

ations, and in general the surface of the town is not badly broken.

The fact that the town was owned by proprietors who have heretofore valued it mainly for lumbering purposes, has of course retarded the settlement of this fine town. The population in 1880 was but 103 and in 1890 was 166. The valuation of the town in 1890 was \$34,426.

CASTLE HILL

The beautiful Aroostook River in its many windings throughout its tortuous course toward the St. John flows through many fertile towns, and along its banks were made the humble homes of the first settlers of the northern part of the county. One of the finest, in an agricultural point of view, is the town, or rather plantation, of Castle Hill, for it has not yet been incorporated as a town. This may be classed among the river towns, although the Aroostook flows only for a distance of about three miles through its northwest corner.

Castle Hill, formerly known as Township No. 12, Range 4, is bounded on the north by Wade Plantation, east by the town of Mapleton, west by Sheridan Plantation and south by the unorganized township of No. 11, Range 4. The old State road from Presque Isle to Ashland runs across the northern portion of the town, and it was in this part that the first settlement was made.

According to the most reliable information that we have been able to obtain, the first settler on the line of the State Road was Jabez Trask, called by the old settlers Gen. Trask, he having acquired that title in the militia of the western portion of the State. Trask came to Castle Hill in 1843 and settled on the spot where Smith's hotel now is, something over four miles west from the east line of the town.

About the same time Ephraim Knights, Caleb Spencer and one Seavey commenced clearings at the mouth of Beaver Brook which enters the Aroostook River in the extreme northwest corner of the town. The lot upon which Knights and Spencer made their clearing was afterwards granted by the Commissioners appointed to locate grants under the treaty of 1842 to Robert Milliken, whose grant also included Beaver Brook Island, and the Seavey lot was at the same time granted to Patrick Powers, these grantees having purchased the improvements from the original settlers.

Mr. Trask cleared a large tract of land on both sides of

the road and made the commencement of the large farm now owned and occupied by Mr. Henry Tilley. He also built a timber house and barn and commenced the business of keeping hotel, as after the road was opened to Ashland there was a large amount of teaming to that section. In 1850 Trask sold the property to Daniel Chandler. Soon after this the house was burned and Mr. Chandler built a frame house and continued the business of hotel keeping.

In May, 1860, Mr. Henry Tilley came to Castle Hill and hired the Chandler hotel. Mr. Chandler then moved to a lot on the Aroostook River near the mouth of Beaver Brook, where he remained some three years, then he moved to Presque Isle. He afterward made a very fine farm near the Aroostook River, on the Washburn road in the old town of Maysville now included in the town of Presque Isle. Here he built a very handsome set of farm buildings and made extensive improvements, and lived upon this farm until his death, which occurred last spring.

Mr. Tilley remained in the Chandler house some three years, when he purchased the farm on the opposite side of the road and built a hotel stand which he kept open to the public until seven years ago. After Mr. Tilley left the Chandler house Mr. Samuel Caughey kept the house two years when the property was sold to Mr. G. D. Smith, who carried on the farm, but did not keep the house open to the public. In 1883 Mr. Tilley went out of the hotel business and Mr. Herbert P. Smith reopened the Chandler house as a hotel. Two years ago the present summer the barn was struck by lightning and all the buildings were consumed by fire. Mr. Smith rebuilt the house and barn the same year and is the present occupant of the hotel. The house is very pleasantly situated and as it is a convenient stopping place for teams and travellers between Presque Isle and Ashland, is doing a large business. Mr. Tilley engaged quite extensively in farming and has been for many years a prominent man in this section and is well known throughout Aroostook and other portions of Maine. Having occasion at one time to do some business at the Land Office when Isaac R. Clark was State Land Agent, and thinking that Mr. Clark was treating him somewhat loftily, Mr. Tilley is said to have exclaimed with his characteristic independence and a plentiful supply of blanks, "Look here, Mr. Clark, I want you to understand that I'm just as big a man in Castle Hill as you are in Bangor——!" Mr. Tilley has paid much attention to fruit culture and has a very fine orchard. He was also at one time largely engaged in bee-keeping and has

paid much attention to sheep husbandry. He is now in feeble health and has wholly given up business and is living quietly at his old home, where he enjoys very much to receive calls from the friends he used to meet so often in active life. He has been postmaster of Castle Hill for twenty-five years. His son, James H. Tilley, has a very fine farm a short distance east of the hotel on the Presque Isle road. Mr. L. K. Tilley, another son, has a large farm a short distance west of his father's, on the same road. He is this summer building a large barn, which will be dedicated on the 7th of August by the meeting of Aroostook Pomona Grange, of which Mr. Tilley is an active member. He is also supervisor of schools, and has a store opposite the hotel.

A short distance west of the hotel is the farm and residence of Mr. M. K. Hilton, a prominent citizen of the town and one of its first assessors. Mr. Hilton has a good farm and a very pleasant residence and is this year making extensive repairs on his buildings.

The district known as the Porter settlement, lying along the State road, a short distance from the east line of the town, is a very fine agricultural section, and contains some good farms with comfortable and neatly kept farm buildings.

After the coming of the pioneers of the town in 1843, there seems to have been no immigration of any amount until about 1850. In that year James Porter came from Mirimachi, N. B., and settled on the Ashland road about half a mile from the Mapleton line. Robert Porter came soon after and settled on the opposite side of the road. James Porter, Jr., settled on the next lot west, and in 1851 John L. Porter took up the lot next to the Mapleton line, where William Chandler now lives. These settlers commenced their clearings in the midst of the forest and here reared their humble homes and were subjected to all the privations incident to a pioneer life in the wilderness. Now the forest is all cleared away on both sides of the road and broad, smooth fields and handsome farm buildings are seen throughout this part of the town.

About the time the Porters settled in the east part of the town, Abram and Nathaniel Jordan took up lots west of the hotel on the same road, and John Jordan settled on the lot where M. K. Hilton now lives.

Aaron Dingee settled about the same time on the lot next to the west line of the town, where Mr. Joseph Ellis now lives.

Mr. Wm. Chandler in 1853 bought of John L. Porter the lot in the northeast corner of the town next to the Mapleton

line, and has there made a very fine farm with a neat and convenient stand of buildings.

The old State Road runs through a very fine agricultural section and the buildings along the road are neat and well kept and the farms are well cultivated and produce abundant crops. The road is in excellent condition and though somewhat hilly, is nevertheless a very pleasant road to ride on in a pleasant summer day. As one approaches the western line of the town on the way to Ashland, the Aroostook River is seen a short distance to the right bending in the form of a huge letter S among the lofty trees and flowing through fertile meadows. Near the river is the lofty hill from which the town takes its name, a large log building having been built upon its summit by the surveyors of the olden time, the remains of which building may still be seen. A considerable stretch of the imagination invested these old ruins with the dignity of a castle and from this the township was named Castle Hill.

In the south part of the town the road from Presque Isle, which runs in a due westerly course entirely across the town of Mapleton, continues upon the same straight line about half way across Castle Hill township. This road runs through as fine a tract of farming land as can be found in New England. As one looks westward from the fine eminence just east of the village of Ball's Mills in Mapleton, a beautiful maple grove is seen on a ridge near the Castle Hill line and through this grove the road passes, the grand old forest trees growing close down to the confines of the highway on either side and making a most grateful shade on a hot summer day. Emerging from this grove, a most beautiful view of field and meadow is opened out on either hand. Broad, smooth and level fields stretch away on each side of the road and terminate in beautiful forests of maple. Large fields of potatoes, the tops covering the ground, are a most attractive feature of the landscape. Here upon this beautiful ridge are the farms and homes of the three Dudley brothers, and no more fertile or attractive spot can be found in Aroostook.

Thirty-one years ago Micajah Dudley came to Aroostook from the town of China. He had heard of the beauty and fertility of the forest lands of this northern county and regardless of the advice of friends who wished him to make a home near the older settlements, he pushed on into the wilderness, determined to find a tract large enough and in one compact block of good land to furnish farms for himself and his four sons. Arriving upon this beautiful maple ridge he concluded to go no

further, and though he was warned that no road would ever penetrate those trackless wilds, he had faith in the future of Aroostook and made his choice with rare wisdom and foresight. His sons came with him or followed soon after and together they bent themselves to the task of making for themselves pleasant homes in this then far away forest region. The father lived to see a good smooth turnpike built through the block of land he made choice of and to see broad and productive fields where the huge maples were growing when he first set foot upon the ridge. He has now passed away and three of his sons are now living upon the block, the fourth having a fine farm but a short distance away. As we come through the grove of maples spoken of above, we first come to the home of Micajah Dudley, the youngest of the four sons. A stone's throw beyond is the residence of John W. Dudley. For many years these two brothers carried on their farming operations in company under the firm name of M. & J. W. Dudley, but have recently dissolved for the sole reason that the tastes of each led him to pursue a different line of farming. Directly opposite is the home of Allen W. Dudley, the eldest brother, while a short distance beyond is the house of his son, Sanford, who is now in company with him. Micajah Dudley has 240 acres of land, nearly 100 of which is cleared. John W. Dudley has 160 acres with 60 acres cleared. His specialty is orcharding, in which he has been very successful, and he has now one of the finest orchards in Aroostook. He has 275 apple trees in full bearing, these having been set ten years ago. Nearby are 200 young trees of the Dudley Winter variety, and 500 Moore's Arctic plum trees set last spring. He is the originator of the Dudley Winter, it being a seedling from the Duchess. Mr. Dudley is a vice president of the Maine Pomological Society and an enthusiast in fruit culture.

Allen W. Dudley has 180 acres of land, with over 75 acres cleared. He also has a very productive and well kept orchard and raises a good supply of fruit. We doubt if a finer tract of farming land can anywhere be found than this mile square block which the elder Dudley chose as a home for himself and his sons.

On a cross road connecting with the State Road and about a mile from this block is the farm of the fourth brother, Mr. Frank C. Dudley. He has 160 acres of land very finely located, with about 60 acres cleared, the remainder being a beautiful level tract of maple growth. He has a very handsome stand of farm

buildings and everything around the place is conveniently kept.

The farm of Mr. John P. Roberts is the first after crossing the town line on the road from Ball's Mills. Mr. Roberts came to the town in 1858 and took up this lot and made a chopping and moved in with his family the next year. He afterwards bought the mill at Mapleton which he run for four years and sold it to David Dudley. Mr. Roberts was a soldier in the 18th Maine Regiment.

Another of the pioneer settlers of Castle Hill was Deacon T. K. Dow, who came to the town in 1859 and took a lot opposite Mr. Roberts near the town line. Here he has made a fine farm and has for years been one of the most prominent and respected citizens of the town. Deacon Dow is still living, a hale, hearty old gentleman of upwards of three score and ten but still able to tire some of the younger men.

From Deacon Dow's a road runs due north, parallel to the town line and about a quarter of a mile west of the line and connects with the old State Road near Mr. Wm. Chandler's. This road runs through a very fine agricultural section and there are many good farms in this section of the town. Some of them are still new and will require time and labor to make them smooth and free from stumps, but the soil is fertile and in a few years there will be many fine fields along this road.

Mr. John Waddell, one of the early settlers of the town, came from Lubec in 1860 and settled on this road and made a good farm some half mile distant from the State Road. His son, John Waddell, now lives upon the farm and is well and favorably known in this vicinity as an earnest local preacher of the Universalist denomination.

Another road starts near Deacon Dow's and runs in a south-westerly direction for a little over a mile, when, after crossing Sawyer Brook, it turns squarely to the west and runs upon the lot lines to the foot of Haystack Mountain.

There are several very fine farms along this road, among them those of Mr. A. H. Parker, Mr. A. F. Hoffses, Wm. H. Bird, Jr., and others.

Near the foot of Haystack Mountain is the farm and home of Mr. Edward Tarr, an enthusiast in bee culture, and one of the best authorities upon this branch in Aroostook. Mr. Tarr came from Waldoboro in 1861 and made for himself a pleasant home under the shadow of old Haystack. He has something over 40 acres of land cleared and raises good crops, but devotes himself to the business of bee keeping. He has now 64

colonies in his home apiary and has charge of many others in different sections, which he cares for on shares. Mr. Tarr is a pleasant and instructive writer on bee culture and delivered an address on this subject before the Farmers' Convention at Presque Isle which was much admired. Mr. Tarr has honey on exhibition every year at the State Fair and always displays it in neat and attractive packages. He uses the simplicity hive and has a shop conveniently fitted up with proper machinery for the manufacture of hives and of boxes for his honey. He also has a very productive orchard from which he always exhibits at the County Fair many fine specimens of fruit.

In company with Mr. Tarr and Deacon Dow we climbed to the summit of Haystack, and though the ascent was somewhat difficult, we found ourselves well paid by the magnificent outlook afforded. Haystack is much like an inverted cup resting upon the bottom of an inverted saucer. For a considerable distance the ascent is quite gradual and the road lies through a thick wood. Emerging from this forest growth we come to the almost perpendicular sides of the steep and barren rock which forms the cup part of the mountain. From this point to the summit the ascent is more difficult. Every vestige of tree or shrub or soil even, has been burned away and only the rugged rock remains. When one has neared the summit in this almost perpendicular climb and happens to look around upon the region beneath his feet, the sensation is anything but pleasant, and one at all inclined to be nervous is obliged to look steadily at the side of the rock and make sure hold with hands and feet.

Upon arriving at the summit we found an area of less than an eighth of an acre of rock approaching anywhere near a level and this appeared so small that we felt like sitting down and clinging to the rock for fear of falling off into the depths below. The view from the top, however, is simply grand and magnificent and embraces the entire circle of the horizon with a radius of many miles. The near view, looking down towards the east and north, is one of fertile farms, broad cultivated fields interspersed with grand stretches of verdant forest. On the west side a barren waste stretches for miles away from the mountain's base. This section was formerly a valuable timber tract, but was burned over so completely a number of years ago that hardly a green tree can be seen on the broad plain for many miles in this direction. Beyond the burnt region the view to the west and northwest is very beautiful. The high land near and beyond Ashland, with here and there a green field dotted in

among the forest stretches, the little glimpse of Portage Lake seen through a depression between the hills and the distant mountains on the far horizon all combine to make a picture of surpassing beauty. Away to the southwest old Katahdin rises far above all other heights and Mt. Chase looms up in nearly the same direction. Almost at our feet apparently, but still some miles distant in a southerly direction, lies the glassy surface of Squa Pan Lake which is destined at no very distant day to be the summer resort of the citizens of Presque Isle and vicinity, and without doubt visitors from a distance will be attracted to this romantic retreat when the proposed improvement upon the road and in other directions shall have been completed. Already a fish and game company has been formed at Presque Isle and arrangements have been completed for stocking the lake with salmon.

The trail through the woods and across the burnt land can be seen from the top of Haystack and the Lake is even now accessible by buckboards.

Looking southeast from Haystack the wooded tops of Hedgehog and Quaggy Joe Mountains seem about on a level with the eye, while Mars Hill and Bald Mountains are rendered less rugged in appearance by the greater distance.

The villages of Presque Isle and Washburn can be plainly seen and indeed a bird's eye view of the whole country, extending to every point of the compass can here be obtained and is certainly worth climbing for.

If the ascent is trying to weak nerves, the descent is even more so. At times it seems as though a slip of the foot, or a loosened rock would send one far out into space, and a novice at this business is pretty sure to come down in practically a sitting posture, clinging fast with feet and hands and making slow but sure progress down the perilous steep.

Soon, however, we reached the more gradual slope and were able to breathe easier and stand erect. The good Deacon made the ascent and descent with the ease and agility of a much younger man, and did not seem at all wearied by the exertion.

If you come to Aroostook, by all means climb Haystack and you will surely say that the magnificent view amply repaid you for the rugged climb.

There are numerous other roads throughout the town, upon all of which are good farms well under way and only requiring time and courage to make them smooth, productive and easy of cultivation.

A careful examination of the whole town convinced us that we had never estimated it at its full worth as a farming town. With the exception of the burnt district on the southwest part of the town, Castle Hill is well up on the list of good farming towns and it contains not a few tracts of as beautiful farming land as can be found in the county.

Many of the farmers in the south part of the town are members of Eureka Grange, whose hall is located at Ball's Mills. The farmers living upon the State Road some years ago organized Castle Hill Grange which is composed of live and active members and is doing a grand work for the farmers of that vicinity.

Castle Hill is provided with good schools and each district is supplied with a good school house. Mr. L. K. Tilley, the efficient Supervisor, is much interested in the welfare of schools and looks after them faithfully.

Castle Hill was organized as a plantation under warrant from the County Commissioners April 23rd, 1866. M. K. Hilton, A. M. Dudley and Henry Tilley were the first assessors, and Jefferson Sawyer, now a merchant at Sprague's Mills, the first clerk. The plantation had in 1880 a population of 419, and a valuation of \$27,636. The valuation in 1890 was \$90,758, and the population 537. It is one of the good towns of the Aroostook Valley, and has many wide awake and enterprising citizens.