

in 1868. He has 220 acres of land with 80 acres cleared. The Horseback runs through this farm.

Mr. Owen Scott and Isaac Sutter also have farms near Mr. Haney. Mr. John Wilcox lives on what was formerly the Peter Merchie farm, where the road turns to the north and runs by the farm of Mr. Charles Clifford and the Pollard farm and then turns to the northwest, in which direction it runs to the north line of the town. On this portion of the road are some very good farms. Among these are the farms of Mr. John Spooner, Mr. David Skidgell, and the Fanjoy farms. This portion of the town is known as the Skidgell Ridge.

Mr. William Skidgell came from Hodgdon in 1863 and settled on this ridge, where he cleared a farm and lived on it until his death some five years ago. His son, David Skidgell, now has the farm, which is one of the best in this portion of the town.

The half township will not rank as a first class town for agricultural purposes, as much of the land is quite stony and difficult to bring under cultivation. The soil in many portions of the town is strong and productive and the sturdy settlers by dint of much hard labor have made for themselves comfortable homes and seem to be prospering.

The plantation was organized as No. 11, Range I in 1859, and in 1883 the name was changed to Cary, in honor of Hon. Shepard Cary, who formerly owned land in the township. There are five schools in the town, most of which are supplied with good, comfortable houses. The churches are well supported and the social and moral tone of the town is good. The population of Cary in 1890 was 390 and the valuation \$37,578.

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#### LETTER B.

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There are in Aroostook County a number of townships upon which partial settlements have been made, but which are as yet but little developed and being somewhat off the main traveled thoroughfares are not much known away from their immediate vicinity. Many of these townships contain large areas of excellent land for agricultural purposes and are capable of supporting a large population and afford possibilities for as fine farms as can be found in any of the more thickly settled portions of the county. The fact that these townships have passed from the possession of the State and are now owned by proprietors who purchased them chiefly for the timber, works against their development as agricultural towns. The right of these proprietors

to the ownership and control of these lands cannot of course be questioned. The State consented to sell and these gentlemen paid their money for the lands and have an undoubted legal right to hold them for lumbering purposes, or to dispose of them as they see fit, and in these rights they should certainly be protected. Still the fact remains that ownership of these townships by non-resident proprietors who derive a generous income from the sale of stumpage renders their settlement practically impossible and thus hinders in a large measure the development of the County and its increase in population and production.

Among the townships capable of making good agricultural towns is Letter B, Range 2. This township lies directly east of Littleton, north of Ludlow and corners upon the town of Houlton. Leaving the stage road from Houlton to Presque Isle about a mile north of Houlton village, a road turns to the left and runs diagonally across the northwest quarter of the town of Houlton. This road not being a part of any stage route is not generally travelled except by the residents of that portion of the town and the settlers upon "Letter B," through which settlement the road continues. It is, however, an excellent turnpike road and runs through one of the most fertile agricultural portions of the town of Houlton. All along the road are handsome and productive farms with neat, well painted buildings and surroundings indicating thrift and prosperity. The natural scenery is very beautiful and this road affords a very fine pleasure drive upon a pleasant summer day.

Crossing a branch of the Meduxnekeag something over a mile after leaving the Presque Isle road, we continue on in a northwesterly direction through what is known as the Niles settlement, where there are some fine farms and very handsome residences. The road here runs very near the stream and a branch road crosses the stream and continues due north through Houlton to the Littleton ridge.

Passing the Niles settlement we ride by other handsome farms and leaving the town of Houlton through its extreme northwest corner, come to the township of "Letter B." The road enters this township at its southeast corner and running diagonally across two lots, then runs due west on the lot lines for something over two miles, when, like Emerson's highway, it ends in a squirrel track and goes up a tree.

Only a small tract in the southeastern portion of the township is settled, but this settlement contains some very good farms. The township is owned by Madigan & Donworth, and

much lumber has been cut upon it in years past.

As we enter the settlement of Letter B, we first come to the farm and residence of Mrs. Pilsbury, on the left of the road. This is a very good farm with a handsome residence. Mrs. Pilsbury is a daughter of Col. Joshua C. Carpenter and formerly resided in Texas, her husband, now deceased, having been a member of Congress from that State. Miss Harriet Carpenter, a sister of Mrs. Pilsbury, resides with her. Col. Joshua C. Carpenter moved to Letter B. in 1862 and bought this lot for Mrs. Pilsbury and made his home here until his death in 1866. He was killed by a falling tree. A party of men were engaged in cutting a "drive," as it is called by choppers. The trees on quite an extent of ground are cut nearly off and then a large tree on the outer edge of the "drive" is chopped off and sent crashing upon the others, causing the whole piece to fall like bricks in a row. A large drive had been cut and two men were falling a large birch which was to carry with it in its fall all the partially chopped trees. Col. Carpenter stood at what was thought a safe distance, holding his watch to time the choppers. When the tree fell, a huge limb was hurled upon the Colonel, killing him instantly. Col. Carpenter was a man well known in many portions of Maine, having been formerly a prominent man in the Democratic party. He formerly resided in Penobscot County and was at one time Sheriff of the County. He was a man of much force and vigor, always with the roughest side out, but possessed of a kind heart. In politics he was a sturdy fighter, always wanting "a free field and a fair fight." His son, Major Stephen Decatur Carpenter, of the regular army, was a gentleman of culture and a splendid soldier. He fell while gallantly fighting at the battle of Murfreesboro and was much lamented by his comrades and many friends.

A short distance beyond Mrs. Pilsbury's the road turns squarely to the west near the residence of Mr. Luther Snell. Mr. Snell moved to Letter B in 1866 and settled upon this lot, upon which a very small clearing had been made. He now has fifty acres of good land which produces fine crops and has a good, comfortable set of farm buildings. Mr. Snell is a son of Mr. Luther Snell, who was for so many years the genial and kindly landlord of the old Snell House in Houlton. Mr. Snell, Sr., died in Houlton three years ago. He gave up active business some years before his death and spent the last years of his life quietly among the many friends with whom he had so long been associated.

On the opposite side of the road from Mr. Snell is the pleasant residence of Mr. Davidson, a printer by trade, who formerly worked in the office of the Aroostook Pioneer. He has now retired to the quiet shades of this farm in Letter B. and his neighbors have shown their appreciation of his worth by making him school supervisor. The schoolhouse is situated near his residence and a good school is here maintained.

Next west of Mr. Snell's on the south of the road is the farm of Mr. George W. Carpenter, a grandson of the Colonel. His father, Mr. B. F. Carpenter, was the first man to make a clearing in the wilderness of Letter B. He came in 1858 and bought two lots and commenced clearing land. He built a log house and moved to his home in the forest in 1860. Here he continued to reside and to extend his clearing until his death, which occurred in January, 1879. His son now has the east half of the homestead farm. Mr. Carpenter has about thirty acres of cleared land and raises good crops. The soil is rich and strong, not very stony and produces well. The residence is the comfortable frame house built by his father after the era of the log buildings was passed. His brother, Mr. William N. Carpenter, has the west half of the homestead farm. He has thirty six acres cleared and under cultivation, and has a comfortable home.

Opposite the homestead farm on the north side of the road is the farm of Mr. Thomas J. Carpenter, another son of Mr. B. F. Carpenter. He has 100 acres of good land, with fifty acres cleared and a good set of farm buildings.

Next beyond Mr. Carpenter on the north of the road is Mr. Charles Stevens, who came to the town some fourteen years ago and made a small clearing and built a comfortable house. Mr. Stevens is a house carpenter and does not do much farming. Mr. Frank A. Hammond lives next west on a good farm with good buildings. He is a man who has faith in farming and will no doubt make a success of it.

Opposite Mr. Hammond's, on the south of the road, is the farm of Mr. Michael Rukan, who commenced here something more than twenty years ago and now has a good farm with forty acres of cleared land. His next neighbor on the west is Mr. George N. Crawford, who bought a wild lot here in 1863 and has made a good farm.. He is an industrious man and has made a comfortable home. Opposite Mr. Crawford's is the Jameson farm, which is a very good farm, and passing this we come to the last farm upon the road. Mr. Andrew Gardner came from New Brunswick twelve years ago and bought this lot, upon which

Mr. William Batchelor had made a small clearing. Mr. Gardner now has one of the best farms in the town and has a new and handsome house. The road terminates at Mr. Gardner's and his fields are bordered on the west by the forest. There are a few farms in the extreme southwestern portion of the township adjoining the Ludlow line.

The Township of Letter B. is abundantly watered by streams and brooks. A branch of Meduxnekeag runs in an easterly course entirely across the southern portion of the township and many brooks flow from the northern portions of the town into this stream. Mr. James G. McConnell has a mill on the Meduxnekeag, half a mile from the Littleton line. This mill was built many years ago by Josiah Gellerson and contains a rotary, lath machine, shingle machine and clapboard machine. The mill is run by water and formerly manufactured lumber for shipment, but has not been run to any extent for the past few years. Mr. Nelson Mitchell some years ago built a mill a mile above on the same stream. His son, Edward Mitchell, now runs the mill.

Letter B. is a good settling town. It contains much good timber land interspersed with fine hard wood ridges. The township was at one time organized as Hammond Plantation, but is now unorganized.

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### MERRILL

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Township No. 6, Range 4 was in 1876 organized as Merrill Plantation, taking its name from Capt. William Merrill of Portland, who bought the southeast quarter of the township about the year 1840. This township lies directly west of the town of Smyrna, north of Dyer Brook Plantation, and has Moro Plantation on its western boundary. The State road, so called, now runs on the line between Merrill and Dyer Brook the entire length of these towns.

Captain Merrill made his first clearing on the hill west of the East Branch of the Mattawamkeag, a short distance from the Smyrna line. His son, Edward T. Merrill, moved to the town in 1844 and settled on this lot. The Merrills made a large farm here and built a good set of buildings. William G. Merrill another son of Capt. Merrill, had the next lot to the west. The Merrills lived in the town some ten years, when Capt. Merrill sold his interest to S. H. Blake, Esq., of Bangor, and his sons returned to Portland. Mr. William Anderson now lives upon the