

1879

Annual Report of the Municipal Officers of the Town of Falmouth for the Year Ending March, 1879

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Municipal Officers

OF THE

TOWN OF FALMOUTH,

For the Year Ending March, 1879.



PORTLAND :
DAILY PRESS JOB PRINTING HOUSE.
1879.

ANNUAL REPORT.

TAXES ASSESSED, 1878.

For State tax,		\$2,758 54
“ County “		1,050 64
“ Schools,	\$2,000 00	
“ Bridges,	700 00	
“ Town Officers,	400 00	
“ Poor,	800 00	
“ Highways,	500 00	
“ Contingences,	600 00	
“ Overlay,	422 84	
“ Supplement,	73 26	
“ Unpaid Highway,	298 04	
	<hr/>	5794 14
		<hr/>
		\$9,603 32

Total Valuation, \$676,835.

Number of Polls, 370.

Rate of Taxation, \$1.20 on \$100.00

Each Poll pays \$3.00.

Account of Expenditures.

FOR TOWN OFFICERS FOR 1878.

Appropriation,		\$400 00
B. F. Hall, as Selectman and C.	\$64 00	
Geo. D. York, " " "	60 13	
L. S. Washburn,	52 00	
D. F. Small, as Clerk, Treasurer, Col. and C.	84 64	
Lucien Ingalls, as Supervisor,	68 00	
	————	\$328 77

HIGHWAYS.

Appropriation,		\$500 00
Daniel Wilson,	\$ 2 40	
Leonard Merrill,	6 60	
Arthur Bucknam,	5 55	
Lorenzo Leighton,	10 80	
J. W. Merrill,	7 00	
Wm. H. Allen,	9 20	
Hale Leighton, for gravel,	10 00	
C. W. Winslow,	3 20	
F. O. Pride,	5 00	
Amos Knight,	10 00	
Curtis Colley,	2 52	
Edwin R. Adams,	2 00	
G. R. Leighton,	22 00	
A. J. Dearborn,	4 46	
A. F. Winslow,	21 00	
Robert Huston,	28 02	
Arthur Bucknam,	17 25	
Monroe Bucknam,	3 00	
C. W. Winslow,	14 53	
Silas O. Skillins,	22 00	
Sam'l Watts,	39 00	
Geo. F. Merrill,	29 39	
Small & Newman,	4 68	
Geo. D. Sargent, nails,	42	
Fenwick Merrill,	13 00	
West Falmouth Mfg. Co.,	8 05	

<i>Amount brought forward,</i>	\$301 07
J. J. Merrill,	64 00
G. R. Leighton,	7 00
J. F. Mountfort,	2 40
A. F. Winslow,	19 20
Geo Mountfort,	32 20
Kendall & Whitney,	17 58
Albion P. Field,	11 88
Edw. P. Merrill,	5 00
Frank Noyes,	5 50
Joseph Knight,	8 40
Granville Hall, 3 years' gravel,	10 00
Chas. W. Noyes,	5 25
William Libby,	20 14
Benj. Hall,	42 40
Oliver Hardy,	25 89
Arch. Lewis,	5 80
Barber & West, posts and rails for mill creek hill,	22 88
G. R. Leighton,	4 40
Geo. W. Allen,	4 65
	<hr/> \$615 64

BRIDGES.

Appropriation,	\$700 00
Charles Knight,	\$ 4 00
Emery & Waterhouse, Falls Bridge,	5 95
Stephen Huston, jr. " "	15 43
D. T. Hamilton, " "	14 00
L. S. Washburn, Hobbs "	13 00
John Noyes, Falls "	6 00
D. S. Cobb, " "	10 00
John P. Morrison, Field's "	6 85
Benj. F. Hall, Hobbs "	30 67
A. F. Winslow,	8 68
Edw. Merrill, Falls "	1 84
Stephen Huston, Hobbs "	3 00
Seward Latham, Falls "	18 00
Rufus Deering & Co. " "	101 27
	<hr/> \$238 69

CONTINGENCIES.

Appropriation,		\$600 00
E. C. Blanchard, care of town house,	\$ 4 00	
Wm. M. Marks, printing town reports,	17 00	
King & Dexter,	90	
W. H. Allen, breaking roads,	3 20	
A. L. Burbank, revising shipping list,	3 00	
Dresser, McLellan & Co., stationery,	15 00	
Charles Cobb, office rent,	12 00	
Small & Newman, stationery,	1 06	
D. F. Small, non-resident tax deeds,	9 75	
Robert Huston, breaking roads,	6 00	
C. W. Winslow,	3 00	
John Maxwell, tax paid town of Gray,	1 43	
Portland Publishing Co.,	18 00	
Silas Skillin, preambulating lines,	6 00	
Merrill Noyes, interest,	42 00	
Alfred Hicks, committee on burying grounds,	1 00	
Bela Blanchard, " " " "	1 00	
Stephen Staples, pream. lines,	3 00	
Daniel Wilson, breaking roads,	3 10	
Lorenzo Leighton, " "	3 20	
	————	\$153 64

OUT POOR.

Small & Newman,	for Bachelder,	\$104 00
Geo. D. Sargent,	" H. H. Stubbs,	42 91
" " "	" Thos. R. Beal,	14 03
Josiah Bailey	" Mrs. Roberts,	32 50
Lucien Ingalls,	" H. H. Stubb,	66 75
" " "	" J. L. Maxfield,	5 00
Maine General Hospital,	" "	8 00
Geo. D. Sargent,	" J. E. True,	12 32
	————	\$285 51

Report of Overseers of the Poor.

TOWN FARM IN ACCOUNT WITH TOWN.

Appropriation, \$800 00

DR.

To Small & Newman, for supplies,	\$456 75
“ Merrill & Brothers, “ “	52 26
“ Dexter H. Hamilton, bal. on salary, 1877,	98 20
“ “ “ “ salary, 1878,	172 34
“ Geo. W. Snell & Co., smith work,	11 35
“ “ “ “ “ “	20 30
“ Kendall & Whitney,	36 24
“ Richard Mountfort, labor,	9 97
“ S. S. Rich & Son, coffin and C. for Betsey Waite,	13 50
“ Edw. Merrill, sawdust,	6 53
“ “ “ lumber,	9 54
“ A. N. Noyes & Son, castings,	8 66
“ Portland Machine Works, sled shoes,	7 05
“ Albert Winslow, hauling hay,	11 50
“ David F. Hamilton, labor haying,	3 75
“ R. McGuire, use of horse “	4 00
“ Ira Winn, services of bull for 1877, 1878,	6 00
“ 2 bbls. of plaster,	2 50
“ Goods bought,	28 26
	\$958 70

CR.

By Produce sold,	\$17 84
“ Hay “	40 00
“ Labor done off farm,	77 00
“ 1½ cords wood furnished Aphia Knight,	6 00
“ 1 “ “ “ Mrs. Thurston,	4 00
	\$144 84

Greatest number of inmates, 7; present number, 6;
average, 6.

Inventory of stock and produce on the farm:—2 oxen, 2 cows, 3 shoats, 25 hens, 40 bu. potatoes, 12 bu. beets, 12 bu. corn, 13 bu. beans, $\frac{1}{2}$ bu. peas, $1\frac{1}{2}$ bu. herds grass seed, 225 lbs. pork, 3 doz. eggs, and vegetables of all kinds sufficient for the family's use, 2 bu. meal, 100 lbs. shorts, 30 lbs. lard, 4 lbs. sugar, 1 lb. tea and 1 gal. kerosene.

Additions made to farming tools and household articles:—2 shovels, 2 hay forks, 2 half-bushel measures, 1 ox sled, 8 chairs, 1 feather bed, 4 pillows and 3 comforters.

JOHN NOYES, } OVERSEERS OF
 GEORGE D. YORK, } POOR OF
 L. S. WASHBURN, } FALMOUTH.

SUMS RECOMMENDED TO BE RAISED.

For Schools,	\$2,000 00
“ Highways,	3,000 00
“ Bridges,	800 00
“ Town officers,	400 00
“ Poor,	800 00
“ Snow bills,	500 00
“ Contingencies,	500 00
	<hr/>
	\$8,000 00

JOHN NOYES, } SELECTMEN
 GEORGE D. YORK, } OF
 L. S. WASHBURN, } FALMOUTH.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

Herewith I have the honor to submit the annual report of the receipts and expenditures of the town of Falmouth for the year ending March, 1879, with its present financial condition.

RECEIPTS.

1878.		
March 5	Cash on hand,	\$642 76
	“ from exchange of oxen,	50 00
April 17	“ Pownal,	20 84
Aug. 1	“ “ L. F. Adams,	48 00
Sept. 2	“ “ C. Rice,	8 13
Nov. 1	“ “	14 08
“ 1	“ “ M. C. R. R.,	8 00
Dec. 2	“ “ C. Rice,	8 13
1879.		
Feb. 6	“ “ S. O'Brion,	75
“ “	“ “ Saco,	109 66
“ “	“ “ D. Allen,	2 00
“ “	“ “ S. Bell,	22 08
“ “	“ “ Geo. Mountfort,	2 40
“ 17	“ “ Tax of 1876,	1,008 58
“ “	“ “ “ 1877,	2,250 00
“ “	“ “ “ 1878,	4,410 10
		\$8,605 41

EXPENDITURES.

1878.		
Oct. 7	Paid Messrs. Shanchan,	\$1,001 60
“ “	“ C. H. How,	50 00
Nov. 7	“ County tax,	1,050 64
Dec. 2	“ John Noyes,	12 00
1879.		
Feb. 17	“ on State tax,	800 00
“ “	“ Town orders,	4,861 73
“ “	Cash on hand,	829 44
		\$8,605 41

FINANCIAL CONDITION OF THE TOWN.

ASSETS.

Cash on hand,	\$ 829 44
Due on tax bills,	6,150 00
“ “ notes,	1,600 00
“ “ tax deeds,	200 00
	<hr/>
	\$8,779 44

LIABILITIES.

Due Schools,	\$ 885 87
“ Notes,	1,110 00
“ State tax,	795 64
“ H. & H. B. Cleaves,	70 00
“ John Noyes,	90 00
“ G. D. York,	82 00
“ L. S. Washburn,	96 00
“ F. B. Blanchard,	75 00
“ Bela Blanchard,	2 00
“ D. F. Small, Clerk and Treas.,	39 75
“ “ Collector,	23 50
“ “ Constable,	10 00
“ Dexter Hamilton,	127 66
“ Snow bills and others—estimate,	600 00
	<hr/>
	\$4,017 42
Balance in favor of town	<hr/>
	\$4,762 02

Respectfully submitted,

D. F. SMALL, TREASURER.

I hereby certify that I have examined the accounts of D. F. Small, Treas. and Collector of Falmouth, and find them correctly kept and properly vouched.

BELA BLANCHARD, AUDITOR.

West Falmouth, Feb. 17, 1879.

SCHOOL REPORT.

Citizens of Falmouth:

The Annual Report of your Supervisor is now presented for your consideration.

Town Appropriation,	\$2,000 00
Received of State, (Mill Tax),	519 29
“ “ (School and Bank Tax),	276 35
Whole amount,	\$2,795 64

This was apportioned to the several districts as follows:

No. 1,	\$238 96	No. 7,	\$309 80
2,	253 74	8,	185 00
3,	289 23	9,	263 46
4,	193 53	10,	221 93
5,	253 74	11,	202 04
6,	196 37	12,	187 84

DISTRICT NO. 1.

Although the number of scholars at the close of the Summer Term was much smaller than at our first visit, yet those present gave evidence of creditable improvement. The Winter Term was in charge of Mr. E. H. Ramsdell, who has here met with his usual good success. Much hard work has been done this term by both teacher and scholars. The results were all that could be desired. The citizens showed their interest in the school by raising funds to prolong this term two weeks, and by valuable additions to school furniture during the year.

DISTRICT NO. 2.

Unfortunately the Summer Term of this school did not commence until May 20, thereby bringing a great part of the term in our hottest weather. The teacher seemed to fail to excite the interest of her scholars in their studies. The results were hardly satisfactory. The Winter Term is still in session, therefore cannot give final results. At the visits made, we found the teacher active and diligent, striving to make this a successful term. The class in grammar did so well as to be deserving of special notice. The classes in arithmetic were ready and quite thorough. In scholarship this school ranks among the best in town.

DISTRICT NO. 3.

The Summer Term of this school closed June 28 with satisfactory results. Miss Hill, who taught the Fall term, is evidently an active teacher, and seems to have a natural talent for imparting knowledge to her pupils. The school was a success. This district was especially fortunate in securing for their Winter Term the services of such a teacher as Mr. Dresser. He has had a large experience and a wide reputation; and upon entering the school room the visitor is at once impressed with the idea that he is master of the situation. We fully endorse his idea of teaching reading. This branch lies at the foundation of all knowledge, and too much attention cannot be devoted to it. The older scholars of this school are well advanced, and show a thoroughness and perseverance seldom surpassed in our common schools. The younger pupils were quiet and very attentive to their studies. We were highly pleased with the classes of beginners in arithmetic and grammar. The order was excellent. We pronounce this a profitable term.

DISTRICT NO. 4.

Never before have we seen so much interest on the part of the scholars of this district as was manifested at both of our visits during the Fall Term. We believe it attributable, in part to the attendance of scholars from No. 5, and the efforts of a faithful and untiring teacher. The school was a success. The Winter Term, under the same instruction, has been in session but two weeks, therefore cannot give the results, but predict a profitable term.

DISTRICT NO. 5.

This school has been taught throughout the year by Mrs. J. M. Thompson. This is the second year Mrs. T. has had this school in charge, and we believe she has labored hard for the interests of her pupils. Here has been shown the advantage of retaining the same teacher for several successive terms. The closing examination of both Summer and Winter Terms were a credit to both teacher and scholars. We are always glad to meet so many of the citizens in the school room.

DISTRICT NO. 6.

The number of scholars attending the Summer Term was small. At the close some of them bore very good examination in the studies pursued. Miss L. is a thorough scholar, and with larger experience will make an efficient teacher. Mr. A., the teacher of the Winter Term, has performed his duty faithfully. The school is still in session and cannot be fully reported. At our last visit we found the scholars orderly and industrious. Much improvement is being made in grammar and arithmetic. This bids fair to be a profitable term.

DISTRICT NO. 7.

The Summer Term of this school was hardly long enough to be really profitable. It was evident at our last visit that good work had been begun. Miss N. has some excellent methods of instruction. Miss Hawkes, the teacher of the Fall Term, is an earnest worker in the school room. Had more attention been given to the discipline of the school, better results would have attended her arduous labors. Mr. Hall, the teacher of the Winter Term, is evidently a person of fine morals and good literary qualifications, and no doubt would have succeeded well in some schools, but here there needs to be a teacher of more experience, greater physical strength, and a sterner disciplinarian. At our visit near the close we found good advancement had been made in analysis and algebra.

DISTRICT NO. 8.

As this school was taught by myself, will not judge of its results. There is credit due the scholars for close application to their studies and the good care of their house.

DISTRICT NO. 9.

The closing examinations of the Summer and Fall Terms gave evidence of creditable improvement in the branches pursued. It is seldom that we have the privilege of visiting a school under the tuition of such a teacher as was employed for the Winter Term. From the commencement it was apparent that the term would be a profitable one. Mr. J. secured at once the good will of his pupils, and at the same time the best of discipline was maintained. Much credit is due the scholars for the promptness and thoroughness manifested at our last visit. The school was a success.

DISTRICT NO. 10.

Miss Hawkes has had charge of this school throughout the year. The final examination of both terms gave evidence of fair success. The advanced class in arithmetic deserves special mention. They put their work upon the board as though they knew how to do it; explained it carefully, and answered all questions intelligently.

DISTRICT NO. 11.

The Summer Term of this school was the teacher's first attempt. There was noticeable improvement in most branches, especially reading.

More experience, with present advantages, will make Miss W. a successful teacher. The teacher of the Winter Term labored hard for the interests of her pupils. The final results were satisfactory. There are elements of good scholarship in this school, and the interests of the pupils imperatively demand a pleasanter and more convenient school room.

DISTRICT NO. 12.

The Summer Term numbered less than any other school in town. Here the teacher made her first trial. At the commencement some dissatisfaction arose in regard to the classification, yet we did what we thought was for the interest of the scholars. At the close we found the order good, and improvement fair. For the Winter Term, also, a young teacher was employed, but one of good scholarship. He evidently went into this school resolved to do his best. That he failed to satisfy all was, perhaps, due in part to his inexperience, but we fear mostly to circumstances not under his control. Fair improvement was made in most classes, especially in geography. Had the larger scholars done their duty, the term would have been more profitable.



GENERAL REMARKS.

In summing up the school work of the year we find that fair progress has been made in the most of our schools, but in some much less has been accomplished than ought to have been. Now the question naturally arises,

why is this? We answer, there may be several reasons; among others is the employment of a wrong class of teachers. Although we earnestly believe it has been the wish of our agents the past year to have successful schools, yet, through want of proper knowledge in the matter, they have employed in some cases young teachers where those of more experience should have been employed; in others, teachers of good reputation but not adapted for the particular wants of their school. We fear also that the matter of wages has had too much weight upon the employment of certain teachers. Our experience has been, as a rule, that where the best wages have been paid is where we have found the best results. We do not mean by this that by offering high wages we will secure first-class teachers, but we should aim at the employment of good teachers first, then pay them good wages. Another difficulty in the success of some of our schools is the want of school appliances, such as blackboards, globes, dictionaries, wall and outline maps, etc. Some improvement has been made the past year in the way of blackboards and wall maps, the latter being specially adapted for smaller scholars, and much good will result from their use. We are sorry to say it, but we do feel that another difficulty is the lack of interest shown by the parents in many of our districts. What we need is the co-operation of parents and guardians, and the careful supervision of school authorities, then will our schools take the high stand which we so much desire.

TEXT BOOKS. Although the progress of the pupil rests mainly upon the teacher, yet we believe the text book a valuable aid; but not so much depends upon the *kind* used as upon the general uniformity. It is the duty of committees to insist on town uniformity. To secure this, we have deemed it expedient to throw out of our schools the variety of geographies that has been allowed to accumulate for the last ten years, and substitute instead, Monteith's Series. The good interests of our scholars imperatively demanded a change, for in nearly every school we found a needless waste of the teacher's time. Our school in particular we will mention, where, for the ten scholars studying geography, we were obliged to form five different classes.

CONCLUSION. Before closing, your Supervisor again begs leave to ask your careful consideration of the necessity of special improvement in our schools. While we as citizens of Falmouth are aiming at special improvement on our farms, farm buildings, highways, etc., we should not forget that our common school system merits our first care, and that no money is more economically spent than that which increases the knowledge, health and comfort of our school children. As regards the first steps to be taken in this direction, we will only briefly mention that of the adop-

tion of the town system of schools instead of our present district system. Of course we cannot recommend this plan from our own personal experience, but only from that of others, and the fact that wherever the town plan has been adopted and given a fair trial, it has given the best satisfaction. It is claimed that the following results would grow out of the municipal system: 1. It would secure a more efficient system of school inspection and supervision. 2. It would secure permanency of supervision. 3. It would secure greater permanency of teachers. 4. A better class of teachers. 5. It will secure better school apparatus. 6. It would insure a larger aggregate of interest on the part of the community in each school.

F. B. BLANCHARD, SUPERVISOR.

Falmouth, Feb. 20, 1879.

TABULAR VIEW OF THE SCHOOLS OF FALMOUTH,
For the Year Ending February 20, 1879.

No. of District	Name of Teacher.		Whole No. Scholars.	Length of school, days	Whole attendance.	Average attendance.	No. not absent $\frac{1}{2}$ day.	Instances of tardiness	Terms taught before.	Wages of teacher per month, including board.	Price of Board per week.
	Summer Term.	Winter Term.									
1	Hattie R. Locke.	E. H. Ramsdell.	45	60	29	19	1	67	2	\$26 00	\$
2	Flora Starling.	H. J. Merrill.	50	40	33	25	4	81	5	28 00	2 00
3	Maggie J. Small. Laura M. Hill.	G. J. Dresser.	57	40	27	23	7	19	17	36 00	2 00
4	Julia M. Thompson.	Julia M. Thompson.	29	38	26	21	13	4	34	36 00	2 00
5	Julia M. Thompson.	Julia M. Thompson.	50	60	44	38	14	12	33	40 00	3 00
6	Hattie R. Locke.	W. A. Anderson.	30	45	15	12	5	23	3	26 00	3 00
7	Lillie M. Newman. Sadie B. Hawkes.	F. W. Hall.	61	33	32	29	10	16	1	34 00	
8	Annie L. Gowen. Ida Washburn.	F. B. Blanchard.	26	30	18	16	1	25	11	40 00	3 00
9	Sadie B. Hawkes.	I. D. Jordan.	52	53	28	25	1	4	2	25 00	2 25
10	Delia S. Whitney.	Sadie B. Hawkes.	39	45	19	14	1	19	11	29 00	2 50
11	Jennie L. Packard.	Maggie J. Small.	32	40	22	20	0	94	13	34 00	2 50
12		H. B. Mountfort.	27	40	13	10	3	58	0	18 00	2 00
			60	23	17	5	108	0	36 00		