

679. In 1890 the population was 885. The valuation of the town in 1880 was \$77,539 and in 1890 was \$170,612. The rate of taxation was 017.

There are many enterprising farmers and business men in the town and when the completion of the Bangor & Aroostook Railroad shall have given its added stimulus to the business of the County, Woodland is sure to become one of the most prosperous towns in Northern Aroostok.

LUDLOW

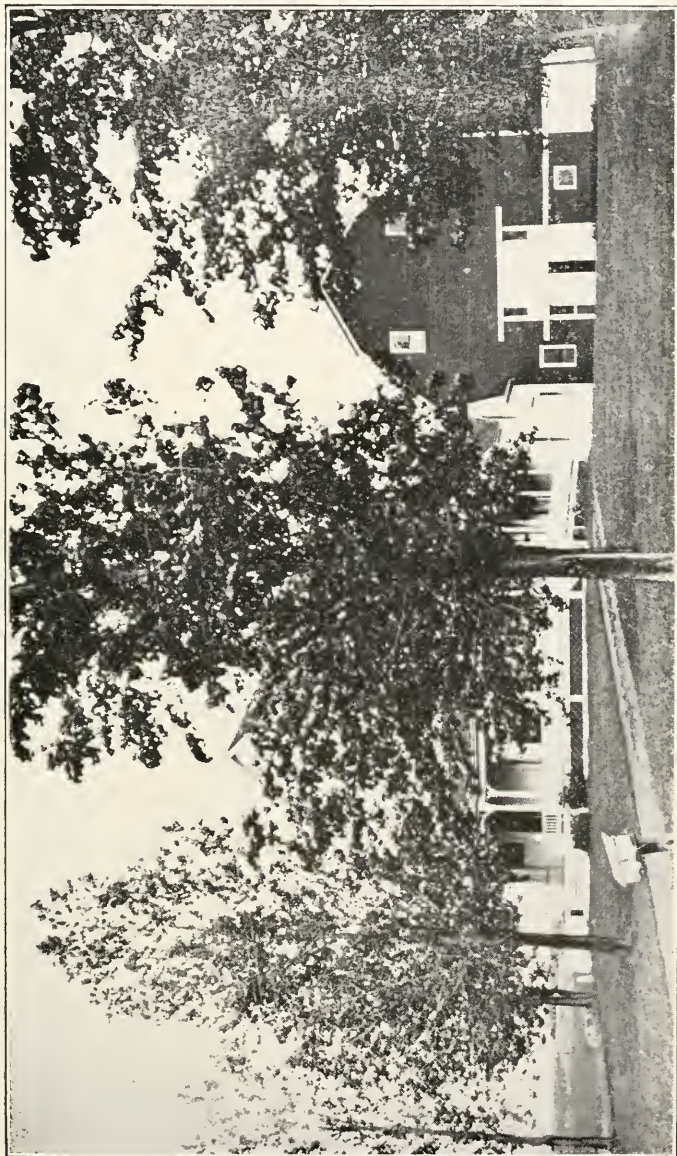
The half township now incorporated as the town of Ludlow lies immediately west of the north half of Houlton which was the grant to Williams College. This half township (Ludlow) was granted by the general court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to the trustees of Belfast Academy by a resolve passed Feb. 29, 1808. John Reed and William Smith were appointed by the general court as agents to deed the grant to the trustees of the academy. The half township was surveyed by Park Holland in the month of September, 1809, and was deeded to the trustees on Dec. 6, 1809. The grant is thus described in the original deed: "Beginning at the southwesterly corner of a township granted to Williamstown College, at a hard maple tree, thence west, thirteen degrees north six miles to an ash tree, thence north, thirteen degrees east three miles to a maple tree, thence east, thirteen degrees south six miles to a cedar, thence on Williamstown College westerly line south, thirteen degrees west, three miles to the first bounds and containing eleven thousand five hundred and twenty acres, etc."

The conditions of the deed bound the trustees to "lay out and convey to each settler who settled on said tract before the first day of January, 1784, one hundred acres of land to be laid out so as best to include his improvements and be least injurious to the adjoining lands." As no settler had entered upon this wilderness region previous to 1784, this provision was really superfluous. The trustees were also bound to "settle on said tract ten families in six years, including them now settled thereon." They were also to lay out three lots of 160 acres each, "one lot for the use of the ministry, one lot for the first settled minister and one lot for the use of schools."

The condition in relation to placing ten settlers upon the tract within six years must have been extended, for the settlement was not made until some ten years after the expiration of that limit. We find upon the records the following certificate: "Land Office, Boston, 29th March 1826. This certifies that I have received of the trustees of Belfast Academy a certified list containing the names of ten settlers who are now settled on the half township of land in the County of Washington and State of Maine lying northwest from Houlton Plantation, granted to said Academy and is satisfactory evidence that the condition for placing settlers upon said grant is seasonably complied with. Attest, Geo. W. Coffin, land agent."

On September 1, 1835, the trustees deeded all the unsold lands, comprising 7264 acres, to Henry P. Bridge of Boston, for \$7264. He paid one-fourth, or \$1816, down and gave his notes for the remainder in three equal annual payments. September 4, 1835, Mr. Bridge deeds his purchase to Samuel H. Blake of Bangor. Various deeds of lots in the grant were given by the trustees until 1835. On November 22, 1853, they deeded to James White of Belfast, for \$2000, "al the unsold lands in said half township, together with all debts, dues and demands belonging to said trustees for any lands sold in said half township, he paying all claims against them for the services of their agents heretofore accruing." So much for the documentary history of the grant to the time when the trustees of the Academy made a final sale of all their interest in the half township.

The first settler on the grant was Gen. John Cummings (or Comings, as the name was then spelled) who on the 8th day of October, 1825, made his way through the woods to the lot about two and one-half miles west of the Houlton line, where Mr. William Hand now lives. The woods were at that time filled with the dense smoke from the Mirimachi fire. Gen. Cummings with his party camped near where Mr. Hand's watering tub now stands by the roadside, and the General chose this lot for his new home. Here he cleared up a large farm upon a beautiful elevation from which he could overlook all the settlements upon the adjoining townships. Houlton was then but a small settlement and there were openings in the forest in Hodgdon, Linneus and New Limerick, the smokes from which could be seen from the elevation upon which General Cummings built his home. He was for years the principal man in the new settlement. and was agent for the trustees of Belfast Academy for the sale of lots



FARM BUILDINGS OF WALTER CHRISTIE, P. ISLE

and location of settlers. He lived on this farm until his death in 1849. His son, John M. Cummings, continued to live upon the old homestead until about 1870, when he removed to Wisconsin. Bradford Cummings, another son of the General, came at the same time and settled on the lot where David R. Small now lives. Mr. Cummings was a land surveyor and in October, 1826, lotted the half township and in all subsequent deeds reference is made to his plan and survey. He built a mill on the stream which flowed across the southwest corner of his lot and which has ever since been known as Mill Brook. The mill contained an up and down saw and sawed lumber for the settlers. It was afterwards rebuilt by Daniel Small, who run it for a number of years, when it was abandoned and has decayed and fallen down. Bradford Cummings subsequently removed to Houlton, where he remained for a short time and then moved to Fort Fairfield, where he resided for many years on a farm a short distance from the village, and where he died a few years ago. Judge Cummings, as he was known for many years, was a man well known and respected throughout Aroostook County. He served as sheriff of the county and also as judge of probate and was an influential citizen for many years.

Among the ten original settlers besides John and Bradford Cummings, were John Stuart, Lewis Wright, Robert Blaisdell, ——— Barrows, Cyrus Hutchings, James H. Stevens and Alfred Marshall. Who the tenth man was who completed the list we have been unable to determine.

Miss Ruth W. Cummings taught school in the grant in the summer of 1830. Her bill for teaching eleven weeks at \$2.00 per week and boarding herself, approved by John Stuart, school agent, is still preserved. Miss Cummings afterward married Jacob Pickard and lived in the town until her death in the summer of 1891. She was a well educated lady and was much beloved and respected by all who knew her.

John Stuart settled on the lot next adjoining John Cummings on the east, where he cleared up the farm upon which the Widow Ingraham now lives. He lived here until his death some twenty years ago.

Lewis Wright took the lot opposite John Stuart. He made a small clearing and put up a log house and soon afterwards sold to Isaac Dickson, who cleared up the farm and lived upon it for many years, then sold to George Howe and removed to New Brunswick.

Robert Blaisdell settled on lot No. 7, Range 2, where Free-

man Small now lives. He cleared up a large farm and built the house in which Mr. Small now lives. He afterward sold to Thomas Small and moved to Wisconsin, where he remained a short time and then went to Minnesota and invested in lands. The rise in value of these lands made him wealthy. He died some four years ago.

Mr. Barrows took the lot where Mr. Peter Moore now lives. Here he made a small clearing but did not live on the lot. He was a nephew of Mrs. Cummings and resided with that family during his short stay in the settlement.

Cyrus Hutchings took the lot next west of Barrows on the south side of the road. He cleared up the farm and lived on it some twenty years, when he removed to Minnesota. The farm is now owned by Mr. I. B. Rideout, who lives opposite.

James H. Stevens took the lot upon a part of which the Baptist Church and parsonage now stands. Here he lived until his death, some eight years ago. His son, Judson Stevens, now lives on the farm.

Alfred Marshall took the lot on the north side of the road opposite where Daniel Barker now lives. He afterward moved to Fort Fairfield.

Mr. John Chase was one of the earliest settlers of the town but was not one of the ten included in the certified list. He came from New Brunswick in 1826 and settled on the lot where Cyrus K. Bradbury now lives. He lived there some twenty-five years and sold to Stephen Morrison. He afterwards lived on a number of different lots and ten years ago moved to the farm near the west line of the town, where he now lives. He is now eighty one years old, but is hale and strong. His son Abner carries on the farm.

Mr. Jesse Gilman came from Norridgewock about 1828 and took the lot north of Bradford Cummings. Here he cleared up a large farm which he afterward sold to Henry G. Allen and moved to Houlton. His son, Charles C. Gilman, cleared up the farm next east of his fathers, on which John Green now lives. He also moved to Houlton and built the brick house a short distance north of the village on the Presque Isle road. He was for a number of years engaged in the manufacture of brick in Houlton and removed to California a year or two since.

Zebediah Barker came from Norridgewock in 1838 and settled on the lot where his son, Daniel Barker, now lives. He was one of the active citizens of the town. Some twenty-five years ago he moved to Fort Fairfield, where he died. His son,

Amos Barker, lived with his father until he became of age, when he bought the lot upon which he now lives with his son, Kelsey A. Barker. It was a new lot with no clearing when Mr. Barker took it. He cleared up a large farm and built comfortable buildings. Isaac Barker also came from Norridgewock and cleared up the farm where John McCormick now lives. He afterwards sold to Wm. Chase and went to California, where he remained some time, and returned to Houlton. He has been for many years one of the principal farmers of Houlton and was for three years a member of the State Board of Agriculture.

Henry G. Allen came to the town about 1838 and bought the Jesse Gilman farm which he afterwards sold to Melzer Drake. Mr. Drake lived upon the farm until his death some ten years ago. He was engaged largely in the lumber business and accumulated a considerable property.

Israel Dodge was also an early settler who came from Strong and made a farm north of the main road. He afterward moved to Easton and died there. His brother, Daniel Dodge, lived on a part of the same lot.

Mr. Joseph Goodenough, an early settler of New Limerick, came from there to the Belfast Grant previous to 1843 and lived on the farm opposite the Thompson farm in the east part of the town. His son, Elias Goodenough, afterward moved to Dyer Brook, from which place he enlisted and died in the service.

Mr. George Howe lived on the farm north of the one on which Mr. J. B. Rideout now lives. He sold his farm to Mr. Rideout and moved to Monticello, where he died.

Silas Hilton lived on a lot north of Mr. David Small's farm. He built a small grist mill on Mill Brook near his home many years ago. It has long since decayed and fallen down.

Mr. John Tabor was a blacksmith in the town in 1843. He enlisted in the army, and after the war, worked at his trade in Houlton. He has been dead a number of years.

Mr. Royal B. Colbroth cleared up the farm where Mr. Henry Lamb now lives, in the west part of the town. His son, Matthew Colbroth, lived on the farm opposite.

Mr. Wm. Farwell, who was plantation clerk in 1840, had no farm, but worked in the lumber woods in winter and for farmers during the summer. He afterwards removed to Patten and died there.

The Belfast Grant was organized together with New Limerick as a plantation in 1831. In 1837, New Limerick was incorporated as a town and the Belfast Grant seems to have had no

organization until 1840. The warrant for the meeting to organize the new plantation was issued by Hugh Alexander, County Commissioner, Oct. 17, 1840. The meeting was held on the 26th of October. John Cummings was chosen moderator, Wm. V. Farwell, clerk, and Bradford Cummings, George Howe and Silas Hilton, assessors. There were 37 voters upon the list in 1843, most of whom we have noticed above. The main road, running through the town on the line between the first and second ranges, was cut out soon after the first ten settlers came to the town, but was not made passable for carriages until long afterwards. It is now a well built turnpike and runs through a very good farming section. Coming up from Houlton village we turn to the west from the Presque Isle road either at Col. Black Hawk Putnam's or near the Gilman homestead, the two roads coming together a mile and a half further west, and crossing the western portion of the town of Houlton, in which are many fine farms and handsome farm buildings.

In the northern portion of the town the land is for the most part owned by non-resident proprietors. There is much good settling land in this part of the town, interspersed with tracts of timber land.

Ludlow was incorporated as a town in 1864 and is a farming town exclusively, having no mill, manufactory or store. The town has good schools, with comfortable school buildings, is free from debt and has a small amount in the treasury.

The town is abundantly supplied with water, having numerous brooks and streams nearly all running in a southeasterly direction and emptying into the Meduxnekeag.

The population of the town in 1890 was 375 and the valuation \$114,247.

MARS HILL

Directly south of the town of Easton, and lying along the boundary line between Maine and New Brunswick, is the fertile town of Mars Hill. The history of this town takes us away back to Revolutionary times, and the original plan of the town is inscribed, on nearly every lot, with the names of the heroes who in the days that tried men's souls, fought for the independence of our country. In the year 1804 this township was surveyed