

3-1-1878

Annual Report of the Selectmen of the Town of Orrington and the Supervisor of Schools For the Year 1876-1877

Town of Orrington, Maine

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Recommended Citation

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ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
SELECTMEN
OF THE
TOWN OF ORRINGTON
AND THE REPORT OF THE
SUPERVISOR OF SCHOOLS,
For the Year 1876-1877.

BANGOR:
EVER & ROBINSON, PRINTERS.
1877.

W A R R A N T .

To CHARLES BAKER, a Constable of the Town of Orrington, or any one of the Constables of said Town, in the County of Penobscot.

GREETING:

In the name of the State of Maine, you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of said town of Orrington, qualified by law to vote in town affairs, to assemble at the Town House, in said town on Monday, the 12th day of March inst., at nine o'clock in the forenoon, to act on the following articles, to wit:

FIRST—To choose a Moderator to preside at said meeting.

SECOND—To choose a Clerk for the ensuing year.

THIRD—To hear the report of the Selectmen, and act thereon.

FOURTH—To hear the report of the Supervisor of Schools, and act thereon.

FIFTH—To choose all necessary Town Officers for the year ensuing.

SIXTH—To see if the town will grant and raise such sums of money as may be necessary for the maintenance and support of schools, and the poor, and repairs of roads and bridges, and to defray all other town charges for the year ensuing.

SEVENTH—To determine what method the town will adopt for the repair of its highways the ensuing year, and to establish the price of labor thereon.

EIGHTH—To see if the town will grant and raise a sum of money for the support of one or more free High Schools; locate the same, and determine when they shall be taught.

NINTH—Upon petition, to see if the town will open the Town House for social dances, and fix the price per evening for the same.

TENTH—To determine in what way the town will choose their Highway Surveyors and School Agents for ensuing year.

ELEVENTH—To see if the town will exempt from taxation, for the year 1877, the East Orrington Cheese Manufacturing Association.

TWELFTH—To see if the town will instruct their Treasurer to procure an insurance on the Town House.

THIRTEENTH—To see if the town will make provision to pay in money the balance, after deducting the road taxes, for labor on the highways in the winter season.

FOURTEENTH—To see if the town will discontinue the Stump Lane Road from the county road to the point where it connects with the road leading by Cooper's Mill.

FIFTEENTH—To see if the town will authorize and instruct the Town Clerk to transcribe and arrange in a suitable book, the list of births and deaths now on record, and prepare an index to the same.

SIXTEENTH—To see whether the town will vote to abolish the School districts therein, as provided in the laws of Maine relating to Public Schools.

SEVENTEENTH—To see whether the town will vote to furnish free text books to its scholars, or furnish them at cost.

EIGHTEENTH—To see if the town will accept the list of Jurors as made out by the municipal officers, Town Clerk, and Treasurer.

NINETEENTH—To see if the town will protect the Red Bridge (so called,) so as to keep the snow from blowing off in the winter,

TWENTIETH—To see if the town will allow Michael Mossler a yearly abatement on his highway tax for the use of his well.

TWENTY-FIRST—To see if the town will make a dump of a part or the whole of the south end of the Red Bridge (so called,) at East Orrington, and appropriate money for the same.

The Selectmen give notice they will be in session at their office one hour previous to said meeting, for the purpose of revising and correcting the list of voters.

Given under our hands, at Orrington, this first day of March, A. D. 1877.

J. WYMAN PHILLIPS,	} Selectmen of Orrington.
W. M. BAKER,	
E. G. NICKERSON.	

JOSEPH DOANE, Treasurer,

In account with the TOWN OF ORRINGTON.

DR.

To amount of uncollected non-resident tax,	\$251 78	
" " " " resident taxes,	1429 35	
" Amasa L. Conant's note,	10 50	
" Martin Sheehan's note,	75 00	
" Cash in treasury last settlement,	774 55	
	<u> </u>	\$2541 18
To amount raised for the poor,	\$500 00	
" " " " town charges,	500 00	
" " " " roads and bridges,	300 00	
" " " " to pay overwork on roads,	50 00	
" " " " for Free High School,	100 00	
" " " of highway deficiency 1875,	147 27	
" " " of dog tax,	65 00	
" " " of overlayings in assessing,	195 67	
	<u> </u>	\$1857 94
To interest on Martin Sheehan's note,	\$4 50	
" discount on printing reports,	2 20	
" sale of lumber and nails,	14 55	
" amount from town of Bradford, Mrs. Stevens,	31 21	
" " " " " Hermon, Green family,	17 25	
" " " " sale of fish privilege,	1 55	
" " " received on execution vs. T. J. Chase,	54 62	
" " " from State, Free High School, for 1875,	136 25	
" " " " " " " " " 1876,	163 75	
" cash for road taxes,	15 42	
	<u> </u>	\$441 30
		<u> </u>
		\$4840 42

CR.

By pay of Town Officers,	\$445 57	
" " " for support of Poor,	560 25	
" paid for high schools,	347 56	
" " " roads and bridges,	369 05	
" " " miscellaneous expenses,	346 54	
" " interest on school fund,	69 42	
" uncollected non-resident taxes,	289 39	
" " resident tax 1875,	545 02	
" Cash in hands of Wilson & Woodard,	10 50	
" Martin Sheehan's note,	75 00	
" Cash in the treasury,	1419 68	
" abatements to Joseph Doane,	7 31	
" " " E. A. Hinks,	43 77	
" " " N. Marston,	79 65	
" paid overwork on road,	281 71	
	<u> </u>	\$4840 42

142835
 14502
 88493

SUPPORT OF POOR.

Mrs. Peter Field,	\$43 86	
Mrs. Celinda Stevens,	31 21	
Miss Abigail Smith, board and use of hearse,	8 00	
Alfred Hamilton,	12 00	
Mrs. Charlotte Barnes,	114 50	
Mrs. Clara Smith,	141 59	
Zaccheus Thayer,	141 72	
H. A. Green and family,	22 99	
G. Harvey, clothing and making	11 41	
Mrs. Ruth Rogers,	18 22	
Aid to transient persons,	2 25	
John Ryder, Jr.,	9 50	
Mrs. Delia Smith, medical attendance,	3 00	
	<hr/>	\$560 25

PAY OF TOWN OFFICERS.

J. Wyman Phillips, S. S. Committee last year,	\$31 00	
G. E. Chapin, do do	56 20	
J. Wyman Phillips, Selectman, Assessor and Overseer of Poor,	92 25	
W. M. Baker, do do	63 91	
E. G. Nickerson, do do	50 67	
Joseph Doane, Treasurer,	40 00	
Charles A. Baker, Constable,	6 50	
S. Bolton, Clerk, recording births and deaths for 1876,	5 04	
N. Marston, Collector,	100 00	
	<hr/>	\$445 57

ROADS AND BRIDGES.

E. B. Lufkin, work on mill bridge,	\$26 80	
W. M. Baker, labor on road, district No. 8,	28 06	
W. M. Baker, labor on road, district No. 7, East,	42 23	
J. T. Wiswell, on culverts,	36 33	
Thomas Bowden, labor,	10 00	
Horace Field, on Bog Bridge,	80 00	
" " " culvert,	5 00	
W. M. Baker, labor, district No. 6,	48 38	
J. W. Phillips, labor,	1 50	
Daniel Sargent & Sons, lumber,	48 14	
W. H. Dole & Son, labor,	4 50	
C. & H. Wiswell, labor,	6 00	
L. Wheelden, for logs and damage to plow,	9 28	
W. W. Ryder, labor,	4 00	
Almon Rogers, plank,	11 53	
Albert Bowden, labor,	7 50	
	<hr/>	\$369 05
Overwork on roads, 1874,	\$281 71	

MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES.

Daniel Hodges, boarding Frank Lowne, 1873,	\$54 64	
J. W. Phillips, expenses to Augusta for Z. Thayer,	11 55	
J. W. Phillips, expenses to Fairfield for John Ryder, Jr.,	7 75	
W. M. Baker, expenses to Augusta for Z. Thayer,	15 10	
Burr & Robinson, printing town reports,	32 20	
Anna A. Atwood, deed of flowage,	25 00	
Watering trough,	2 50	
Express bill on books,	40	
David Bugbee & Co., books and stationery,	6 92	
Wilson & Woodard, counsel,	74 62	
J. Young, repairs on cemetery fence,	2 35	
David Crowell, care Town House,	6 00	
J. W. Phillips, postage and registering,	3 95	
Witnesses, Chase case,	25 16	
Repairs on Town House,	78 40	
	<hr/>	\$346 54

FREE HIGH SCHOOLS.

Balance of last year's appropriation,	\$241 95	
Amount raised by the town,	100 00	
Received from the State,	163 75	
	<hr/>	\$505 70
Paid Charles A. Perry, teaching (Corner)	\$125 00	
“ Mrs. Atwood, boarding,	40 00	
“ for incidentals,	10 22	
	<hr/>	175 22
Paid A. M. Burton, teaching (E. Orrington)	\$125 00	
“ E. A. Severance, boarding,	37 50	
“ for incidentals,	9 84	
	<hr/>	172 34
		<hr/>
		347 56
		<hr/>
		\$158 14

ASSETS OF THE TOWN.

Cash in hands of Wilson & Woodard,	\$10 50	
Martin Sheehan's note,	75 00	
Uncollected non-resident taxes,	239 39	
“ resident taxes, 1875,	545 02	
Due from E. C. Wheelden, for fish privilege, 1875,	11 00	
Cash in the Treasury,	1419 68	
	<hr/>	\$2300 59

VALUATION FOR 1876.

Real estate of residents,	\$244,155 00
“ “ “ non-residents,	21,015 00
	<u>\$265,170 00</u>
Personal estate of residents,	\$105,230 00
“ “ “ non-residents,	600 00
	<u>\$105,830 00</u>
Total estates,	\$371,000 00

No. of polls, 405; poll tax \$3.00; percentage \$1.15 on \$100.

SCHOOL FUND.

Balance due the Districts Feb. 28, 1876,	\$492 85
School mill tax, 1876,	\$598 54
Amount raised by the town, March 13, 1876,	1,450 00
Interest on town school fund,	69 42
Amount of State school fund,	396 52
	<u>\$2,514 48</u>
Amount apportioned,	
Mill tax, 1877, unapportioned,	\$563 70

APPORTIONMENT.

Districts.	No. of Scholars	App'rtioned	Due from 1875.	Paid.	Now due.
No. 1.	56	\$235 20	\$ 9 50	\$205 11	\$ 39 59
No. 2.	65	273 00	22 36	127 26	168 10
No. 3.	44	184 80	135 89	316 70	3 99
No. 4.	130	546 00	*	543 91	2 09
No. 5.	16	119 20	31 68	142 87	8 01
No. 6.	30	151 00	24 41	148 15	27 26
No. 7.	90	378 00	143 85	414 82	107 03
No. 8.	34	162 80	15 61	149 25	29 16
No. 9.	22	122 40	17 28	110 87	28 81
No. 10.	16	119 48	49 67	41 00	128 15
Corner.	53	222 60	53 56	206 64	69 52
	556	\$2,514 48	\$503 81	\$2,406 58	\$611 71

*Overdrawn last year, 10 96

\$492 85

Respectfully submitted,

J. WYMAN PHILLIPS, } Selectmen
W. M. BAKER, } of
E. G. NICKERSON, } Orrington.

Orrington, Feb. 28, 1877.

SCHOOL REPORT.

DISTRICT No. 1.

Summer Term.—Miss LETTIE PHIPPS, Teacher.

This school made good improvement; Miss P. is an earnest, faithful, and thorough teacher.

Winter Term.—Mr. C. E. STARBIRD, Teacher.

Good order and fair improvement; Mr. S. worked faithfully for the advancement of his school; had the scholars been more ambitious, better results would have been realized.

DISTRICT No. 2.

Summer Term.—Miss FANNIE G. SMITH, Teacher.

The final examination was creditable to both teacher and pupils. The work of the term was well done.

Winter Term.—Mr. J. C. LONG, Teacher.

One of our best schools. When scholars try to learn, success is certain. The recitations in Grammar, Philosophy, Geography, Algebra, and Astronomy were of a high order.

DISTRICT No. 3.

Summer Term.—Miss HELEN S. SILSBY, Teacher.

Miss S. possesses superior gifts for teaching; her earnest efforts and thorough instruction made this school a success; may we always have as good teachers.

Winter Term.—Mr. W. A. ESTES, Teacher.

Good advancement was made in the studies pursued. We think a little better order would have produced better results.

DISTRICT No. 4.

PRIMARY, Summer, Fall and Winter Terms.

This district was particularly fortunate in securing the services of Miss Hattie E. Phillips, in those three consecutive terms. The examinations were most satisfactory to the parents present, and to the Supervisor. Miss Phillips has the faculty not only to interest the little ones, but also to incite them to vigorous efforts in the way of learning. The singing and the declamations were excellent; some fine specimens of map drawing were exhibited.

The parents in this district manifest great interest in the Primary School, and thereby add much to its usefulness and efficiency.

Summer Term, GRAMMAR—MISS JULIA C. SMITH, Teacher.

Miss Julia C. Smith commenced this term. After three and one-half weeks, in consequence of sickness, she was succeeded by Miss Isabelle Wheelden. The good results anticipated at the commencement of this term, were not realized.

Fall Term—MISS ANNETTE S. WARE, Teacher.

Miss W. labored faithfully for the advancement of this school, and the scholars present at the final examination, showed good improvement.

We regret that several of the scholars sought to injure the usefulness of this term.

Winter term—MR. A. N. LUFKIN, Teacher.

To some extent, the use of text books in class recitations was abandoned, with the best of results. Thoroughness and the development of the reasoning powers were the objects sought for. Good progress was made.

DISTRICT No. 5.

Summer Term—MISS ETTA BROWN, Teacher.

This teacher was very young to be in charge of a school. She acquitted herself well; her success was equal to that of many older and experience teachers.

Winter Term—MISS ELLEN FIFIELD, Teacher.

"A cheap teacher and a long school," was not the motto for this term. Miss F. is too well and favorably known as a teacher, to need any special words of commendation from us. Scholars *can* sometimes pursue a study successfully, even though they *think* they cannot. Miss F. introduced Geography as a reading exercise; the result was a class in Geography that passed a very creditable examination.

Where all is of the best, it is difficult to select anything for special praise.

DISTRICT No. 6.

Summer Term—Miss NELLIE WEBBER, Teacher.

Improvement, good. Miss W. had a small, but profitable school.

Winter Term—Miss LETTIE PHIPPS, Teacher.

We repeat what we have before said of this teacher. By their prompt and complete answer, her pupils showed a thoroughness not often seen in our common schools.

DISTRICT No. 7.

PRIMARY, Summer Term, Miss CLARA L. GILMAN, Teacher.

Miss G. is not one of those teachers who seek to "get through the book" each term. Thoroughness is her motto. Her school made good progress.

Winter Term.—Miss NELLIE W. PIERCE, Teacher.

We question whether the mode of government adopted here, will produce the best results in a primary school. The little ones seemed to dread the school room.

Fair improvement resulted from this teacher's efforts. One class in reading made good progress.

GRAMMAR, Summer Term.—Miss ANNETTE S. WARE, Teacher.

Miss W. is an experienced and successful teacher. The number of scholars in attendance was small. Good advancement was made in all the studies of the term, and the final examination was excellent. A paper edited by the scholars, added much to the interest of the occasion.

Winter Term.—Mr. W. C. GREEN, Teacher.

Under Mr. Green's instruction, this school made commendable progress. He is an efficient teacher. Except the class in Intellectual Arithmetic, which went over too much ground to be thorough, the work of this term was satisfactory.

If these scholars would use greater stress of voice in speaking, they would show their acquirements to better advantage.

DISTRICT No. 8.

Winter Term—Mr. JOHN D. KING, Teacher.

So far as your Supervisor could judge, fair progress was made. After about four weeks, a dissatisfaction arose in this school, which proved an obstacle to complete success.

Our public schools cannot be wholly successful, unless parents, scholars, and teachers unite to make them so. There was no Summer term.

DISTRICT No. 9.

Summer Term—Miss LIZZIE E. WHEELDEN, Teacher.

This was a short term, and a good one. Miss W. understands how to interest and instruct her pupils.

Winter Term—Mr. S. S. SMITH, Teacher.

This term was commenced by Mr. J. D. CUTTER, who, after one week, was succeeded by Mr. S. The school profited by the change of teachers, but we cannot endorse the means by which it was brought about.

Mr. S. and his pupils acquitted themselves satisfactorily.

DISTRICT No. 10.

Winter Term—Miss JULIA C. SMITH, Teacher.

This was a small school, and a good one. The district was fortunate in its choice of a teacher. The scholars appreciated her efforts, and made this a most profitable term; the district fund was well expended in this one term of school.

CORNER DISTRICT.

Miss NELLIE W. PIERCE taught the Summer term in this district.

We commend her for the very creditable manner in which she acquitted herself in this school. Good advancement and thoroughness were combined.

Winter Term—Mr. J. M. KING, Teacher.

This was a pleasant and profitable term; while the older scholars made good progress, the little ones were not neglected. The method of instruction was good, and well appreciated.

The Summer term in District No. 3, the three terms of the Primary school in District No. 4, the Summer Term of the Grammar School in District No. 7, and the Winter terms in Districts Nos. 2, 5, 6 and 10, have borne the best examinations, during the past year.

HIGH SCHOOLS.

There have been two, of one term each; one at Orrington Corner, taught by Mr. C. A. PERRY; the other at E. Orrington, taught by Mr. A. M. BURTON. Both were profitable.

These schools are materially advancing the cause of education in our town, and are worthy of a more liberal patronage than they received during the past year. The decrease in the number of scholars registered, is a matter of regret to all true friends of education and progress.

We submit to you, whether it should be made imperative to maintain two High Schools at the same time.

STATISTICS.

SUMMER SCHOOLS.

WINTER SCHOOLS

Number of District.	Length of School in days.	Number of Scholars Registered.	Average Attend- ance.	Wages.	Price of Board per week.	Number of District.	Length of School in days.	Number of Scholars Registered.	Average Attend- ance.	Wages.	Price of Board per week.
1	55	26	20	4 00	2 50	1	66	31	27	27 00	3 50
2	50	37	30	5 50	3 50	2	60	46	39	35 00	3 50
3	55	26	21	5 00	3 00	3	55	28	25	35 00	3 50
*4	44	40	37	6 00	2 50	*4	44	50	44	30 00	3 00
†4	36 1-2	32	29	6 00	2 50	†4	43	48	38	66 00	4 00
Fall T. *4	33	41	38	6 00	2 50	5	55	14	12	28 00	2 00
Fall T. †4	33	34	30	6 00	3 00	6	66	19	16	16 00	2 50
5	33	9	9	1 50	1 50	*7	55	50	33	16 00	3 00
6	58 1-2	16	13	3 50	1 50	†7	50	36	32	35 50	3 62
*7	55	30	25	4 00	2 50	8	60 1-2	25	18	33 00	3 00
†7	55	22	17	6 50	2 50	9	55	16	13	20 00	3 75
9	33	17	16	3 00	2 00	10	66	13	12	22 00	2 00
Corner. Corner	60 1-2	30	25	3 50	2 00	Corner. E Orrington	55	31	26	35 00	4 00
H. School	50	23	19	50 00	4 00	H. School	50	40	33	50 00	3 75
*Primary,						†Grammar.					

No. of scholars in town,	556
No. attending Summer school,	380
Average No. attending Summer school,	329
No. attending Winter school,	407
Average No. attending Winter school,	335
Average length of Summer school,	46 days
Average length of Winter school,	56 "
Average length of School for the year,	51 "
Average wages of female teacher, per week, exclusive of board,	\$4 88
Average wages of male teacher per month, exclusive of board,	35 81
Per cent. of average attendance in Summer, to number of scholars in town,	59
Per cent. of average attendance in Winter to number of scholars in town,	60

In submitting this report, I think I am justified in saying that, with possibly a single exception, the several schools in our town, are in a prosperous condition, and, I believe, are slowly advancing to a higher standard of excellence. Some difficulties have arisen, which have been settled without calling in the Supervisor. Taken as a whole, the year has been a successful one, and we have in some measure

improved upon the past. We have not, however, derived all the benefit which we had a right to expect, from the expenditure of our school fund.

The experience of the past year leads to several suggestions.

First. Our schools require a Supervision which neither a Supervisor nor a Committee, can exercise. This duty devolves, primarily upon the parents in the several districts. The idea, that they are relieved from it, because an Agent and a Supervisor are chosen to look after the educational interests of their children, is erroneous, and is the greatest obstacle to the prosperity of our schools. Parents should co-operate with the teacher.

It is too often the case that the teacher stands upon one side; the parents and scholars upon the other, ready to catch up and magnify any mistake he may make. Petty grievances and mis-statements are listened to and circulated with a zeal worthy of a better cause. Under such circumstances, no teacher can succeed. Personal visits to the school room, and kind words of advice and encouragement to both teacher and scholars, are indispensable, if we would realize the best results. Much has been done in this direction; still there is room for improvement.

Second. More pains should be taken to secure good teachers. The theory of "a cheap teacher and a long school" is exploded. The *best* is the *cheapest*. The *quality* of instruction, rather than the quantity, or the length of the term, is the point to be considered in the choice of a teacher. Too often, the Supervisor must take such material as the Agent sends him, and do the best he can with it. In districts where there are but few scholars, one term of school with a competent teacher, is better than two terms with a poor one. Our standard is not high enough.

Third. Though our Agents have, in nearly every instance, made a judicious choice of teachers, they cannot always tell whether a teacher will meet the requirements of their schools. It would be better, therefore, to let the duty of selecting the several teachers, devolve upon the Supervisor, or Committee, whose duty it is to know the particular wants of every school.

Lastly. Many of our scholars are one or two books, and as many terms, in advance of where they ought to be. The attempt to build a superstructure without laying a suitable foundation, always results in a loss of labor and material. In reply to this, it may be said that the Supervisor has the power to regulate the studies pursued in the several schools. I answer, parents also assume to decide what books their children shall study, and if a scholar is put back in his studies, by the

Supervisor, an opposition is often manifested, which results in a greater injury than benefit, to a majority of scholars. Free text books would remedy this fault.

Our High Schools are an important means in dissemination of useful knowledge. They are worthy of the most liberal patronage and support. Their influence in elevating the standard of popular education, is felt in the district where they are located. It also goes with the pupils that attend from other districts, furnishing additional incentives to study.

I desire to say in conclusion, that I have endeavored during the past year to discharge the duties of Supervisor to the best of my ability. I do not feel that I have committed no errors, but I trust they have been no serious hindrance to general progress. I hope the time is at hand, when parents generally shall put off the indifference in which they now rest, and they, the Agents, and the Supervisor, shall heartily cooperate to advance the cause of popular education, upon which the happiness and prosperity of our State so materially depend.

A. N. LUFKIN,

Supervisor of Schools.

