

In November 2005 the Sanbornton Historical Document Foundation began working on an Inventory and Assessment of the condition of the oldest documents in the “town vault” under the supervision of the town clerk. So far the earliest document found was a small handwritten booklet from 1800. It has no cover and is missing the first 4 pages. It is a record of the school taxes paid in the various school districts in the town. It is in remarkably good condition.

Date	Description	Amount
1800	Salmon Brook District	\$ do
23 Dec	paid Polly Woodman	9 38
23	David Druffin binding	78 00
23	Cole Wicks	12 00
Proportion for the above in 1800		78 77
20 May	cole Wicks	10 94
	also by amt Sanborn	35 83
		<b>78 77</b>
Proportion No 3 for 1800 is -		89 24
1800	Township District	\$ do
30 Oct	paid Peter Hearsey	6 15 00
20 Oct	paid Daniel Giles	8 34
29 Janua 1801	paid David Burley tax for binding	10 00
	School master	3 67
23 February 1801	Matthew Tompson for wood	3 03
23	paid James of good	8 00
2 March	paid Peter Hearsey	11 50
	paid Samuel Harvick for wood	3 25
10	paid Peter Hearsey for repairs of School House	1 50
21 May	due bill to Henry for	15 75
Total		<b>19 20</b>
Total		<b>89 24</b>

Many of the documents we are discovering in the early 1800’s have handmade paper for covers and are bound together with string. They are for the most part in good shape, but are very fragile.

It is a slow process just to sort, and organize the small booklets, papers, and ledgers. The next step is put them in chronological order by type of document. Next is creating the inventory which has the information about the documents such as it’s location in the town vault, number of pages, condition and anything else pertinent.

The Inventory is available in the Lobby of the Town offices, and on our website [www.sanbornton.org](http://www.sanbornton.org) in our Public Collection as a pdf file which is searchable. This is a work in progress and the files will be updated twice a month as more documents are processed.

The mission of the Foundation is to digitize the historical and contemporaneous documents of the Town of Sanbornton and maintain a Public Collection and a Sanbornton Digital Library on our website. The biggest issue regarding the oldest documents was where to start. The Inventory and Assessment will help us to prioritize what to digitize. Old and fragile one of a kind documents will be given a high priority. This work will begin to identify for the town what primary source documents exist in what condition and assist in defining a plan for preserving and archiving these historical records in a risk free environment. The “town vault” is not risk free since there are water pipes and no environmental controls.

The town allocated \$1,200 for the work to begin, and the Foundation is applying for grants to raise the funds for this long term effort. If you would like to make a donation to the Inventory effort and to help preserve these historical documents, it would be greatly appreciated. The Foundation is a non profit corporation, all donations are tax deductible. The address is PO Box 178 Sanbornton, NH 03269. If you would like more information or wish to volunteer call Jennifer Mayo at 279-5499 or email [jmayo@sanbornton.org](mailto:jmayo@sanbornton.org).