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Annual Report of the Selectmen of the Town of Orrington For the Year 1862-1863

Town of Orrington, Maine

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE SELECTMEN OF

THE TOWN OF ORRINGTON,

FOR THE YEAR 1862--'63.

Pay of Town Officers for 1862.

Solomon Bolton, Superintending School Com.	\$50,00
Warren George, notifying town meetings,	3,34
	<hr/> \$53,34

Support of the Poor for 1862.

Samuel Ryder, for keeping Keziah Baker,	\$15,56
Sarah Phipps, boarding Mrs. Sally Baker,	11,25
Drake & Phillips, supplies to Benoni Baker,	3,52
	<hr/> \$30,33

Miscellaneous Expenses, 1862.

S. S. Smith, printing town & S. Sch'l Com. Rep's,	13,00
Warren Nickerson, care of Town house,	3,00
L. E. Smith, abatement of road tax, 1861,	8,14
E. L. Fowler, cost on suit against S. Trask,	20,00
	<hr/> \$44,14

Pay of Town Officers, 1863.

James Freeman, Selectman, Assessor and Overseer,	\$36,72
Lincoln Wheelden, " " " "	24,53
Joseph Doane, " " " "	36,18
Joseph Doane, Treasurer and services paying bounties,	50,00
James Freeman, paying State aid to soldiers' families,	10,00
Joseph D. Baker, Collector of taxes,	58,50
E. G. Nickerson, warning Town Meetings,	4,00
Jesse H. Nickerson, Town Agent,	3,76
George E. Chapin, Sup. School Committee,	5,50
	<hr/> \$229,19

Support of Poor, 1863.

Elisha Baker, keeping Mrs. Fowler,	\$90,00
John T. Nickerson, boarding Richard Ryder,	77,00
E. & L. Wheelden, supplies to " "	17,38
Alfred Richardson, keeping Cordelia Baker,	26,00
Mrs. Hodsdon, keeping Peter Fields' wife,	14,00
Sarah Phipps, keeping Benoni Baker's wife,	20,25
H. & O. A. Marston, wood to Benoni Baker,	2,75
Eunice Young, keeping A. Nickerson's son,	4,40
Prince Higgins, burial expenses Cordelia and Keziah Baker,	8,00
Dr. D. C. Nason, attendance on Cordelia Baker,	13,00
Jonathan N. Brown, sickness of Keziah Baker,	8,00
Overseers' supplies to Peter Fields' wife,	8,00
" of Orneville supplies to J. R. Powers,	40,75
" " Oldtown, " " H. Fowler,	12,00
" " Fairfield, " " J. Ryder,	75,50
" " Brewer, board and supplies to Mrs. M. A. Billington,	161,58
" for clothing to Mrs. Billington,	10,77
	<hr/> \$589,38

Miscellaneous Expenses, 1863.

David Bugbee, for Stationery, checks, &c.	\$9,06
Joseph D. Baker, abatement of taxes,	83,27
Treasurer of School Fund interest,	69,42
T. W. Dean, for steps for Poor house,	62
Nathan Nickerson, for Town deed,	50
Joseph Doane, money hired of Treasurer to pay State aid,	71,00
Joseph Doane, payment of soldiers' Blankets,	143,50
Stamps, blank Book and Stationery,	8,12
	<hr/> \$385,49

The Treasurer in Account with the Town of Orrington, DR.

To balance in the Treasury, Feb. 19th, 1863,	\$562,19
“ money raised for the support of poor,	400,00
“ “ “ “ town charges,	400,00
“ “ “ to pay Loans,	2000,00
“ overlayings in assessments,	217,53
“ highway deficiency,	94,87
“ cash received of Bucksport, for perambulating T. lines,	2,00
“ cash received of Fish committee,	5,79
“ “ “ J. C. Lowell for land near T. House,	15,00
“ “ of Alva H. Godfrey,	30,50
“ “ James True, for taxes,	30
“ “ received of Chairman of Selectmen balance of unexpended road tax paid in,	60,35
	<hr/> \$3788,53

Cr.

By pay of Town Officers 1862 and 1863,	\$282,53
Support of poor, 1862 and 1863,	619,71
Miscellaneous expenses,	429,63
Balance in the Treasurer's hands,	456,66
Payment of Loans,	2000,00
	<hr/> \$3788,53

Statement of the Finances of the Town.

Uncollected non-resident taxes,	\$61,83
Uncollected advertised taxes,	4,57
Cash in the hands of the Treasurer,	390,26
	<hr/> \$456,66

SCHOOL FUND.

Balance of School money due the several School Districts, in the hands of the Treasurer, Feb. 25th, 1864,	367,52
Amount raised,	1200,00
Bank Tax received from the State,	270,77
Interest on School Fund,	69,42
	<hr/> 1907,71

Apportioned as follows :

No. of District.	No. of Scholars.	Apportionment.	Balance Due 1862.	Paid.	Now Due.
No. 1	60	121,50	63	44,55	77 58
No. 2	79	159,97	93,19	253,14	02
No. 3	55	111,37	73,74	144,19	40 92
No. 4	83	168,07	154,27	320,69	1 65
No. 5	26	58,15	49,32	107,47	
No. 6	74	149,85	3,66	52,41	101 10
No. 7	133	269,32	35	264,02	5 65
No. 8	41	83,02	5,12	88,14	
No. 9	42	85,05	30,00	106,36	8 69
No. 10	23	52,42	9,02	55,17	6 27
Corner District,	59	119,47	9,30	128,00	77
South District,	80	162,00	114,90	152,03	124 87
	<hr/> 755	<hr/> \$1540,19	<hr/> \$543,50	<hr/> \$1716,17	<hr/> \$367 52

Whole amount of money raised by the Town,	\$4000,00
State tax,	1070,72
County tax,	542,52
Overlayings in Assessments,	217,53
	<hr/>
	\$5830,77

Town Valuation for 1863.

Real Estate of Residents,	\$221037,00
Personal Estate of Residents,	91533,00
Estates of Non-Residents,	13310,00

Tax on \$100, is \$1,65.

No. Polls, 426.

The foregoing Report shows that the Town has in the Treasury, \$390,26 also there is due the Town as follows,

Uncollected taxes \$66,40.

The expense for the poor, for the ensuing year is estimated at \$600,00.

Other Town charges, \$400,00.

JAMES FREEMAN, } *Selectmen of*
LINCOLN WHEELDEN, } *Orrington.*

Report of the Treasurer on the payment of bounties to Soldiers.

LOANS.

Amount of outstanding notes, 1862,	\$2768,93
“ of notes given to Volunteers, 1863,	2294,50
“ “ money hired, “	7786,00
“ due to drafted men, May 1st, 1864,	1800,00
	<hr/>

Which shows the Town's indebtedness to be \$14649,43

The above shows that the Treasurer has borrowed \$7786,00.

Paid out by the Treasurer as follows :

To Volunteers,	\$6698,22
On Loans,	1076,98
Balance in Treasurer's hands,	10,80
	<hr/>
	\$7786,00

JOSEPH DOANE, *Town Treasurer.*

Report of the Chairman of the Selectmen on State aid, paid to Soldiers' families, 1862 and 1863.

Amount borrowed to pay State aid, 1862,	\$256,00
	<hr/>
	\$256,00
Amount paid to Soldiers' families up to Jan. 7th, 1863,	246,00
Balance in Chairman's hands, “ “ “	10,00
	<hr/>
	\$256,00

Amount paid to Soldiers' families up to December 31st, 1863, to be refunded by the State, \$905,50

Amount borrowed and received to pay State aid, 1863,	\$857,00
Due the Chairman to balance,	48,50
	<hr/>
	\$905,50

JAMES FREEMAN, CHAIRMAN OF SELECTMEN.

REPORT

OF THE

SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE,

FOR THE YEAR 1863.

In presenting this Annual Report of the Schools in town, during the past year, your Committee submit the following facts and recommendations :

The amount of money raised for the support of Public Schools, is as follows :

From Town Tax,	\$1200,00
From State Funds,	270,77
Interest on School Fund,	69,42

Total,	\$1540,19
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Whole number of Scholars,	755
Whole number attending Summer Schools,	437
Average number attending Summer Schools,	347
Whole number attending Winter Schools,	497
Average number attending Winter Schools,	417
Per cent. of average attendance for year,	58

Average wages of Male Teachers, per month, for town,	\$28,38
Average wages of Female Teachers, per week, for town,	2,31
“ length of Summer Schools, in weeks,	10.3
“ length of Winter “ “	10.5
“ length of Schools for the year,	20.8

We would again call the attention of school Agents to the fact, that the law requires them, before the commencement of a term of School, to give written notice to the S. S. Committee when it is to commence, whether it is to be taught by a master or mistress, and how long it is expected to continue. And the law further provides that if any Agent shall neglect this duty, he shall forfeit one dollar for each day the school is kept, before such notice is given. The law also requires school agents to return to the Assessors, in the month of April, annually, a certified list of the children in their respective districts, between four and twenty-one years of age, as they existed on the first day of the month. These requirements of law, have been sadly neglected by our school agents, for the last three years; which has occasioned the Committee much inconvenience. Agents should be very cautious in the selection of teachers, giving preference to those (as far as practicable) who have evinced a capacity for governing as well as teaching. In order that we may derive the greatest good, which our schools are capable of imparting, it is not sufficient that the town raise money for the support of the same, that books are placed in the hands of the scholar and sent to school; but the school room must be looked to. It is impossible for a scholar to study, while suffering from cold. Let parents make the school room convenient and comfortable, and inspire in those under their care, a thirst for the blessings to be derived therefrom, and success becomes a certainty. Your Committee would recommend that a female teacher be employed in District No. 8, for the winter school; thereby giving the District the benefit of a longer term, feeling confident that those may be found who are able to meet the wants of this school.

SUMMER SCHOOLS.

District No. 1. MISS SARAH A. SMITH, TEACHER.

Quiet prevailed in this School throughout the term. Some of the pupils made good improvement, but a lack of that thorough teaching necessary to the elevation of our Schools, was obvious. A kindly feeling seemed to exist between teacher and pupils, which rendered government easy.

No. 2. MISS CORDELIA EMERY, TEACHER.

Miss E. creditably sustained herself. The course of instruction was of a character to interest, as well as instruct. The teacher appeared much interested in her business and taught a good school.

No. 3. MISS MARIA E. BRASTOW, TEACHER.

Good order was predominant throughout the term. Miss B. is a good teacher, and having the interest of her school at heart, tried hard to make it a profitable term; but owing to outside influences, exerted by a *few* parents, and as a consequence, a lack of energy on the part of scholars, the school failed to reach that elevation so much desired in our schools. The Committee would respectfully ask, would it not be well for *all* parents to use their influence for the *elevation* of this school.

No. 4. MISS ELLEN E. FIFIELD, TEACHER.

Miss F. is a critical teacher and thorough in her mode of instruction. She had the love and respect of her pupils, and consequently a profitable term. Would not another term, by the same teacher, be equally as profitable.

No. 6. MISS AMANDA E. CHAPIN, TEACHER.

This school passed quietly. A large number of small scholars were found in this school. The teacher succeeded in keeping those under her charge quiet and orderly. The improvement made was commendable.

No. 7. MISS ANNETTE S. WARE, GRAMMAR.

MISS R. A. BROOKS, PRIMARY.

The schools were visited at the commencement. The prospect at the first visit was flattering, but in consequence of a misunderstanding they closed without an examination. Your Committee are of the opinion, knowing the former success of the teachers, and from information gained in regard to these schools, that they proved a success.

No. 8. MISS LYDIA E. BRASTOW, TEACHER.

The mild and sympathetic character of the teacher gained the affections of her scholars. The numerous wants of the pupils, used much time, that could have been better employed in application to their books. Considerable improvement was made, but an unsystematized course of instruction prevented that marked development which this school is capable of exhibiting.

No. 9. MISS HATTIE E. SMITH, TEACHER.

Miss Smith has the tact of inspiring the youth under her charge, with enthusiasm, a qualification which too many of our teachers lack. There was marked improvement in this school. The teacher gave general satisfaction.

No. 10. MISS JENNIE BLAGDEN, TEACHER.

This school was quiet and orderly. The proficiency was commendable. We think that this District received value, proportionate to the expenditure.

Corner Dis. MISS ELLEN J. ROOKS, TEACHER.

This was Miss Rooks' first attempt. The teacher tried to do her duty, but a former acquaintance with her school operated against her. Some of the smaller scholars made good proficiency, but a correct discipline of her school proved a task, for which her inexperience was inadequate.

South Dis.

MISS M. ELLEN LANE, TEACHER.

This school was visited at the commencement, but closed two days previous to the day fixed upon for examination. Therefore no official report can be given.

WINTER SCHOOLS.

District No. 1. MISS ANNETTE S. WARE, TEACHER.

The teacher and scholars acquitted themselves with honor. The advancement made in this school was unsurpassed by no school in town. The quiet which prevailed, and the prompt and correct answers given to questions proposed, met with the approbation of the Committee and parents present. The reading was of a high order. Miss W. by her thorough teaching, and earnest efforts for the interest of her school, merits the approbation of the District.

No. 2. MR. S. BOLTON, TEACHER.

This was the teacher's second term here. This school was short, hardly long enough to make so marked improvement as a longer term might have warranted. The scholars were very orderly, and made as much proficiency as could reasonably be expected during the time.

No. 3. MR. ALBERT P. SMITH, TEACHER.

This school was commenced by Miss Laura Haynes of Dedham. The Committee being fully aware that the money could not be profitably expended by her, advised her to leave, which she did, during the fifth week. This school was finished by Mr. Smith, who, during the few remaining weeks, proved himself worthy of the profession. Order and course of instruction good.

No. 4. MR. JAMES F. DUDLEY, TEACHER.

This District was fortunate in securing the services of Mr. D. who labored for the interest of the school. The appearance of the school proved him a disciplinarian. The examination, which was rendered pleasant by a large number of parents and friends, exhibited thoroughness. The improvement made was satisfactory to the Committee, and general satisfaction prevailed throughout the District.

No. 5. MISS MERCY N. BAKER, TEACHER.

This District was highly favored in securing the services of so able a teacher, although the scholars were deprived of a Summer school; yet they acquitted themselves with honor. We consider Miss B. one of our best teachers, and should consider any District equally fortunate in obtaining her labors.

No. 6. MR. GEORGE E. CHAPIN, TEACHER.

This was the teacher's second term here. The examination proved that the school was highly profitable to those who attended for the purpose, for which our schools are designed. (Unity of feeling among scholars, is productive of good, but when indulged in to an undue degree, it too often proves a curse.) Had not certain influences prevailed in this school, it would have surpassed the former term.

No. 7. MR. WESLEY LOCKHART. GRAMMAR.

Mr. L. was a good scholar, but not having the interest of his school so much at heart as a teacher ought, and throwing his energies into his Collegiate studies, which should have been thrown into his daily labors, he failed to advance his school to meet the expectation of the Committee. Had whispering been prohibited, agreeable to the requisitions of the Committee, it would have proved a blessing to the school.

No. 7. MISS R. A. BROOK. PRIMARY.

This was the teacher's fourth, in succession, which is evidence conclusive, of her acceptability in this school. This term was as productive of good as either of the former. The little ones acquitted themselves finely.

No. 8. MR. GEORGE E. CHAPIN, TEACHER.

For so short a term, the improvement was good. Disorder and confusion prevented at the first, owing to a lack of discipline in former terms. The scholars having respect for their teacher, and a desire to learn, order was restored without difficulty.

No. 9. MISS FANNIE L. HOSMER, TEACHER.

This school commenced under favorable circumstances. Owing to that dreaded disease Diphtheria, breaking out in the District, the scholars did not make that advancement which they otherwise would. The improvement was good, in proportion to attendance of pupils.

No. 10. MISS HATTIE E. SMITH, TEACHER.

Not being advised when this school began, it was not visited until the close. The school showed that Miss S. is a working teacher, and fully sustained in this school, the reputation gained in the Summer term, at No. 9. The laborer was worthy of her hire.

Corner Dis. MR. CHARLES C. COLE, TEACHER.

Mr. C. although an inexperienced teacher, possesses many qualifications requisite to the profession. By close attention to his business, he fully prepared himself for the discharge of his duties; thereby rousing his pupils to energetic exertion, which well acquitted them at the examination. The deportment which was of a high character, betokened his ability to govern.

South Dis. MR. CHARLES H. ROGERS, TEACHER.

Mr. R. has had charge of this school for several winters past, and rendered himself as popular in the last, as in any former term. Being familiarly acquainted with the composition of his school, he was enabled to govern with but little effort. The recitations proved that there had been application, on the part of both teacher and scholars, many of the classes exceeding the expectation of the Committee. The presence of the friends, in the District, at the examination, gave evidence that the exertions of the teacher were appreciated by them.

By the above reference, you cannot fail to notice the general success which has attended our schools during the past year. Indeed, with a single exception, wherever kindly feeling has existed and been expressed towards the school agent, and the teacher by him employed, a profitable term of school has been the crowning result. Parents cannot overestimate the wholesome effect of such a beneficent course, nor can they too carefully avoid, nor too earnestly deprecate any expression having a tendency to lessen the authority and influence of a teacher; especially should they avoid judgment till a fair trial has been had. This is highly suggestive to a few localities in our town, where teachers engaged, are condemned before entering upon their duties, and condemned too upon the evidence of "they say." We are glad to say, however, that but few families are addicted to this unjust and criminal practice.

Your Committee, as such, do not assume the credit of the prosperity attending the efforts to advance our common schools for the past few months, but cheerfully attribute it to the district officers charged with the selection of teachers. The responsibility of these officers are too often underrated. With them, in large measure, lies the success of our schools. — They are specially chosen to canvass the qualifications of applicants for schools, by inquiring concerning the advantages enjoyed of becoming fitted for their profession, the number of schools taught, how many terms in the same district, where employed, certificates of success, has he law, physic, or divinity to engage his attention during the term, college studies to "make up," does he teach music, painting or dancing or practice the same, does he *habitate* within the territorial limits, in fact phlebotomize a little before recommending for further prescription. A gentle manner and an earnest determination to make a prudent selection, will easily accomplish all this, and secure an exemplar in education and morals. Your Committee, although unrestricted in inquiries of candidates, are circumscribed by law in their decisions; your agents are not.

While these school officers have been unusually successful in this direction during the past year, their remissness in filling up and returning the blanks furnished them by the Committee, is a matter of reprehension and demands this public notice, that hereafter vexatious delays may not occur by such delinquencies.

A serious hindrance to study and an intolerable plague to the teachers in some of our

winter schools, has been the frequent assemblies of scholars at parties and dances, during term time. Now it has been clearly demonstrated in several instances during the past few years, that a profitable district school and a dancing school at the same time are incompatible. If the citizens of the town desire to see their school money exerting the influence for which it was legitimately appropriated, and their children educated, we most earnestly recommend that but one school be sustained at a time. It is beyond the ability of ordinary minds to develop brain in the head and heels at the same hour. Let every good effort of heart and hand be concentrated a few weeks for the highest interest of the public school; let restraining influences be prudently applied, that the minds of the children and youth be not withdrawn from the associations of the school room; then will the *ultima Thule* of common school attainments be more fully realized.

It is becoming a necessity, from the high wages and scarcity of male teachers, to employ females in several of our winter schools. The Committee are glad to say that you have nurtured and moulded just the material for such an emergency.

In closing this report, we would mention the term of high school now in successful operation at South Orrington, taught by Mr. Dudley of Bowdoin College, who also had charge of a winter school in the same place. This is commendable to that part of the town which is contributing so generously towards its support, and thereby advancing the interests of education; but were the people fully alive to their highest welfare and the craving desire of the older pupils in their district schools for separate instruction, they would act upon the recommendations so often made in previous reports, and grade their schools. In renewing this recommendation, your Committee act from motives governed by careful observation and from testimonies of parties most intimately concerned.

It is hoped the usual liberal appropriations, for the support of Schools, will be continued by the town.

All which is respectfully submitted.

SOLOMON BOLTON,
J. WYMAN PHILLIPS,
GEORGE E. CHAPIN,

} Superintending
School Committee.

ORRINGTON, MARCH 9, 1864.

STATISTICS.

SUMMER SCHOOLS.

No. Dist.	By whom Taught.	No. Days.	No. of Scholars Regist'd.	Aver. Atten.	WAGES
No. 1	Miss Sarah A. Smith, Orrington,	60	35	26	\$1 83
No. 2	" Cordelia Emery, Hampden,	64	47	43	2 50
No. 3	" Maria Brastow, Brewer,	54	30	22	2 25
No. 4	" Ellen E. Fifield, Hampden,	55	53	35	2 50
No. 6	" Amanda E. Chapin, Orrington,	66	39	33	2 00
No. 7*	" Annette S. Ware, "	55	26	20	2 75
No. 7†	" R. A. Brooks, "	55	52	44	2 25
No. 8	" Lydia, E. Brastow, Brewer,	44	29	23	1 50
No. 9	" Hattie E. Smith, Bucksport,	60	34	28	2 16
No. 10	" Jennie Blagden, Carmel,	44	19	16	1 25
Corner.	" Ellen J. Rooks, Orrington,	77	35	25	1 25
South.	" M. Ellen Lane, Prospect,	48	47	30	2 50

WINTER SCHOOLS.

No. 1	Miss Annette S. Ware, Orrington,	77	33	23	\$3 50
No. 2	Mr. S. Bolton, "	50	62	56	34 00
No. 3	" Albert P. Smith, "	51	38	30	22 00
No. 4	" James F. Dudley, Hampden,	61	53	46	31 00
No. 5	Miss Mercy N. Baker, Orrington,	66	25	18	3 00
No. 6	Mr. George E. Chapin, "	66	48	42	28 00
No. 7*	" Wesley Lockhart, Camden,	55	44	34	35 00
No. 7†	Miss R. A. Brooks, Orrington,	55	41	33	3 00
No. 8	Mr George E. Chapin, "	41	30	28	21 00
No. 9	Miss Fannie L. Hosmer, Deer Isle,	60	26	17	3 00
No. 10	" Hattie E. Smith, Bucksport,	57	26	23	2 00
Corner.	Mr. Charles C. Cole, Kenduskeag,	54	44	35	26 00
South.	" Charles H. Rogers, Orland,	62	53	44	03 00

*Grammar.

†Primary.