

SILVER RIDGE

The half township now known as the Plantation of Silver Ridge was originally the east half of Township No. 3, Range 5, the west half of the same township being now the town of Benedicta.

In 1857 the county commissioners of Aroostook County were petitioned to locate a road from Benedicta through Silver Ridge to Haynesville. At that time the half township was entirely covered with forest in which no clearing had yet been made for settling purposes. The commissioners viewed the route and decided not to locate the road as asked for, but the partial survey called attention to the excellent land owned by the State and lying unimproved. During that year (1857) a number of settlers came in and made clearings on the half township, although it had not yet been lotted and of course these settlers were merely squatters upon the land. Francis Smith, Thomas Millmore, Thomas McAvoy and Fenton Seals all from the adjoining town of Benedicta, made clearings that year.

Silver Ridge lies immediately south of Sherman and the mail route from Island Falls to Kingman runs through that plantation. Nearly every lot on the road through Silver Ridge is settled and there some very fine farms and handsome residences, which would seem to show that the people are prosperous, have comfortable and convenient homes and are making a good living.

The settled portion of the town is confined to the two ranges of lots bordering on the main road. The remainder of the town is now owned by non-resident proprietors and is not generally good land for settling purposes. The plantation of Silver Ridge was organized in 1863 and since that time it has made a marked increase in the appearance and value of its farms and residences, although it has decreased somewhat in population during the last decade.

HERSEY

The town of Hersey lies along the border of Penobscot County and, though yet but partially settled, is naturally one of the best townships in western Aroostook for agricultural pur-

poses. The town is bounded on the north by Moro, on the east by Dyer Brook, south by Crystal and west by Mt. Chase in Penobscot County. The old Aroostook road, now the mail route from Patten to Ashland, runs diagonally across the northwest corner of the town and the State road from Smyrna Mills runs on the line between Hersey and Moro and intersects the Aroostook road some two miles from the northwest corner of Hersey.

The first settlers upon the town of Hersey, then called Number Five, Range Five, were Samuel Huston, Timothy Hale, Nicholas Cooper and Daniel Cooper.

Samuel Huston came from Plymouth in Penobscot County, in 1839 and settled on a lot on the Aroostook road six miles from Patten. Here he cleared up a large farm and was for many years one of the leading men of the town and his descendants are among the prominent citizens. Mr. Huston lived upon this farm until a year ago, when he moved to Patten, but still retains possession of the farm.

Mr. Timothy Hale came from Plymouth in 1839 and settled on the north half of the lot on which Mr. Seth Allen now lives, near the Penobscot County line. Mr. Hale felled fifteen acres on this lot, but did not clear the land and after living in the town a year or two removed to the West. Mr. Harvey Houghton then took the lot and made a small clearing and after remaining a year moved to Oxford County.

Nicholas and Daniel Cooper came from Plymouth in 1839 and settled on part of the Seth Allen lot and also had a lot in the adjoining town of Mount Chase in Penobscot County. Mr. Nicholas Cooper built the buildings next north of Seth Allen's, where he lived for some twenty years, then moved to Ashland and afterward to Moro, where he died. Daniel Cooper did not remain in the town.

James Brown came from the town of Wilton, in Franklin County, in 1840, and settled on the lot next north of Nicholas Cooper. He cleared a large farm and lived upon it until 1868, when he moved to Patten and died. Mr. Brown was a prominent citizen and was well known throughout this section.

Nathan Fish came from Jefferson, Lincoln County, in 1840 and settled near the Mt. Chase line, a short distance from the Aroostook road. Here he made a farm upon which he lived until about 1859, when he returned to Jefferson and died soon afterwards. He was unmarried, and the farm is now unoccupied.

Daniel Darling came from Hartland, in Somerset County, in 1840 and settled north of Samuel Huston's on the farm now

occupied by William Monteith. Mr. Darling cleared some twenty acres on this lot, and after living on it four years, moved to the adjoining town of Moro.

Seth Allen came from the town of Sumner, in Oxford County, in 1842 and two years later bought the lot on which he now lives, on the Aroostook road five and one-half miles from Patten. Mr. Allen cleared this farm and has lived upon it ever since, and is now the oldest settler living in the town. Mr. Allen is a veteran of the Civil War, and has always taken an active and prominent part in the affairs of his town. Though now advanced in years, he is still a hale and hearty man, and has not yet given up active work upon the farm.

Lewis Sargent came to Hersey in 1843 and settled upon part of the lot now owned by Seth Allen. He made a clearing and lived upon the lot until 1858, when he moved to Mount Chase, where he died.

Columbus Bragg came from Plymouth in 1844 and settled on a lot a mile and a half north of Seth Allen's. He cleared a portion of the lot and lived on it a few years and moved to Stacyville, where he died ten years ago. Josiah Bates came from Palmyra in 1845 and settled on the Aroostook road a mile south of the mouth of the State road. He made a large clearing and lived here two years and moved to Moro. This farm has been unoccupied and has grown up to forest again.

Hon. Wm. W. Thomas of Portland owned the township when the settlers first came to it. He afterwards sold it to Messrs. Hall and Lewis of Cherryfield, but obtained possession of it again soon after and subsequently sold it to Gen. Samuel Hersey and Mr. George Stetson of Bangor.

In the north part of the town, along the State road, a settlement was made later and on this road are now some of the best farms in the town. The earliest settler in this portion of the town was Mr. John R. Blynn, who came from Garland, in Penobscot County, in 1852, and settled on the lot where William H. Bates now lives. Mr. Blinn cleared something over twenty acres on this lot and lived on it some four years, then moved to Bangor and afterwards engaged in peddling. He sold the farm to Mr. Stephen P. Bates, who enlarged and improved it. Mr. Bates went into the army and was killed near Spottsylvania. Mr. George L. Bates moved to Hersey from Moro in 1854 and took the lot where Solomon Bates now lives. In 1861 he joined the 8th Maine Regiment and after two years service was discharged and returned to Hersey and died.

Mr. Joel P. Jameson came from Lee in Penobscot County in 1860 and bought the west half of the lot east of Solomon Bates. Mr. Jameson cleared some thirty acres on the lot and lived on it eight years. He then sold to Mr. Solomon Bates and moved to Lincoln. Mr. David L. Lowell came from Lee in 1860 and settled on the east half of the Jameson lot. He cleared some ten acres and then went into the army, where he lost an arm, was discharged from the service and died soon after returning home. The farm passed through a number of hands and is now owned by E. E. Kennedy.

Mr. William Campbell came from New Brunswick in 1860 and settled on the lot next east of Mr. Lowell. He felled some ten acres and then went into the 8th Maine Regiment and served through the war. He was promoted to a lieutenancy and did not return to Hersey. Mr. James Palmer now has this lot.

Mr. James Hall came from Garland in 1861 and settled on the lot next but one west of Wm. Bates. Mr. Hall cleared fifteen acres on this lot, lived on it some three years, then sold to Mr. John Doe and moved to Moro. John McGibney now lives on this farm.

The township was originally organized as Dayton plantation and was incorporated as a town January 25, 1873, and named for General Samuel F. Hersey of Bangor, the principal owner of the township. The land throughout the town is comparatively level, having no abrupt elevations, but containing a number of swells of very fine land.

The West Branch of the Mattawamkeag runs for something over three miles across the northeast corner of the town and Alder Brook, a tributary of the West Branch, runs diagonally in a southeast course across the entire township. In the southwest portion of the town is Crystal Lake, a pretty little sheet of water, from which Crystal Stream flows southward and empties into Fish Stream in the town of Crystal. Huston Brook also runs across the southwest quarter of the town and empties into Crystal Stream a short distance below the lake.

The land in this town can be purchased of the proprietors at a very reasonable rate and its excellent quality offers exceptional inducements for settlers desiring cheap and fertile lands in a good town. The population of Hersey in 1890 was 151, and its valuation \$63,783.