

Letting Out the Poor

By Ron Romano

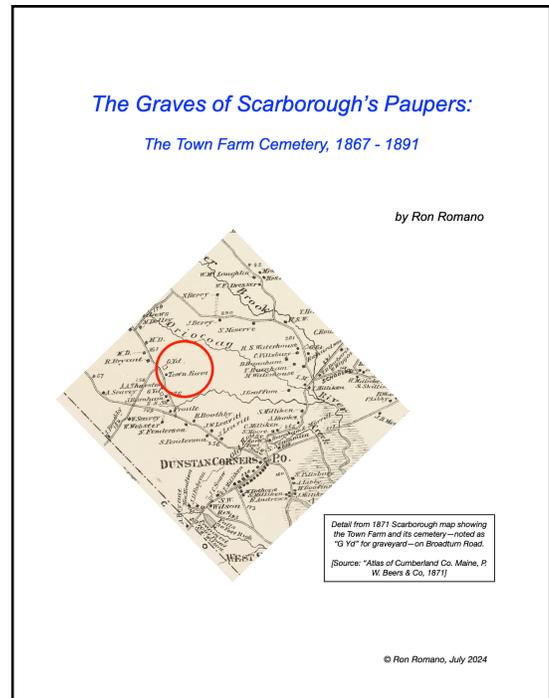
In 1857, Scarborough's Ebenezer Libby created a log book he titled "An Account of the Doings of Selectmen, Assessors, and Overseers of Poor." What's left of the original is today found in the collections of the Maine Historical Society¹ but they've provided the Scarborough Historical Society with photos of each page for its own collections.

Ebenezer Libby (1805 - 1896) was a lifelong farmer who also served the town of Scarborough for many years as an Overseer of the Poor and, for a shorter period, its Treasurer. We're lucky to have his log book, since no Scarborough Annual Reports are found for the years 1857, 1858, 1859, or 1860, precisely the years he kept detailed notes regarding the management of the town's poor residents, among other business.

For 1861, Ebenezer's log entries only exist through February 28. Then there is a five-year gap until his next entry of April 25, 1866. Perhaps because those were Civil War years, life was too far from normal and he stopped keeping notes. Maybe instead the pages are just missing; it's not clear. Ebenezer Libby's 1866 log entries are rather sparse compared to the earlier period. And there are just four notes in 1867, the last being this on March 13: "Delivered the selectmen books, papers, and desk to Johnson Libby who is my successor in office."

In July 2024 I published a paper entitled "*The Graves of Scarborough's Paupers: The Town Farm Cemetery, 1867 - 1891*" and then presented the paper at a lecture for the Society in October. That paper gave voice to many of the town's paupers — those residents who lacked housing, family, or financial security and who had received some form of aid. Some of them lived at the Town Farm (the Alms House) and some who died there were first buried at the farm's cemetery but later laid to rest at Dunstan Cemetery.

It's no surprise to find that many of the paupers mentioned in the log book were also documented in the available town Annual Reports published in the latter half of the nineteenth century. Ebenezer's notes enrich our knowledge about these people who were more often than not simply forgotten because of their unfortunate life circumstances. More than 100 specific references—for dozens of people—are made in his log. There's one noteworthy entry for November 1857 regarding Priscilla Burnham, a person whose story is told in my 2024 paper and in her listing on the



¹ Source: *The family papers of the Plummer and Libby families of Portland and Scarborough*, Coll. 1032 box 1/7.

find-a-grave website.² Ebenezer wrote, “Went to Henry Moulton and brought Priscilla Burnham to my house to live, [I am to receive] 75 cents per week for boarding her or less if I think I can afford it.” Priscilla Burnham was a woman with diminished mental capacity; it was kind of Ebenezer Libby to bring her into his home which already had ten or more others living there in 1857.³

Augusta Lowell (? - 1861)

During my research in 2024, I’d found little about Augusta Lowell. She was not listed as being a pauper in the 1850 or 1860 censuses for Scarborough; the only reference regarding public assistance was from the 1862 Annual Report. There, under “Expenses of the Poor” it was noted that in 1861 the town had paid \$73.39 “for support and burial expenses of Augusta Lowell.” A second note followed that the town had “received \$22.04 from [the] sale of the effects of Augusta Lowell.”

While Ebenezer’s log doesn’t provide any missing key elements—her birth date, home town, marriage status or family relationships—it does expand the story of her dependence on town aid by four years. A half-dozen references are found in the log. In November 1857 the town had agreed to furnish her with two cords of wood for the winter. In March 1858 the town agreed to pay Mrs. Mark Libby \$2 per week to “do all necessary work” for Augusta “while she is lame.” The following month, the cost of her weekly care dropped to \$1.50, then in May to just \$0.50 per week. She must have been steadily getting better since by June the town agreed to settle the outstanding bill for the work Mrs. Libby had provided.⁴ At the end of July Ebenezer noted that the town would provide her with \$0.50 per week for goods purchased at the store so long as she was able “to do all her own work.”

On August 5, 1858, Ebenezer wrote, “Mark Libby notified me that Augusta Lowell was worse and needed help. I directed to take care of her as how [best] he could consistently.” Once again, she must have improved for a while. It wasn’t until December of the following year that she again appeared in the log. A widow named Emerline Libby had agreed to take Augusta into her home for the winter for \$1.50 per week.⁵

Ebenezer Libby’s final note regarding Augusta was this, from July 1860: “Agreed...to support Augusta Lowell the year ensuing, for \$1.25 per week, and if she should be very sick so as to need much extra care it is agreed to be discretionary with the selectmen for [expending] any extra...” We know from the 1862 town report that Augusta died sometime in 1861. She was most likely buried at the town’s common burying ground (later developed into Dunstan Cemetery), though no marker would have been made for her grave.⁶

² See <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/270371125/priscilla-burnham>

³ The 1850 census confirms that Ebenezer and Mary Libby had six children living at home: Mary/Maria, Samuel, Lucy, Hannah, Jane, and Ebenezer Jr. Ebenezer’s elderly parents lived there as well. Twin daughters had died in infancy in 1847. The 1860 census included the core family of eight plus three boarders. Priscilla Burnham was not listed since she had left Ebenezer’s farm in August 1858.

⁴ Despite the fact that Mrs. Clark was caregiver, the payment went to her husband. A sign of the times...

⁵ Could she have been Mrs. Mark Libby? I’ve been unable to make such a link.

⁶ None of those from the Town Farm Cemetery or Dunstan Cemetery’s paupers field were given gravestones. I created a find-a-grave listing for her—and 36 others—in the paupers field area at Dunstan. See: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/272161670/augusta-lowell>

Theodore Libby (1819 - 1866)

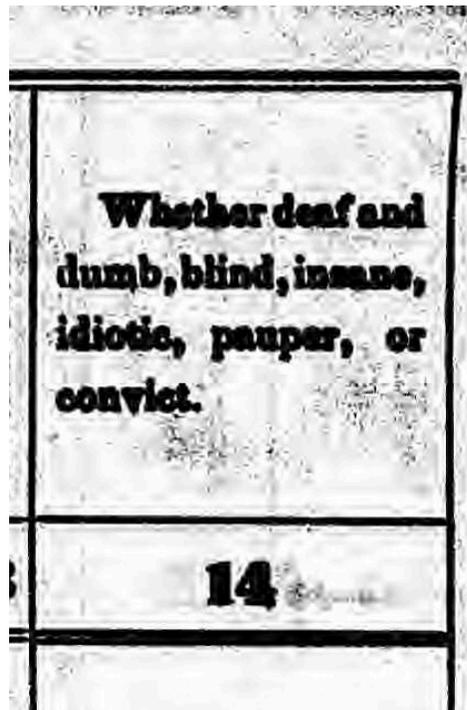
Theodore Libby was not included in my research of town paupers in 2024, but the entries in Ebenezer's log tell some of his story. Born in 1819 and apparently never married, Theodore Libby was a farmer who appeared as the head of his household in the 1850 census for Scarborough. In his home were his presumed mother Sarah and a presumed brother Cyrus. Also living there was a 65-year-old woman named Meribah Clark. In January 1858, Ebenezer noted that Theodore had made a request to the Overseers of the Poor to care for a woman named Clarke (likely Clark). Theodore said she was originally from Gorham but had been living with his family in Scarborough for seven years. The Overseers approved the request in March 1858, agreeing to pay Theodore fifty cents per week through mid-May.

The June 1860 federal census for Scarborough showed Theodore still single, still farming, and head of a household consisting of himself and Cyrus. Theodore was noted in that census to be insane. A few days before the census was recorded, Miss Clark died and Ebenezer noted he'd gone to Portland to purchase her coffin.

In September, Ebenezer Libby noted that the Selectmen had met at Johnson Libby's house "examining the case and hearing testimony concerning the insanity of Theodore Libby." These three—all named Libby—may have been related, though I did not sort out family relationships for this paper; hundreds of Libbys lived in Scarborough at the time. Log notes over three successive days in November read "I went after Theodore Libby but did not find him," then "Found Theodore Libby in Gorham and got him home," and finally "I went to Theodore Libby and took him and sent him to the Insane Hospital..."

Ebenezer went to Augusta to visit Theodore at the hospital at the end of January 1861. Then on February 26 he noted that he had gone back to Augusta to get Theodore and on the 27th brought him home. That was Ebenezer's last entry before the five-year lapse noted above.

Theodore Libby lived five more years, passing away January 28, 1866, in Buxton. Details of his burial location are not known. But the *Daily Eastern Argus* newspaper of March 10, 1866, shown at the right, provides a look at what happened after his death...



Above: Detail from the 1860 US census. Question 14 asked "Whether deaf and dumb, blind, insane, idiotic, pauper, or convict."

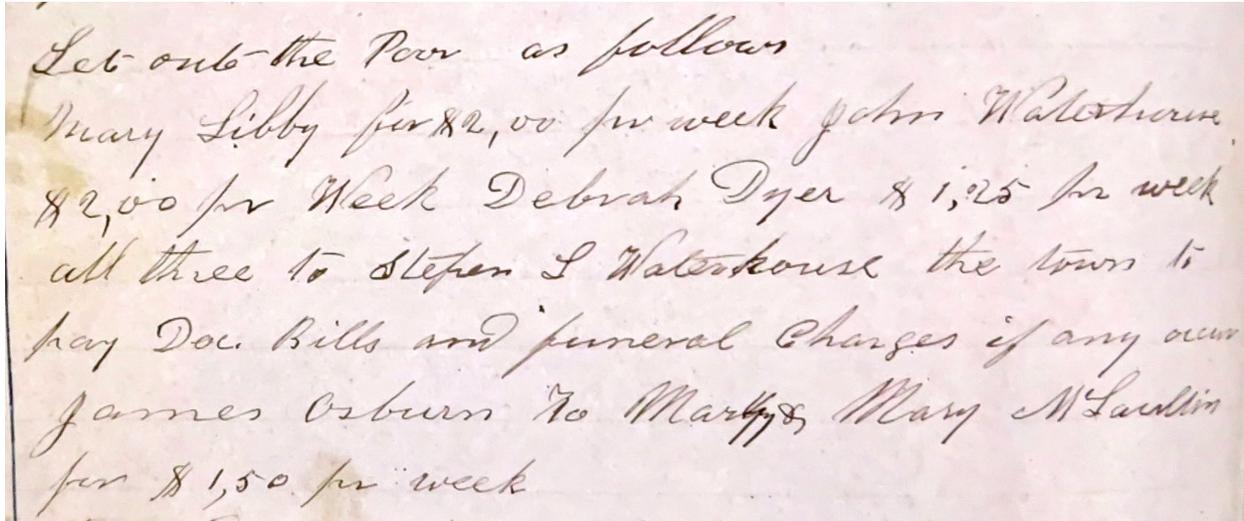
Below: *Daily Eastern Argus*, March 10, 1866.

WILL CASE.—Judge Waterman, of the Probate Court, was engaged Wednesday and part of yesterday, in hearing testimony upon the last will and testament of the late Theodore Libby, of Scarborough. The will is dated January 25th, 1866, and after two or three small legacies, provides that the balance of his property, estimated at four thousand dollars, shall go to a niece and two nephews. The will is contested by Dennis Skillin, brother-in-law of the deceased, to whose children only twenty five dollars each was bequeathed, on the ground of insanity of the deceased at the time the will was executed. After a full hearing the will was approved and admitted to probate.

A. A. Strout, Esq., appeared for the will, and M. M. Butler, Esq., for the contestant.

Letting Out the Poor

While transcribing Ebenezer's log book, I found an interesting entry for May 12, 1857:



Let out the Poor as follows
Mary Libby for \$2.00 per week John Waterhouse
\$2.00 per week Deborah Dyer \$1.25 per week
all three to Stephen L Waterhouse the town to
pay Doc. Bills and funeral Charges if any occur
James Osburn to Martha & Mary McLaughlin
for \$1.50 per week

Transcription of above:

Let out the Poor as follows.

Mary Libby for \$2.00 per week

John Waterhouse \$2.00 per week

Deborah Dyer \$1.25 per week

All three to Stephen L. Waterhouse

The town to pay doctor bills and funeral charges if any occur

James Osburn to Martha & Mary McLaughlin for \$1.50 per week

I found similar wording in an entry the following May. That one read, "Met at Freedom Milliken[']s house] to let out the poor..." The same wording followed in May 1859 and again in May 1860. As noted above, the log book had no entries from March 1861 through spring of 1866, but when the log picked back up in the spring of 1866, yet another similarly-worded note was made that May: "Selectmen met at the Town House to let out the Poor."

Clearly, this phrase has meaning, but until now it's been unfamiliar to me. A 2015 paper about Newton, Massachusetts, by Michael J. Clarke entitled, "*Newton's Almshouses 1731 to 1964*" addressed the issue. He wrote that in the nineteenth century some Massachusetts towns experimented with an alternative to the workhouses where poor citizens were often sent to earn their keep. Newton's Selectmen decided to "let out the poor" in a way that would appear to the poor citizens to be in the best interest of the town. (One might wonder today about the best interest of the poor person!)

“Letting out the poor” *sounds* as if people were confined to their homes or a facility but allowed to go outside each day. Instead, “letting out” in this case is closer to the idea of putting a property up for rent, as in “house to let.”

The suggestion here is that, in effect, the poor were *auctioned off* to the winning lowest bidder. Whoever offered to board the person for the lowest cost to the town would “win” and the pauper would move to the winner’s home for an agreed-upon time. Michael Clarke noted that the winning bidder would surely also have benefitted from the expected labor of the boarder.

Clarke also noted that Maine native, nurse, and advocate for the poor, Dorothea Dix (1802 - 1887) wrote of the practice of letting out the poor. In 1843, her “Memorial to the Legislature of Massachusetts” noted this of Newton’s practice: “.. till [recently] the town had owned no farm for the poor. This man, with others, had been annually put up at auction. I hope there is nothing offensive in the idea of these annual sales of old men and women, the sick, the infirm, and the helpless, the middle-aged, and children. Why should we not sell people as well as otherwise blot out human rights: it is only being consistent, surely not worse than chaining and caging naked lunatics upon public roads or burying them in closets and cellars!” Her sarcasm comes through here, but the point is well made that this process, in Newton anyway, was indeed an auction.



Dorothea Dix (image - public domain)

With this background, Ebenezer’s May 12, 1857, entry becomes clear. Stephen Waterhouse had won the right to board Mary Libby, John Waterhouse, and Deborah Dyer in exchange for a combined total of \$5.25 per week. The town’s payment was intended to cover the costs of housing and feeding the three. The town also made it clear that any medical or final expenses would be paid by Scarborough, not Mr. Waterhouse. Likewise, sisters Martha and Mary McLaughlin won the right to house James Osburn in exchange for \$1.50 per week.

A year later (May 14, 1858) just one week after the selectmen had let out the poor for 1858, Ebenezer wrote that he “went to S. L. Waterhouse and moved three of the poor to Johnson Libby.” Did Stephen Waterhouse no longer wish to have boarders?⁷ Did Johnson Libby undercut his bid? We don’t know, but the three poor people Ebenezer moved from the Waterhouse farm to the Libby farm must have been Mary Libby, John Waterhouse, and Deborah Dyer. Mary Libby would live there just a month. She died at Johnson Libby’s home that June.

In May of 1859, the selectmen met at the Town House to let out the poor, and within three weeks Sarah Sweetsir was moved from Harris Berry’s home to Martha McLaughlin’s home with agreement from the town to pay Miss McLaughlin \$1.40 per week.

The final time this phrase is found in Ebenezer’s log is May 14, 1866. The selectmen had met at the Town House to let out the poor, and had agreed to pay Joseph Moulton \$1.80 per week to support Simon P. Harmon. In addition the town would “furnish him with a hat.”

⁷ For the 1860 census we find that he had a full house of nine, five being core family members but four others appearing to be unrelated boarders. There was no indication any of them were town paupers.

Final Thoughts

The notion of auctioning Scarborough's paupers to the lowest bidder in the 1850s and 1860s is unsettling. Yet the wording in Ebenezer Libby's log suggests it happened in some form. Perhaps in Scarborough a few well-meaning townspeople stepped forward each May to offer places in their homes for those less fortunate, and the town calculated weekly payments to cover costs of food and necessities for their boarders. Perhaps "letting out the poor" in Scarborough simply referred to a regular annual review by the Overseers of the Poor to make sure unhoused people were housed properly.

The US Congressional Record from 1934 addressed the matter more broadly, noting "In January of the coming year the State legislatures of 44 of the 48 states will be in session. At this time one of the most important problems facing them will be the modernization of some of their obsolete poor-relief laws." Under the heading "*THE POOR ON THE AUCTION BLOCK*" the Record noted, "Even more archaic than the restriction upon suffrage are those which permit, and in some States require, counties to put the poor up for auction and sell them "down the river" to the lowest bidder. We can scarcely believe that such a situation still exists..."

In 1934 Maine prohibited paupers from voting, but disallowed towns from "setting up and bidding off" people requiring assistance. However, the law said towns "at their annual meeting may contract for the support of the poor for a term not exceeding five years..." Overseers of the town could bind those "having no means of support and living idly" to work; they were otherwise "liable to be sent to the house of corrections."

The practice of letting out the poor—in whatever form it actually took in Scarborough—hopefully came to an end in 1867 with the opening of the Town Farm on Broadturn Road. Great efforts had been made to find a solution to Scarborough's growing annual expenses to care for its poor and the Town Farm provided a solution at the time. Dozens of townspeople contributed goods and furnishings, labor and structural support to ensure that there was a good home available for those most in need. That's the legacy.

Ebenezer Libby retired from public service in 1867. In the 1870 census he was farming his land, with wife Mary and children Lucy, Hannah, and Ebenezer Jr. still at home. Ebenezer's final appearance in the US census was in 1880. He was then 75, Mary was 73, and Lucy, Hannah, and Ebenezer Jr. were in their thirties and forties but still in the family home. Had the 1990 US census not been lost, Ebenezer would have been there too - in his mid-eighties. He died in 1896, one year after Mary. They have markers on their graves at Black Point Cemetery.

The End

The Appendix that follows is the transcription of the Ebenezer Libby log book. Spelling corrections have been made, abbreviations expanded, and punctuation added.

| Date | Entry |
|------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1857 | An account of doings of Selectmen, Assessors and Overseers of the Poor of Scarborough for the year 1857 |
| April 14 | Settled with Jonah Harmon on account of George Libby whom the overseers bound to said Harmon Feb. 27, 1856. Received balance of his wages, namely \$6.42. |
| April 18 | Paid Mr. C. W. Libby for articles that the above named George Libby had received of them for his profit & support, \$4.17. Paid Francis Libby for same \$2.25. [totald to \$6.42] |
| May 12 | Let out the Poor as follows: Mary Libby for \$2.00 per week John Waterhouse \$2.00 per week Deborah Dyer \$1.25 per week All three to Stephen L. Waterhouse. The town to pay doctor bills and funeral charges if any occur. James Osborn to Martha & Mary McLaughlin for \$1.50 per week |
| May 25 | Agreed with Johnson Libby to support Jacob Libby for \$1.37 per week |
| May 26 & 27 | I went to Raymond to see to a pauper case: that of William Berry and Uriah Berry and families, alleged to belong to this town but it appears evident [that] they do not belong here but to N. Wane or Poland. Returned the 27th. |
| June 6 | ...Also received notice from Raymond that William Berry and Uriah Berry and their families were chargeable to this town. Returned them an answer that they did not belong to Scarborough and [that we] should not pay the bill. |
| June 16 | Selectmen presented a petition to [the] Judge of Probate to have a guardian appointed for Nathaniel Hasty |
| July 7 | I was at Portland on [the] Nathaniel Hasty case and had [it] put over to [the] last Tuesday in July |
| July 21 | At Portland[’s] Probate Court and had Elihu Hasty appointed guardian for Nathaniel Hasty Notified Stephen S. Waterhouse to pay one year board of Sarah Sweetsir to Buxton, as she was supported there during the year he supported the Poor of Scarborough. |
| August 8 | Selectmen met...to make some arrangement respecting the settlement with Buxton for the support of Sarah Sweetsir... |
| Sept. 4 | Selectmen met at my house ... also answered notice from the Overseers of Raymond dated August 26 that we should not remove William Berry & family nor pay for their support. |
| Oct. | Agreed with Nathaniel Chamberlin to furnish Polly Hunnewell with wood the coming winter, 2/3 dry pine and 1/3 green hard wood for \$3 per cord |

| Date | Entry |
|-------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Oct. | Agreed with William Plummer to furnish Betsy and Emmy Moody with wood the coming winter, 2/3 dry pine and 1/3 green hard wood for \$3 per cord |
| Nov. 6 | Went to Henry Moulton and brought Priscilla Burnham to my house to have, [I to receive] 75 cents per week for boarding her or less if I think I can afford it |
| Nov. 9 | Agreed with William Hunnewell to furnish Betsey Moody with hay, to be good meadow hay, at \$6.00 per ton |
| | Agreed with Dexter Libby to furnish Augusta Lowell with 2 1/2 cords of good black wood, or some of it may be green hard wood, cut [to] suitable length to burn for \$8 for the whole. |
| Dec. 5 | Took Anne Maria Lunt from William Wescott and carried her to Samuel Higgins to be supported while there for her Labour |
| Dec. 15 | Received Notice from Overseers of Biddeford that Axia Libby was on expense there & request[ing that] the Overseers of Scarborough take her away |
| Dec. 19 | Sent an answer to the Overseers of Biddeford that Axia Libby did not belong to Scarborough and we should not take her away nor pay any bills on her account |
| | Purchased a stove of George W Libby for Polly Hunnewell to use, but to remain the town's property, for \$6.50 for stove and apparatus (consisting of a wash boiler, tea kettle, spider, bake pan, and one kettle). |
| 1858 | |
| Jan. 23 | Notified Overseers of Westbrook to settle the bill for [the] expense of Alford Alexander by the 6th of next month or we should — — |
| Jan. 29 | Theodore Libby made a request for the Overseers of the Poor to take charge of a woman by the name of _____ Clarke who he states has lived [with] his family seven years, and that Gorham is her native place and she came from Gorham to his house. |
| Feb. 9 | Delivered a bill against Westbrook to Harrison Blake for collection [of the] \$5.00 expense of Alford Alexander. |
| March 3 | George Hopper (a native of England) came to my house to board as a Town Pauper |
| March 13 | Agreed with Theodore Libby to support Miss Clark from March 8th to May 14th for fifty cents per week |
| March 20 | Agreed with Mrs. Mark Libby to take care of Augusta Lowell a few weeks while she is lame [and] to do all necessary work for her for \$2.00 per week |
| March 22 | Received Notice from Overseers of the town of Auburn that William Berry and family [have] become chargeable to that town and request[ing] our town remove them |
| March 23 | Answered the Overseers of Auburn and denied removing William Berry and family or paying anything for their support |
| March 25 | Received a certificate from [the Post Master of] Auburn that he delivered [our] Notice of Denial of the Berry family being paupers |

| Date | Entry |
|----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Apr 10 | Agreed with Mark Libby [that his wife is] to take care of Augusta Lowell from this date for \$1.50 per week |
| April 12 | Samuel Meserve made application to Overseers for help from the town for support of Miss Hannah Rand. We referred the case to Mr. Grenville McKenney |
| April 16 | George Hopper left here. He has been boarding here since March 3rd |
| April 12 | Agreed with Samuel Meserve to support Hannah Rand; the expense to the town [is] not to exceed \$3.00 |
| April 24 | Notified to receive proposals for support of the poor until the 7th of May |
| May 7 | Met at Freedom Milliken[’s house] to let out the poor |
| May 14 | I went to S. L. Waterhouse and moved three of the poor to Johnson Libby[’s farm], also agreed with Mrs. Mark Libby to do for Augusta Lowell what she needs for 50 cents per week |
| June 1 | I attended Probate court at Portland on Nathaniel Hasty’s case of guardianship. Old Mrs. Mary Libby died at Johnson Libby[’s farm], a town pauper |
| June 2 | I went to Portland, got a coffin and grave clothes for Mrs. Mary Libby, and buried her from Johnson Libby’s land (?) Mrs. J. Libby entitled to three weeks support for her at \$1.75 per week |
| June 16 | Settled with [Mark] Libby for taking care of Augusta Lowell and family |
| July 5 | I went to the R. F. School and took Frank Wilson out and had him bound to Samuel B. Wilson. Paid the expense \$9.73 |
| July 31 | Paid Mark Libby in full for his wife taking care of Augusta Lowell \$3.00 Agreed with Augusta Lowell to furnish her at the store [at] 50 cents per week for 10 weeks if needed, so long and she to do all her own work. |
| Aug 5 | Mark Libby notified me that Augusta Lowell was worse and needed help. I directed to take care of her as how [best] as he could consistently |
| Aug 24 | Priscilla Burnham left my house to live with David Plummer Jr. C. E. She is to have two shillings per week |
| Aug 28 | Wrote a letter to Overseers from Sidney requesting information concerning Samuel Walker |
| Sept 22 | I went to Sidney to settle a bill for supplies of Samuel Walker & family, a pauper. Paid \$33.73 for the year 1858 and \$3.63 for the year 1857 which was due from S. L. Waterhouse [who] supported the poor of Scarborough. Returned Sept 25. |
| Oct. 9 | Abial Harmon went to James S. Libby[’s home] to board for \$0.75 per week. Received two dollars [from] David Plummer for Priscilla Burnham’s wages for six weeks and she is now to work for her board. |

| Date | Entry |
|-------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Nov. 8 | Selectmen (by order of the Judge of Probate) met at the widow Abigail Libby's to examine—and determine on the expedience of—having a guardian appointed for the said Abigail Libby, and came to the conclusion that she is not capable of taking care of herself or having the care of property. |
| | Selectmen by request of Seth Storer examined evidence and inquired into the state of mind of A. G. Thurston in regard to his being insane and came to the conclusion that he is not of sound mind and gave a certificate to that effect to the authorities of the Insane Hospital in Augusta Maine |
| | Received a letter from the Overseers of Raymond giving a bill of costs of William Berry and Uriah Berry's families, requesting this town pay the same. Agreed with Libby Skillins to furnish Polly Hunnewell with wood this coming winter, to be good soft wood sawed suitable for her stove for \$3.00 per cord. (A breakdown of green and hard wood follows...) |
| Nov. 15 | Selectmen met at Martha McLaughlin's home to settle with her for the support of James Osbourn during his last sickness to his death, which occurred November 5th. Paid her for all in full \$35. |
| Nov. 18 | I have been [trying] to ascertain where John W. Verrill has his legal residence and learned it to be either Portland or New Gloucester. |
| Nov. 23 | Notified the towns of Portland and New Gloucester on John W. Verrill and wife [being accounted] as paupers and deposited copies of the same with the [Scarborough] Town Clerk |
| Nov. 30 | Tilisfor Bailey of New Gloucester came after and acknowledged John W. Verrill and wife [do] belong to New Gloucester. Decided to have them here while they can support themselves. |
| Dec. 11 | Selectmen at Freedom Milliken's [house] to hear report of Grenville McKenney in regard to the Sweetsir case... Agreed with Mr. Plummer to furnish Betsy Moody with wood, 1/3 to be green hard wood, for \$3.00 per cord |
| 1859 | |
| Jan. 1 | Agreed with John Libby to furnish Betsy Moody with one ton of good meadow hay for \$8.00 |
| Jan. 20 | Agreed with David Plummer C. E. to support Priscilla Burnham for 75 cents per week until further orders. |
| Feb. 19 | Notified the town of New Gloucester that we had paid a bill to Dr. Sewall for John Verrill's family, a pauper of that town. |
| March 28 | Received notice from Overseers of Portland that Stephen Meserve was there on expense to Portland and alleged him to belong to Scarborough. Also rec'd a writ served on the Town Clerk by the town of Raymond for a bill of expenses for William Berry |

| Date | Entry |
|-----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| April 6 | Priscilla Burnham left David Plummer's house |
| April 4 | Abial Harmon left James S. Libby's house |
| March 31 | Notified the Overseers of Portland by written notice that Stephen Meserve did not belong to Scarborough |
| May 11 | At the Town House to let out the poor |
| June 6 | Mrs. Sarah Sweetsir moved from Harris Berry's to Martha McLaughlin's to be supported for \$1.40 per week |
| June 15 | Received \$7.50 from New Gloucester by the hand of George W. Whitman for supplies for John W. Verrill & wife |
| Oct. 26 | Agreed with Tappins Libby to furnish Polly Hunnewell with wood, to be half juniper and half pine, sawed suitable for her stove - the juniper at \$3.75, the pine at \$3.00 per cord. |
| Oct. 31 | Agreed with William Plummer to furnish Betsy and Emmy Moody with wood, half dry pine for \$3.00 per cord and half green hard wood for \$3.75 per cord, all to be sawed suitable for her stove. |
| Nov. 1 | Received a notice from Biddeford(?) that Edwin Libby had been chargeable and [making] a call on Scarborough to pay the bill |
| Dec. 12 | Agreed with Widow Emerline Libby to board Augusta Lowell for \$1.50 per week during the winter. |
| 1860 | |
| Feb. 10 | Mailed a letter of denial to the Overseers of Portland of Martha E. Hues and gave them the reasons, [namely] that she belongs to Westbrook |
| April 9 | Answered the Overseers of Windham and denied Mary Ann Guston as being our pauper |
| May 11 | At the Town House letting out the poor |
| June 2 | Went to Portland for coffin for Miss Clark |
| July 7 | Agreed with Nicholas Hanson to support Augusta Lowell the year ensuing for \$1.25 per week and if she should be very sick so as to need much extra care it is agreed to be discretionary with the selectmen for [expending] any extra money(?) |
| Sept. 25 | Selectmen at Johnson Libby[']s house] examining the case and hearing testimony concerning the insanity of Theodore Libby |
| Oct. 1 | I went to Lewiston and Poland to get evidence on the Berry case. Returned October 3rd |
| Nov. 6 | Nicholas Hanson paid the town \$10 for the personal property that Miss Clark, a pauper, possessed at [the time of] her decease |
| Nov. 19 | I went after Theodore Libby but did not find him |

| Date | Entry |
|-------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Nov. 20 | Found Theodore Libby in Gorham and got him home |
| Nov. 21 | I went to Theodore Libby and took him and sent him to Insane Hospital with G. W. Parker |
| Nov. 24 | Agreed with William Plummer to furnish Betsy Moody wood, to be one half dry soft wood and one half green hard wood for \$3 per cord. Agreed with William Jones to furnish Polly Hunnewell with wood, half pine, half green hardwood or juniper, all sawed suitable for her stove |
| Dec. 18 | Received Notice from Overseers of Buxton stating that Simon P. Harmon had become chargeable and charged the same to Scarborough. Returned an answer and promptly, decidedly, and legally denied paying anything for Simon P. Harmon |
| 1861 | |
| Jan 30 | I went to Augusta to see Theodore Libby at the Insane Hospital |
| Jan 25 | Removed Mrs. Abigail Libby from her son (Phineas Libby) to William Bragdon's in Portland and agreed with him to give him \$3.00 per week for her support until otherwise agreed on, and to be paid by the town. |
| Feb. 14 | Received notice from Overseers of Saco stating that Josiah Smith had become chargeable and they had charged the same to Scarborough |
| Feb. 18 | Answered the Overseers of Saco and denied his being a legal pauper of Scarborough and refused to pay anything for his support. |
| Feb. 26 | I went to Augusta after Theodore Libby |
| Feb. 27 | Took Theodore Libby out of the Insane Hospital and brought him home |
| | FIVE YEARS MISSING (no entries between February 28, 1861 and April 25, 1866) |
| 1866 | |
| March 20 | Moved Betsy Moody from Tappin Libby to Major Plummer's for one year, or to the 14th of May 1867, for \$2.00 per week. |
| March 28 | Received notice from Overseers of Gorham that James Lunt & wife were on expense there |
| April 7 | Notified Barney Wood that the town would not pay any longer [for] Miss Laurence's board at his house |
| May 14 | Selectmen met at the Town House to let out the poor. Agreed with Joseph Moulton to support Simon P. Harmon for \$1.00 per week, the town to furnish him with a hat. |
| May 19 | Selectmen met at Oak Hill Depot to arrange for the support of the Poor |

| Date | Entry |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| May 16 | Notified the town of Morrell that Robert Campbell and Abigail Campbell had fallen into others and was furnished by our town and requested them to move them |
| June 21 | I went to Danville to see Mary K. C. Downs, her first name being Graffam |
| June 28 | Mailed a letter to selectmen of Amesbury Mass, concerning Lyman C. Downs' first wife |
| Oct. 19 | I went to W. Gardner to settle a pauper bill, that of Mary K. C. Graffam |
| 1867 | |
| Feb. 27 | Mailed a letter to the Overseers of West Gardner with \$40 in it to pay a pauper bill |
| Feb. 27 | Mailed a letter for the Overseers of Morrell. Receipt in it for \$23.06 expense of Robert Campbell to October 1, 1866 |
| March 11 | Annual Town Meeting: This day at this meeting the Town agreed and bargained for a farm [of a Mr. Brackett] for the support of the poor |
| March 13 | “Delivered the selectman books, papers, and desk to Johnson Libby who is my successor in office” |