; wages per month, including board, \$20; whole number of scholars, 5; average attendance, $4\frac{1}{7}$.

Mr. Stone is a teacher of experience, and, though the school was small, he did not therefore think it allowable to put in a small amount of work, but labored with conscientious diligence to make the term profitable to the utmost for the few who enjoyed its advantages; and the result was a decided improvement in the several branches taught. L.

DISTRICT No. 5 (*Sanborn Hill*).

Summer term taught by Miss Emma J. Flanders. Length of term, in weeks, 7; wages per month, including board, \$14; whole number of pupils, 4; average attendance, $3\frac{1}{4}$.

Miss Flanders was in earnest for the advancement of her pupils. The examination showed, although the term was short, that considerable progress had been made. A.

Winter term—The same teacher. Length of school, 7 weeks; wages per month, including board, \$14; number of pupils, 8; average attendance, $7\frac{1}{2}$.

The teacher seemed interested in her school. The deportment was good, and the progress very commendable. S.

DISTRICT No. 6 (*Little Hill*).

Summer term—Miss Cynthia A. Towne, teacher. Length of term, in weeks, 8; wages per month, including board, \$24; whole number of pupils, 10; average attendance, 8.

Miss Towne has had less experience than some as a teacher, but she manifested commendable interest in the welfare of her pupils; and the closing examination evidenced a good understanding of the parts of the text-books studied. A.

Winter term—Miss M. Lizzie Putnam, teacher. Length of school, in weeks, 8; wages per month, including board, \$26; whole number of scholars, 12; average attendance, $11\frac{1}{2}$.

The term has been a very profitable one, satisfactory in all respects. In view of the excellent qualifications of this teacher, as well as of her fidelity and success, the committee have no hesitation in saying,—fortunate is the school that secures her for instructor. L.

DISTRICT No. 7 (*White Plain*).

Summer term—Miss Ellen K. Abbott, teacher. Wages per month, including board, \$30; length of term, 8 weeks; whole number of pupils, 7; average attendance, 7. A.

Winter school taught by the same teacher. Length of term, 8 weeks; wages per month, including board, \$30; whole number of pupils, 9; average attendance, 9 nearly.

Miss Abbott possesses in a high degree the ability of leading the quick and intelligent scholar rapidly and pleasantly along the paths of learning. She also has the power, still more rare, of adapting her instruction to the wants of the feeblest intellect.

Much praise is due the teacher for the proficiency shown by her pupils. It is a rare pleasure to listen to their impromptu compositions upon any subject assigned them. Their ready, correct, and intelligent answers show that their instruction has been thorough, and that they have been taught to think. Scarcely less is praise her due for awakening aspirations and desires for learning in one who sat bound in the dark prison-house of imbecility. L.

DISTRICT No. 8 (*Bashan*).

Summer term—Miss Hattie I. Pervier, teacher. Length of school, 8 weeks; wages per month, including board, \$26; whole number of pupils, 26; average attendance, 24.

The examination showed a thorough drill. Although Miss Pervier had but little experience, there was more real teaching than we usually find in our common schools. A thorough preparation,—herself a graduate from Concord high school,—with a natural aptness for teaching, places her among the first.

Pupils not absent, tardy, or dismissed during the term: Eddie Gerrish, Madison Thurber, Cora A. Thurber, Jettie Thurber. Pupils not absent during the term: Maud Burbank, Effa Burbank, Louise Flanders, Joey Searls. Pupils who have not

missed in spelling during the term: Rhoda Flanders, Jettie Thurber, Lizzie Thurber. Pupils who missed but one word: Anna Flanders, Mattie Kimball.

Fall and Winter terms taught by Mrs. Sarah B. Gerrish. Length of Fall term, 8 weeks; wages per month, including board, \$26; whole number of scholars, 26; average attendance, 23. Length of Winter term, 8 weeks; wages, \$26; whole number of scholars, 20; average attendance, 16.

Mrs. Gerrish is an excellent teacher, and by her kind words, earnest manner, and faithful labors for the welfare of her scholars, readily won their confidence and affection. In both terms the order has been excellent, the pupils yielding a cheerful obedience to the commands of the teacher, and heartily coöperating with her in her efforts to make the school what it should be. The appearance of the school at both examinations was highly satisfactory. s.

DISTRICT No. 9 (*Putney*).

Summer term—Miss Clara A. Putney, teacher. Length of school, 8 weeks; wages per month, including board, \$24; whole number of pupils, 16; average attendance, 14.

From Miss Putney's known success as a teacher, we expected much, and were not disappointed. The examination was excellent. The many bright boys and girls of the district, with a teacher like Miss P., would soon place this in the van of our schools. A.

Winter term taught by same teacher. Length of school, 11 weeks; wages per month, including board, \$28; number of pupils, 23; average attendance, 19½.

Miss Putney is one of our best teachers, and has sustained her former reputation. She has worked hard for the school, and the results are very satisfactory. The parents and friends who were present at the closing examination, must have been pleased, as were the committee, to witness the respect and affection manifested by the pupils towards their teacher, the readiness with which they answered questions, drew maps,

solved problems upon the board, and the handsome manner in which they acquitted themselves in all their exercises.

s.

During the year, 331 visits were made by parents and friends to our schools, showing an increased interest on their part. It is hoped that the citizens generally will manifest a greater zeal in the cause of education.

Upon the young are placed our hopes for the future. Soon the responsibility of sustaining the varied interests of the community will rest with them. They are now in process of training for their work. Their sympathetic natures crave recognition, appreciation, sympathy. Coldness, neglect, or indifference can hardly fail to have upon them a blighting effect; while an affectionate regard for their welfare, and a just appreciation of their improvement, will do much to encourage them to do their best. We would also suggest the importance of discrimination in the choice of teachers. New England is overflowing with educated young ladies. Please, Mr. Prudential Committee, not to send for examination persons ignorant, not only in books, but in human nature. Remember, that the difference between a good school and a passable one is immeasurably great.

Respectfully submitted,

EPHRAIM LITTLE,	} <i>Superintending</i>	
WARREN ABBOTT,		<i>School</i>
JAMES M. SNYDER,		<i>Committee.</i>

ABSTRACT OF NOTES PREPARED FOR THE CENTENNIAL.

What is now the town of Webster was, till 1860, a part of Boscawen; and the history of that town includes the early history of our own. The original grant of the township to John Coffin and others bears date 1732. Settlements were made in the easterly part of the town in 1734, but not within the limits of Webster till several years later.

The early settlers did not set a light value upon the cause of education. Amid all the hardships of pioneer life, aggravated as they were by the French and Indian wars, something was done for schools. Even in the trying times of the revolution, educational interests were not neglected. At its annual meeting, March 5, 1776, one hundred years ago, the town, besides transacting business relating to the war and other matters, "provided for schools, and gave the people liberty to resolve themselves into school districts."

No school-houses had been built, but the schools were taught in private dwellings,—the one that accommodated West Parish people being kept on Water street, in the house of the late Thomas Coffin.

We find in the records no mention of any school west of Beaver-dam till 1784, when one was taught on Corser Hill by Mr. Josiah Burbank, a grandson of Capt. Moses Burbank, one of the first settlers, and one in Putney district, by Mr. William Fisk. Dea. Enoch Little, Sr., taught school in 1789, in the house that was afterwards the home of Rev. Ebenezer Price. He had nearly fifty scholars. The room was lighted by half a sash only. There were plank seats, but no desks. Few of the pupils had slates, and some who learned to write used birch bark for want of paper.

In 1789 Miss Phebe Knight moved into town, and taught school on Little Hill. She afterwards married Mr. Nicholas Moody.

In 1794 the town was divided into school districts, and school-houses were erected.

In 1808 the legislature passed a law for the better regulation of schools, creating the office of Superintending Committee. Rev. Ebenezer Price, the minister of the West Parish, was a member of the first committee. He officiated as superintendent of schools for nearly forty years. He was faithful and kind. Blessed be his memory.

Our schools have done much to bring up an intelligent population, and some who have enjoyed their advantages have exerted a wide influence.

There have gone out from these sterile hills of Webster, 12 college graduates, 6 clergymen, 5 lawyers, 3 editors, 4 physicians, 1 professor, and a large number of teachers. There have been educated also in our schools many excellent women, who have "shone as lights in the world" wherever their lot has been cast. Among their children may be found one college president, one professor, several preachers of the gospel, and many teachers. Many business men, too, have been here trained, whose influence is being felt in nearly every state and territory of the Union, and even in foreign lands.