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1874

# REPORTS

OF THE

Selectmen, Town Treasurer,

AND

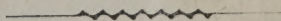
Superintending School Committee

OF THE

## TOWN OF PLYMOUTH,

FOR THE

*Year Ending March 1st. 1874.*



PLYMOUTH,

Printed by VAN N. BASS.

1874.





## Selectmen's Report.

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The Selectmen in account with the Town of  
Plymouth for the Year 1873.

*DR.*

To Cash hired, Town Notes given.	\$3 321 67
To Cash Received from the County for the support of paupers and transient,	62 02
"    "    Railroad, Literary & Bank Tax,	1 859 93
"    "    State Bonds sold,	1 005 00
"    "    Coupons of State Bonds	504 00
"    "    Circus Licenses,	25 00
"    "    State for Bounty claims.	60 00
"    "    From the sale of old bridge timber,	85 50
"    "    Hiram Clark, liquor agent,	54 29
"    "    Wood used in Cook's Hall,	4 80
"    "    Wm. A. Cobb and John T. Cutter Jr. for damage done by their dogs to sheep,	4 00
"    "    James Currier, highway Surveyor in district No. 1, <i>surplus</i> received from highway taxes af- ter keeping the highway in his dist. in repair through- out the year,	5 00
	\$6 991 21

*CR.*

By Cash paid Treasurer. \$6 991 21

# Treasurer's Report.

CYRUS KENISTON, Treasurer.

In account with the town of Plymouth.

1873.

*Dr.*

To assessment of State, County, Town, and School Taxes on residents,	\$10 924 35
To assessment of State, County, Town, School and Highway Taxes on non residents,	248 82
"            of Tax on Dogs,	75 00
"            of Special Tax in Dist. No. 2,	622 90
To cash in hands of Treasurer, March 1st, 1873.	457 35
To Cash received of the selectmen of 1873	6 991 21
Uncollected taxes in hands of collector of 1869	109 26
"            "            "            1870	120 06
"            "            "            1871	898 36
"            "            "            1872	1 391 29
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	\$21 838 60

CYRUS KENISTON, Treasurer,

In account with the Town of Plymouth,

*By Paid,*

*Cr.*

Abatement of taxes assessed in 1870.	\$41 0
"            "            "            1871	97 31
"            "            "            1872	158 02
Abatement of taxes assessed in 1873,	
Widow C, B. Adams,	2 25
A. W. Avery & Co. overtaxed on stock in trade,	12 50
Eugene S. Bailey            "            "            real estate,	2 50
Noah Blodgett, paid in Rumney,	2 50
George E. Calden, overtaxed on real estate,	2 25
Samuel N. Cass,            "            "            "	1125



George P. Cook, " " "	2 25
Cyrus Corlis, tax on colt,	67
Hanson S. Chase, overtaxed on real estate	6 75
Galen Eastman,	2 25
Betsey Ellis,	7 88
Frank Flanders, paid in Ashland,	2 50
Chancy Harris " "	2 25
Arthur L. Kimball, pensioner,	2 50
Van Merrill, paid in Wentworth,	2 50
George T. Ordway, paid in Gilford,	2 50
John Peavey, Jr. paid in Ashland,	2 50
George W. Randall, taxed in Hopkinton,	2 25
Carlton Rideout,	2 25
John H. Robinson, over taxed on real estate,	4 13
Seneca Sargent,	2 25
B. F. Smith, taxed west,	2 25
Hazen D. Smith, paid on stock in Holderness,	32 50
L. M. Howe and Washington George, auditors for 1872,	6 00
Seth Doton, books and stationery,	7 25
Bakers River Bridge Committee,	1 390 97
Daniel H. Currier, services on said committee,	5 00
Knapp & Putnam, lumber for bakers river bridge,	1 154 60
Hiram W. Merrill, putting pier under do.	34 00
James Keeble, taking care of lumber and labor,	73 50
H. M. Fisher, pins for bakers river bridge,	78 25
Postage on money to pay Fisher,	18
Dudley Bailey, work on cemetery,	35 63
Jeseoph Clark, bills paid in regard to cemetery,	40 17
" " for lumber used in fencing cemetery,	72 08
" " for freight on lumber,	18 00
Jona. Chase work on cemetery,	2 00
Nathaniel Clark, " "	1 50
C. D. McDonald, " "	21 38
Gilman Merrill, " "	3 00
Jacob Sellingham " "	12 69
Manson R. York " "	11 25
Payne Brothers, tinning roof of tomb,	33 75
Cyrus Keniston, paint for cemetery fence,	26 03
John Mason, nails for cemetery fence,	15 68
James M. Loud, painting " "	13 25
A. J. Pebbles, posts for " "	31 14
Samuel E. Merrill, pickets for cemetery fence,	10 00
Moody Page, posts and work on cemetery,	9 00
Harrison B. Marden, pasturing on account of cemetery not being fenced,	10 00

Moody Page, work on cemetery in 1871,	9 00
Coupons	2 497 85
Notes against the town taken up,	2 725 21
Endorsed on notes against the town,	1 449 66
Hiram Clark, liquors purchased in Boston,	54 29
Clark & Houston, loss on mill and securing river bank near Bakers River bridge,	37 00
N. H. Asylum for the insane, support of Adams, Currier and Shute,	719.47
Expenses for sending the money,	1 23
T. S. Moses, bills paid out for Solon Currier,	26 02
Geo. C. Spaulding, house rent for Mrs. Hanscom in 1872	25 00
Jona. Ferren, support of Melvina Kimball,	192 50
Cyrus Keniston, goods furnished for ,,	3 71
Webster Hull & Co. goods ,, ,, ,, paid Gilpatrick,	13 36
Margaret S. Seavey, board of Sarah Gove,	9 00
U. S. & Canada Express, paid town of Meredith for James Moses,	7 80
Richard G. Stearns, board of James Moses,	5 76
A. K. Bruce, keeping Mrs. Bruce,	42 00
S. W. Davis, medical attendance ,, ,,	37 00
Benjamin Atkinson, goods furnished Mrs. Folsom,	5 95
Andrew R. Smith, keeping Betsy Ranlett,	8 80
William Webber, assistance,	173.00
Andrew R. Smith, moving William Webber,	7 00
John Mason, flour for ,,	12 00
Cyrus Keniston, flour and wood for ,,	27 00
Buchanan & Ranlett, board of transient paupers,	29 50
Calvin Clark, ,, ,, ,,	1 50
Seth Doton, ,, ,, ,,	1 50
William W. Gibson, ,, ,, ,,	1 50
Charles E. Sanborn, ,, ,, ,,	9 00
Ann Sanborn, ,, ,, ,,	5 00
J. W. Preston, medical attendance ,, ,,	3 50
,, ,, ,, ,, and posting school notices,	15 36
Otis Young Jr. keeping transients and labor,	7 00
Drury F. Cummings, perambulating town line,	6 00
Seth Doton, ,, & expenses,	12 30
Van N. Bass, printing town reports.	36 00
,, ,, tax and auction bills,	5 75
John F. Sanborn, police services,	8 00
Manson S. Brown, ,, and paid out,	14 00
Seth Doton, paid Joseph Clark to pay G. S. Stevens in liquor cases,	8 42
Joseph Clark, prosecuting liquor sellers,	75 00



Charles E. Goss, public watering trough,	3 00
Benj. F. Gould, public watering trough,	3 00
Harvey & Willey " "	3 00
Charles H. Morrill, " "	3 00
Jasper E. Avery, breaking roads,	8 85
" " lumber and labor on highway,	8 25
Oliver Avery, breaking roads,	15 81
Dudley Bailey, work on highway,	4 87
Edwin D. Baker, " "	3 23
David R. Bartlett, breaking roads,	11 77
Wm. D. Blodgett, breaking roads and paid out bills,	80 81
" " " " in 1873 & 1874,	49 50
Charles H. Bowles, breaking roads in March, 1873,	7 20
John X. Brown, work on roads Feb. 18, to May 10, 1873,	12 89
" " work on highway and breaking roads,	15 33
Manson S. Brown, paid James Keeble work on road in 1872,	16 18
John Buchanan, breaking roads,	1 65
Joseph C. Cayes, " " and damage for roads not being broken,	50 00
Samuel R. Chase, for plank,	30 00
Robert Cochran, breaking roads,	5 00
Chase Clifford, work on highway,	5 00
George P. Cook, breaking roads,	3 30
Kimball C. Corliss, " "	7 05
Wm. B. Davidson, " "	3 83
Willism A. Draper, work and lumber for highway,	16 47
" " breaking roads and labor,	11 85
Almon Favor, breaking roads,	13 20
Dana Fifield, work on highway,	3 30
Geo. W. Garland, " "	20 85
John C. Gilpatrick breaking roads,	45
Peter Hobart 2d, work on highway,	3 30
James Keeble, abatement on tax list & breaking roads,	13 30
Elbridge G. Kelley, breaking roads,	10 80
Benjamin Kidder, " "	19 65
James F. Langdon " "	36 13
Samuel M. Morse, " "	18 07
Henry T. Newell, " "	2 90
Noah J. Nutting, work highway and lumber,	6 00
Samuel F. Nutting, breaking roads,	37 80
George T. Ordway, " "	9 82
Moody Page, work on highway and paid out,	19 80
Moses Pervier, breaking roads from Feb. 18, to May 10th, 1873,	18 19



Postage on money to pay for safe,	21
B. C. and M. Railroad, freight on safe and plank.	26 70
John C. Chase, assistance moving safe,	2 00
School Money to the several school districts,	1 430 56
Literary " to all the districts except No. 7,	142 50
" " to district No. 7, for 1872,	15 00
J. W. Preston, superintending school com. for 1872,	55 00
Amos Clark, sheep killed by dogs,	4 00
John Morrill, " " " "	4 00
Mary Smith, Adm'x " " " in 1872,	12 00
County tax,	1 314 61
Express on same,	1 00
State Tax,	1 938 00
L. M. Howe, special taxes in school district No. 2,	600 41
Washington George, Adm'r. rent of Cooks Hall,	10 55
James L. Rogers, " " "	83 40
Atkinson & Smith, wood for Cooks Hall,	4 80
Manson S. Brown, use of hearse,	12 00
James Keeble, " "	18 00
Calvin Clark, use of team out of town, work on highway, and cash paid out,	7 25
F. W. A. Robie, services as town clerk,	50 00
Calvin Clark, " " selectman,	1 28 25
William W. Gibson, " " "	125 00
Seth Doton, " " "	133 00
" " services as overseer of the poor,	18 00
Cyrus Keniston, " " treasurer,	100 00
Warren W. Wilkinson, " " collector for 1873,	95 00
L. M. Howe and P. Fox, auditors,	6 00
Taxes in E. K. Smith's hands coll. for 1869, Mar. 1, 1874	109 26
" D. C. Wheelers " " " 1870, " " "	78 99
" " " " " 1871, " " "	333 05
" W. G. Rogers " " " 1872, " " "	144 45
" W. W. Wilkinsons " " " 1873, " " "	800 00
Cash in hands of treasurer,	192 60
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	\$21 838 60

We have examined the accounts of the Selectmen and Treasurer, for the year ending March 1, 1874, and find them correctly cast and properly vouched.

L. M. HOWE,  
PLUMMER FOX, } Auditors.

Plymouth, N. H. Feb 28, 1874,



## INDEBTEDNESS OF TOWN, MARCH 1, 1874.

Notes and interest to March 1, 1874,	\$34 34 <sup>1</sup> 97
Bonds outstanding           "       "	[2 240 00
Interest on same to       "       "	22 40
Outstanding Coupons	68 54
Literary money due district No. 7,	15 00
Due supt. school committee for 1873,	55 00
Due N. H. Asylum for support of Adams, Currier and Shute, to March, 1874,	65 00
Due County for board of James Moses, estimated	25 00
Due state normal school, land for highway,	12 00
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	\$36 844 91

## Assets of Town March 1, 1874,

Due from Collector	1865,	\$120 00
"       "	1866,	145 29
"       "	1869,	109 26
"       "	1870,	78 99
"       "	1171,	333 05
"       "	1872,	144 45
"       "	1873,	800 00
Due from county for county paupers,		71 00
,,       Alexandria,		17 95
4000 Plank on hand,		48 00
Cart, Plow, Chain, Pick, and Iron Bar,		50 00
Cash in hands of treasurer,		192 60
James F. Langdon, note and interest,		745 18
Due for old bridge timber,		113 25
State Bonds, par value,		7 500 00
Interest to March 1st,		75,00
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		\$10 544 02

## Remarks of the Selectmen.

Notes paid and not reported for the last two years.

Amount of said notes,	\$1 468 37
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Amount paid for Bake rs River Bridge,	\$2 736 50
Amount paid for Iron Safe,	528 91
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	\$4 733 75

SETH DOTON,	}	Selectmen of Plymouth
WM. W. GIBSON,		

## To the Selectmen of Plymouth, N. H.

In compliance with the requirements of the laws of this state, I hereby submit my annual report as Superintending School Committee of this town.

The following Table contains items of interest to the several Districts.

No. of District.	Names of Prudential Committee.	No. of Terms.	Names of Teachers employed.	Term in Weeks.	Wages per Month.	Public Money, Town, Railroad and Literary.	Whole No. of Scholars.	Average Attendance.	No. of Tardy Marks.	No. of scholars not absent half a day.
1	William Reed.	1	Mary A. Carrier.	10	\$20.00	\$136.99	19	13	1	0
		1	Mary A. Clement.	12	28.00		24	18	23	1
		1	Emma J. Thompson,	10	40.00		36	30	139	2
2	L. M. Howe,	1	L. A. Webster.	10	40.00	595.98	38	23	52	0
		2	Emma J. Thompson,	10	40.00		42	35	108	0
		2	Carrie E. Hall,	10	40.00		41	33	25	3
		2	Carrie E. Cummings,	8	40.00	138.11	26	21	107	4
		3	W. J. Littlefield,	6	24.00		18	10	75	2
		3	W. J. Littlefield,	11	32.00		22	20	58	2
3	Wm. W. Gibson,	1	Ina A. Nelson,	1	24.00	71.75	21	11	47	0
4	S. M. Morse,	1	Lucina E. Draper,	1	26.00	67.31	12	9	140	0
5	Chas. H. Draper,	1	C. I. Dearborn,	8	32.00	162.39	32	22	45	8
6	I. D. Stafford,	1		8	32.00		30	23	37	5
		1	Florence V. Nutting,	8	32.00	57.67	7	6	2	7
7	Benj. Kiddier,	1	Nellie Blodgett,	6	20.00		9	7	1	0
		2	Lizzie Harris,	10	22.00		9	7	41	2
		2	M. Jennie Hoyt,	6	20.00	85.26	9	8	41	2
		2	Eva S. Wyatt,	6	28.00		14	13	43	5
8	J. A. V. York,	1	Harriet C. Russell,	8	28.00	122.03	18	16	15	4
9	G. W. Garland,	2	M. M. Clark,	10	24.00		18	10	19	1
		1	M. M. Clark,	9	21.60	109.77	20	17	2	3
		2		11	25.00		20	17	5	1
	Union No. 7,					37.76				



In making my report for this year, I propose to follow the plan which was adopted last year, not to criticise individual teachers or scholars, but to give such a statement of facts as will be advantageous to the cause of common school education in this town.

This much I will say, that the teachers employed this year, in the several districts have been very well qualified, and with one or two exceptions were eminently successful. The exceptional ones would have been successful had they possessed more energy, and the tact to infuse more energy into their pupils.

The scholars, in a majority of cases, have improved as well as they could, under the circumstances for the amount of money raised and expended for our district schools during the year has been several hundred dollars less than for the 1872.

The reason of its being less, is, that the law requires each town to raise \$350,00 for the support of schools, for every dollar of public or state tax apportioned to each town.

In 1872, the state tax for Plymouth was \$4,01 which made \$1403,50 as the amount required by law to be raised for school purposes.

In 1873, the state tax was but \$3,23 making \$273,00 less than the amount raised for the year 1872, or \$1,130,50 as required by law to be raised for the year 1873. The consequence has been, shorter terms of school, which is much to be regretted, as one term of twelve weeks is far more profitable than two terms even of seven weeks each, for there is great loss of time and money, which can be ill afforded where so little money is raised for school purposes as in this town. No district should have less than ten weeks in a term, and if the amount of money is not sufficient to allow more than twelve or even sixteen weeks of school during the year, it had better all be put into one term.— This is not only my own opinion, but that of many professional teachers whom I have consulted.

It would undoubtedly be inconvenient in some cases to have but one term of school, as some of the older scholars are wanted at home, but you cannot have them laboring at home and attending school at the same time, and it is folly to spend your money for pearls and then cast them in the mud to be lost.

In this connection, allow me to call your attention to the act of the Legislature passed June session 1871, the first section of which makes it imperative on every person having the charge of a child between the age of eight and fourteen years, to send that child to school twelve weeks or more annually, if the school is located within two miles by the nearest traveled road. Sect. 3d of the same act has fixed a penalty for the violation of the first section, of ten dollars for the first offence, and twenty dollars for each subsequent offence.

A glance at the "average attendance" reveals the fact that many are liable to this penalty whenever a tax payer sees fit to enter a complaint. In any term of school there is a loss of about one week, perhaps I should not say lost, but there is fully that amount of time that is not spent in good hard study. Another disadvantage we labor under in having short terms or school, is the too frequent change of teachers, ; if you make a good selection, the chances are that you cannot get the same one again for the next term, for good teachers seek for the long terms, for they know that they can make their scholars improve more, and thus add to their own reputation, if such a school is not to be found in this town they will generally seek employment elsewhere, for first class teachers are scarce, poor ones plenty.

Therefore, I would recommend that the Prudential Committees, before they employ their teachers, learn how much money they are to have, and if the amount is not sufficient for eighteen or twenty weeks, have but one term.

Most of the school houses as they now stand are very poor, entirely unfit for school purposes, and a disgrace to the district, the expenditure of a few dollars by each district would make the most of them comfortable and some of them quite attractive.

The next important subject of which I wish to speak, is the multiplicity of text books. On visiting the schools the present year, I found the evil had rather increased than diminished.— Knowing and feeling the opposition I should encounter if I made a change, I delayed it until I visited two or three schools, in all of which I found a sad state of things, especially among those studying Arithmetic. There had been no legal change in that text book since 1866, when Eatons series were introduced, and then it was carried into effect in only two or three districts, the reason assigned to me for not giving it a general introduction both by teachers and scholars almost universally throughout the town is "we do not like it, we do not think it well adapted to our wants." About this time I received a circular from the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, he referred me to the laws of 1868, page 144, chap 9. Then he goes on to say:

"Multiplicity of text books has been a severe drawback to our schools. its deleterious influences yet linger. You perceive by sections 11, 12, & 13 you are directly responsible for the continuance of that unnecessary evil. Delay the work of reform no longer. Establish uniformity of text books in every school under your supervision. Exclude the surplurfluous books and forbid their use. Commence at once. A teacher is not liable to a parent for refusing to instruct his children in a rejected text book."

After a careful examination of the different works published and a consultation with the most prominent teachers as for the.



best books for our district schools, French's series were adopted. I made arrangement with the publishers to furnish the books at the lowest wholesale price, which was 33 1-3 per cent less than retail price. Every scholar had a chance to have a new book just at cost. 213 gladly availed themselves of the opportunity. Some few I am sorry to say did not. One whole district, I found on my last visit to the school, had returned their books and I was told by the teacher that the parents informed her that if they had to get new books they should take their scholars from the school, and she thought she had rather have the scholars than the books. Had the expense of these books been equally divided among the legal voters of the town it would have been less than twenty cents for each to pay.

The highest price asked any scholar was 67 cts; and still we have men in town who have money at interest, who are loud-mouthed in their opposition to paying 34 cents for a new book for his boy, but had rather have him carry some leaves without a cover. I sincerely hope my successor will be more faithful in the discharge of his duties in regard to text books than I have been. In my case repentance comes too late.

The only series of text books in use in town that cannot be legally changed within three years is French's series of Arithmetics, all others ought to be changed, and may be at the discretion of the Superintendent. In the language of my predecessor, "I have no axes to grind," being satiated with the honors and emoluments of the office of Supt. School Com. and having the good and prosperity of the district entirely in view, I will venture to advise the adoption by the towns of such by-laws as will enable the S. S. Com. to hold his office for a term of years. Under the present system no plan can be matured.

The committee for the first year is just learning the wants of the schools, if he has the office next year he will commence some plan, before he can get it well at work some one else has been appointed, who goes over the same ground but forms different plans. If you do not wish to pass by-laws of this kind, choose some person who is qualified and who will interest himself in the welfare of your children; then continue him in office as long as he is faithful to the trust. I do consider some such plan of vital importance to your schools.

Tardiness is a fearful evil. Parents are to blame for this. See to it, that your children are at school in the morning, and do not allow them unless absolutely necessary to be absent even for one half day. All of which is respectfully submitted.

J. W. PRESTON, Supt. School Com.

Plymouth, March 4, 1874.



