

Raising and Rebuilding the Moved Meetinghouse

Anne Krantz, Historian



By the end of August 1836, the 'desolate' looking meetinghouse was resting in its new location across from the common, and ready to be restored and rebuilt for use as the church meetinghouse.

A committee had been appointed to superintend this work: David Hartshorn, BB David, Charles Stewart, Jonathan Knight and Luther Melendy. The work began immediately, as recorded in documents now in the collection of Congregational Church of Amherst documents kept at the Historical Society in Concord, along with one original document in the church collection.

Benjamin Leavitt was paid a total of \$213.76 for painting the meetinghouse. He began in August with 2½ days work for \$2.75; September - 11½ days, and continuing through February 1, 1837. He was paid \$3.00 for painting 3 doors – the 3 front ones? Also twenty-two windows at 1.12 = 24.75, and setting 735 bits of glass at 4 cents = 29.40. He earned \$213.76 for the entire job that took five months.

Aaron Lawrence was paid from September 17, 1836 until February 10, 1837 for hardware supplies - he must have owned a store. In a list of "Solid Men and Women in Amherst, 1866," [Secombs, pg. 169], he had the highest income by far, of \$6,600. The receipt list includes lots of turpentine and linseed oil, whiting, sand paper, sheet lead, screws, a stove for \$12.00, putty, lime, a lock, screws and bolts, etc. for a total of \$78.00 paid on March 3, 1837.

Jonathan Knight, member of the committee, had the 'job of work repairing and finishing meeting house at----2,300.00.' Added to this base price were numerous specific tasks such as:

'lining up Town hall at	14.00
Making platform in town hall at	20.00
Making Seats in Town hall	100.00
15 window frames in Town hall	15.00
Making 6 window frames at	9.00
Raising Town hall floor at	10.00
" floor in Meeting house at	75.00
350 Clapboards for sides of M. House a	7.00
Taking windows out of Old house at	3.00
Moving Clock face at	5.00

Also many other items dealing with window blinds, sashes, 186 feet of joist for horse sheds, cutting out for chimney, etc., etc. to total \$2,668.02. Charles S. Stewart, apparently the treasurer, paid J. Knight in ten payments from September 20 to March 10, 1837 for the above work to total \$2,668.02. See document photo.

The committee paid a total \$7,593.94 for the entire project of raising and rebuilding the meetinghouse with the Town Hall in the vestry below, at its new and present location on private property. This will be explained further in the June Spire.