

REPORTS OF THE SELECTMEN
 AND
Superintending School Committee,
 OF THE
TOWN OF ALBION,
For the Year ending March 1, 1874.

SELECTMEN'S REPORT.

The undersigned, Selectmen of the town of Albion, submit the following report:—

Present Financial Condition.

Resources.

In hands of Francis Shorey, Treas. and Col.....	\$1208 91	
Due from George Fall, for hay.....	65 00	
	1273 91	

Liabilities.

Due the several School Districts, including the mill tax for 1874.....	\$463 24	
Selectmen's Bills.....	147 75	
Outstanding orders.....	141 41	
	752 40	
Balance in favor of the town.....		521 51

Detailed Report of Financial Transactions of the Town.

Receipts.

From former Treasurer.....	\$622 46	
Tax bills for 1873.....	1,0113 35	
Bank School fund and mill tax.....	707 60	
From town of Freedom, Cookson case.....	170 00	
Taxes abated last year.....	13 98	
From State for Free High School.....	118 13	
Interest on State Bonds.....	180 00	
	11,925 52	

TOWN OF ALBION.

Expenditures.

State Tax for 1873.....	\$1837 18	
County Tax for 1873.....	524 99	
Paid for labor on highways.....	4973 46	
Support of Schools.....	1500 69	
Free High School.....	252 75	
Support of poor.....	315 18	
Town Officers' bills, except Selectmen's..	224 23	
Building Chalmer's bridge.....	740 08	
Rebuilding fall bridge.....	59 10	
J. Moody, making Dean Hill road.....	166 73	
Printing town reports of 1872.....	13 00	
Blank Books and Stationery.....	10 15	
Libby & Choat, Counsel in Cookson case.	15 00	
Dennis Mudgett, S. S. Com. 1872.....	9 00	
Plank for bridges.....	25 12	
A. H. Hammond, expenses town reports of 1872.....	5 00	
David Fall, repairing Fall bridge.....	5 00	
Francis Shorey, for paying State pensions.	4 00	
Asa Trask, land damage by winter road..	3 00	
Abatement of taxes.....	30 95	
G. B. Wood, for use of Pound.....	2 00	
In hands of Collector and Treasurer.....	1208 91	
		<u>\$11,925 52</u>

Town Officers' Bills.

M. Rollins, jr., Selectman, Assessor and Overseer of Poor.....	74 50	
Same for horse and carriage.....	7 75	
Charles Drake, same offices.....	29 50	
Francis Shorey, ".....	31 00	
Same for horse and carriage.....	5 00	
		<u>147 75</u>
Otis Meader, S. S. Committee.....	31 38	
Same for cash paid for printing blanks.....	5 00	
Wm. A. Varney, same office.....	30 15	
R. L. Baker, ".....	21 25	
		<u>87 78</u>
Francis Shorey, Collector and Treasurer.....	127 45	
Geo. W. Kidder, Town Clerk.....	9 00	
		<u>\$371 98</u>

Support of Poor, in Poor House, from March 1, 1873, to March 1, 1874.

Paid Winthrop Murray, balance of salary of 1872 ...	\$11 00
Wm. F. Morse, salary to March 1, 1874.....	265 00
For one pair oxen, \$190; 1 cow and calf, 50.00; 240 00	
For repairs on Town Farm buildings.....	139 71
For work in haying, \$70.80; Store bills, 95.17; .	165 97
8 bush. corn and meal, \$7.20; 225 lbs. shorts, 3.94; 11 14	
400 lbs. plaster, \$1.40; 34 lbs. beef, 2.61;.....	4 01
Shearing sheep, \$1.31; repairs on pumps, 5.85; .	7 16

Tin ware, \$3.81; bedding and clothing, 16.11; .	19 92
Carding rolls, \$1.00; blacksmithing, 1.65;.....	2 65
2 pigs, \$5.00; use of bull, 3.00; 2 bedsteads, \$3;	11 00
Grass seed, \$7.95; doctor's bills, 11.25;.....	19 20
Funeral expenses of Lydia Kenney.....	8 45
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	\$905 21

Articles sold from Town Farm from March 1, 1873, to March 1, 1874.

2 oxen, \$220; 3 calves, 20.50; 1 cow, 40.00;.....	\$280 50
4 lambs, \$14; 83 lbs. of wool, 37.35;.....	51 35
17 bush. of apples, \$5.10; 33 galls. cider, 3.96;.....	9 06
50 lbs. poultry, \$5; 39 doz eggs, 8.85;.....	13 85
199 lbs. butter, \$55.17; 71 lbs. dried apples, 7.10;.....	62 27
5 galls. vinegar, \$1.05; 1 sheep skin, 1.00;.....	2 05
9 bush. potatoes, \$4.50; 5 lbs. of tags, 70 cents;.....	5 20
7 flour bbls. \$1.25; 7 yards of gingham, 1.00;... ..	2 25
Plastering, \$15; labor and board of men pressing hay, 8.00;... ..	23 00
Labor and board of man chopping wood, \$10;.....	10 00
16½ tons of hay, \$165;	165 00
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	\$624 53
Expense of poor on Town Farm.....	280 68

Support of Poor out of Poor House.

Josiah Danforth and family.....	\$17 50
Michael Kennedy	17 00
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	34 50
Total expense of poor	315 18

Inventory of Stock and Provisions on Town Farm.

2 oxen, \$200; 3 cows, 110; 26 sheep, 100;.....	\$410 00
2 swine, \$20; 12 tons hay, 120; 3 bush. corn, 3.00; ..	143 00
3 bush. beans, \$9; 40 bush. potatoes, 20; 50 galls. vinegar, 12.50; ..	41 50
1 bbl. flour, \$9; 12 lbs. dried apples, 1.20; 2 bbls. soap, 8.00;	18 20
100 lbs. pork, \$10; 20 lbs. lard, 3.00; 5 lbs. sugar, 70 cts.;..	13 70
3 galls. molasses, 1.50; other groceries, 3.00;	4 50
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	630 90

Repairs of Town Farm buildings.

13 M. shingles and 100 ft. pine boards	37 75
1 bunch of clapboards	00 37
77 lbs. nails.....	5 54
16½ galls. oil	18 68
150 lbs. white lead	18 75
80 lbs. French yellow.....	4 05
3 lbs. venetian red, 15 cts.; 5 lbs. whitning, 40 cts.;.....	00 55
1 lb. drop black, 50 cts.; 1 paper lampblack, 13 cts.;.....	00 63
4 paint brushes, 1.35; 8½ lbs. zinc, 1.06;.....	2 41

TOWN OF ALBION.

5 qts. Japan, 2.13; 6 qts. spirits turpentine, 1.38;.....	3 51
69 rolls paper	9 74
141 yards border	3 67
2½ casks lime.....	4 50
16 lights of glass, 1.26: 300 bricks, 3.30.....	4 56
Paid for plastering, painting and papering.....	25 00
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	189 71

 Cost of Chalmer's Bridge.

Paid Nath. Coombs for building abutments.....	445 00
for plank, boards and shingles	53 47
Iron and nails	78 05
Henry Moody, for ash timber.....	39 00
L. G. Shorey, for cedar timber.....	14 00
G. B. Shorey, for labor.....	22 00
Ripley Chalmers, for labor.....	19 50
Seneca Shorey, "	16 00
Sidney Shorey, "	18 00
Nath. Coombs, "	22 06
Board of men.....	13 00
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	\$740 08

There is in the hands of the Treasurer, State bonds to the amount of \$3000.

The town has no suit in law, and no unsettled claim.

M. ROLLINS, JR., }
 CHARLES DRAKE, } Selectmen
 FRANCIS SHOREY, } of
 Albion.

Report of the Superintending School Committee.

District No. 2—Otis Fall, Agent.

Summer Term taught by Miss Emma Spencer, of Albion, who, although young in years and experience, we consider among our best teachers. At our several visits found order good, scholars prompt at recitations, and method of instruction thorough, and systematic; consequently the improvement could not fail to be satisfactory.

Winter Term, by same teacher, with like order and harmony, until near the close, when a slight difficulty arose between the teacher and one of her pupils, which we think was adjusted without detriment to the school; and, at the closing examination, it was evident that the term had been a profitable one. Many of the parents were present at this examination, who expressed themselves well satisfied. We think this school under competent teachers ranks among the first in town.

District No. 3—Wm. C. Crosby, Agent.

Summer Term, by Miss Ada M. Crosby, a member of the district, who not having the support of all the parents, labored under difficulties; but at the closing examination, as far as we were able to judge, the school had made good improvement.

Winter Term by Wm. C. Crosby. The school under his charge made good progress.

District No. 4—D. Rackliff, Agent.

Summer Term, by Miss Mary Billings of Clinton. At our first visit we found order good, scholars apparently interested, and the method of instruction commendable; yet, at the closing examination, we failed to see that improvement which we had reason to expect, in consequence, as we thought, of neglect on the part of the teacher, in enforcing that wholesome discipline which is so necessary to the welfare of a school.

Winter Term, was commenced by Mr. Gilbert Strout of Freedom; who, after keeping some ten days, voluntarily left, for reasons unknown to us. The term was finished by Mr. Darius Gilman, who was visited only at the close, when we *concluded* he failed somewhat in discipline.

District No. 5—J. J. Varney, Agent.

Summer Term, by Miss Lillie V. Delling of Freedom; an energetic and thorough teacher. We think Miss D., as on former occasions, was successful.

Winter Term, by Wilson Plummer of Palermo. At the commencement we found the school well arranged and order very good; yet we thought a few of the scholars were not so deeply interested in their studies as they *should* be. The school was not visited at the close, but Mr. P. informed us that his scholars learned well.

District No. 6—A. Shorey, Agent.

There was one term by Miss C. Worthen. At the commencement we found Miss W. a wide awake and energetic teacher, and we predicted a first class school. Not receiving notice of its close, it was visited but once; yet we learn that our expectations were fully realized. We consider Miss W. one of our best teachers, and the district that secures her services (at any price) will be fortunate.

District No. 7—G. B. Wood, Agent.

This District, as usual, had one term the past year, under the management of Miss Hattie J. Shorey of Albion, which was visited but once; yet we understand good satisfaction was given.

District No. 8—N. R. Wellington, Agent.

Summer Term, Miss J. A. Gilman, a well known teacher, who has taught several terms in town with excellent success, and whom we consider among our first teachers. Yet we think, in this instance, she failed to come up to her former standard of excellency, both in regard to discipline and drill.

Winter Term, by Miss Nellie C. Robinson of Palermo. Although this is the largest school in town, having we believe, an average attendance of over forty scholars, including a considerable number of *large* boys and girls; yet, to the credit of all concerned, we can say that we found the most *perfect* order characterizing this school at *both* our visits; which was apparently maintained without effort; also found the scholars subjected to a most *thorough* and *systematic* drill, and they, in turn, studious and interested. And on the whole we feel to compliment both teacher and scholars very highly on the perfect success of their school.

District No. 9—A. B. Shaw, Agent.

The *Summer Term* was under the charge of Miss Hattie J. Shorey, a resident of the district. The scholars in this district are well disposed and seemed to respect their teacher. At our visit we found Miss S. apparently interested in her work and laboring diligently for the benefit of those under her charge. Not being notified, it was not visited at the close.

Winter Term, by Miss Celestia Worthen. We think this district was fortunate in securing the services of Miss W. It was easy to see at the commencement that the term would be a successful one. At the examination, near the close of the term, the classes all acquitted themselves with credit, showing that they had received a thorough course of instruction.

District No. 10—George Rider, Agent.

Summer Term, by Miss Vesta A. Baker of Gardiner, who labored with energy for the advancement of her pupils, and the closing examination showed that her success was commendable.

Winter Term, by Ida M. Fuller, a resident of the district, of whose qualifications as a teacher there can be no doubt, and whose school at the commencement appeared well. As it was not visited at the close, for the reason that we were not notified, we are unable to state the result.

District No. 11—O. Foss, Agent.

Summer Term, by Miss Annie M. Fuller of Detroit. At our first visit we found Miss F. meant business, and understood how a school should be managed to make it a success. At the closing examination the pupils were prompt in their recitations, and what they had been over they understood. We feel safe in recommending Miss F. to those wishing the services of a good teacher.

Winter Term, by Miss J. A. Gilman, with her usual success.

District No. 12—A. G. Thompson, Agent.

Summer Term, by Miss Jennie Stevens of Unity. This was Miss S's first attempt, and the term being short the improvement was not so good as we could wish; but we think with more experience she will make a good teacher.

Winter Term, by Miss Lillie V. Dilling of Freedom, with success, as in number five.

District No. 13—Joseph Hussey, Agent.

This district had but one term, which was taught by Miss Ayer of Freedom, a young and inexperienced teacher. At the commencement we found the school very small, yet we thought the teacher was striving to make it interesting and profitable. We regret very much that we were unable to visit it at the close, and consequently cannot note the result. We thought Miss A.'s method of instruction very good, and with more experience, we will venture to say she will become an able teacher.

District No. 14—S. Bragg, Agent.

Summer Term, by Miss Aurelia Farnham. This was her first attempt at teaching, yet we think she met with very good success.

The *Winter Term* was under the charge of Mr. George Meader, for the third time, who, we think, discharged his duty faithfully, giving, as we understand, good satisfaction. For the encouragement of the scholars in this district, we would say that they appeared studious, and manifested a disposition to learn; and we think they are improving fast, as we noticed that a few of their number might be ranked among our best scholars in town.

Free High School.

In accordance with a vote of the town, passed at our last annual meeting, appropriating the sum of \$150.00 for the support of a Free High School, to be under the entire control of the Superintending School Committee, we have attended to our duty in that respect, and submit the following report:

As the town neglected to locate the school and provide a suitable place to hold it, and as, "according to the statutes in such cases made and provided," the duty of location devolved upon the Superintending School Committee, this seemed the first thing to be considered. In the course of our deliberations it became evident that there was no school house in town suitable to convene the number of scholars we should be likely to have, and as the use of the new hall at Albion Corner could be obtained without expense to the town, it was decided to hold the school in that. The hall was accordingly fitted up, through the generosity of a few individuals, so as to accommodate a large number of scholars; and the school was put in operation, and continued ten weeks, under the charge of Mr. Roscoe L. Worthing, Principal, and Miss Nellie C. Robinson, Assistant. The school opened with 112 scholars, and closed with about 80, showing an average attendance of 101 scholars, at a net cost of \$252.75.

Although this school was commenced under many disadvantages, and notwithstanding the large number of scholars of different grades, yet upon our first visit we found the school, by the energy and efficiency of the teachers, reduced to system, and everything moving with the utmost harmony and regularity, which was maintained to the close. This term being an experiment, under a new law, we cannot expect that degree of perfection which *may* be arrived at with more experience; yet the closing examination elicited the fact that the earnest efforts of the teachers, receiving, as they did, the co-operation of the scholars, were not in vain; and we feel safe in pronouncing *this* term a success.

In conclusion, we would say that we do not consider it within the province of our duty to discuss the question, as to whether it is expedient for the town to raise money for a school of this kind another year; on the contrary we would leave them free to act as, in their wisdom, they may decide. But we would most heartily recommend that, should they decide upon having one another year, they locate the same *themselves*, thus removing the responsibility of doing so from your Committee, and freeing them from the *censure and criticism* of the whole town.

In submitting the foregoing report we have endeavored to give a brief and impartial statement of the condition of the schools the past year, the

proficiency made by the scholars, and the success attending the mode of instruction and government of each teacher.

The improvement in most of our schools has been good, though in a few the money has been poorly expended. As a means of elevating the standard of our schools we think there are certain things which demand our earnest attention, foremost among which is the condition of the house. A good and profitable school is rare in a poor house. That many of our school houses are in a miserable condition no one can deny. To onumerate all the evils resulting from this cause is not our intention; but we would call the attention of the inhabitants of each district to this subject, and advise them to see that their scholars are accommodated with a suitable house. Not only better school houses are needed, but there are some articles which we consider necessary for furnishing them, among which is a *blackboard*, and yet, with hardly an exception, our houses can boast of nothing more than an apology for this necessity. There is, it is true, in all our school rooms, a *black board* fastened to the wall, or, worse still, a few square feet of plastering painted black, serving rather to develop the patience of the teacher and pupil than furnishing places for illustration and example. Agents: will you not attend to this matter, and see that your school rooms are furnished with suitable blackboards, and have them placed in such a position that all the scholars can have access to them; for we consider no school room perfect without such, and no teacher efficient who does not make continual use of them.

There is another point to which we would call the attention of agents; that they should be more particular in regard to notifying the committee, according to law, of the time the school is to commence and how long to continue. We have been notified legally in but few instances, while many agents have neglected their duty entirely in this respect. Your schools would be more regularly visited were this provision of the statute more promptly complied with.

There is yet another suggestion which we would make to agents, and parents in general: *Let the teacher have your hearty co-operation*, for we believe a school can be a perfect success only when parents and teachers co-operate. Is it not the duty of every parent to see that his children are educated to the extent of his ability? Is his duty fully performed when he has voted his money and seen his children start for school? Has he any moral right to find fault with the teacher until he has visited the school and made himself familiar with its management? Anticipating the answers to these questions, we say to the parents in Albion, once for all, visit your schools often and know for yourselves how they are conducted; thereby encouraging your scholars and aiding the teacher in the all-important work in which he is engaged.

O. MEADER,	} S. S. Committee	
WM. A. VARNEY,		of
R. L. BAKER,		Albion.