

There are ten schools in the town under the efficient supervision of W. J. Weymouth. Four terms of free high school are maintained each year, two of which are held at Easton Centre and two at Sprague's Mills.

As a farming town Easton has few if any superiors in Aroostook. Though comparatively a new town, reclaimed from the wilderness within the recollection of men who are still young and active, yet there are upon all the roads throughout the town large, smooth and well cultivated farms with extensive farm buildings and every evidence of comfort and prosperity.

Easton was incorporated as a town on Feb. 24, 1864 and in 1880 had a population of 835. The population in 1890 was 978 and the valuation \$208,765.

In the fertility of its soil and its natural advantages as an agricultural town it is surpassed by few, if any, of the towns in the fertile valley of the Aroostook.

MAPLETON

Directly west of the town of Presque Isle lies the goodly town of Mapleton, formerly known as Township No. 12, Range 3. The Aroostook River barely touches the northeast corner of the town, the corner post being upon an island in the river. Some two and a half miles west of this corner the river in bending around a large island again touches the north line of the town. Mapleton has Washburn for a neighbor on the north, Castle Hill on the west and Chapman Plantation upon its southern border.

The first settlement made upon the town was upon the lots in the northeast corner bordering upon the Aroostook River. Previous to the time of the Aroostook War, people from New Brunswick had ascended the river and made settlements upon its banks at various points, and after the boundary dispute was settled by the Treaty of 1842 these settlers were given deeds of their lots in accordance with the recommendations of the Commissioners sent here by the States of Maine and Massachusetts and these lots so deeded have since been known as treaty lots. Very few of these lots were located in what is now the town of Mapleton, as that town has but a small extent of river frontage.

We find by the report of the Commissioners that Lot No. 14 was thus granted to Joshua Christie and Lot No. 16 to "Edward Erskine, James Erskine and Abigail, wife of Winslow Churchill." These two lots, now included in the town of Maple-

ton, had a river frontage in what is now the town of Washburn. Lots No. 17 and 18 were granted to Peter Bull, together with "that part of Bull's Island which lies in No. 12," now Mapleton. How long these people had been settled on their lots we have not been able exactly to determine, but as the conditions of the grants required that the lots should have been "possessed and improved by them, or the persons under whom they claim, for more than six years before the date of the treaty aforesaid" they must have been settled there as early as 1836 and we think Peter Bull came there at a much earlier date. We find also that the southeast quarter of lot 102 and the southwest quarter of lot 103, "to be set off by lines parallel to the lot lines" were granted under the treaty to Dennis Fairbanks, the pioneer settler of the town of Presque Isle. These two lots are situated in the southeast part of the town and the "quarters" designated front upon the Presque Isle Stream, a tributary of the Aroostook. Probably at the time these lots were granted to Fairbanks there was no actual settler upon them though there must have been some "improvement" upon them in order to acquire a deed. This tract is now, we think, owned by Mr. Veranes Chandler of Presque Isle.

Thus we find that Mapleton as well as many other towns in this part of the County, owed its first settlement to the Aroostook River, which these pioneer settlers ascended in the old days "before the war" and upon whose fertile banks and magnificent islands they made their humble homes.

At that time the river was the only highway through this forest region and therefore these old time settlers made their first clearings and erected their log houses near its banks. Before the clearing was made and a crop could be obtained, these pioneers were able to obtain the means of supporting their families by felling the noble pines that grew near the river banks, making them into square timber and floating them down to Fredericton, where they found a ready market.

These people were all from New Brunswick at the time of their settlement along the river, and considered themselves still citizens of that Province and claimed to be upon Provincial territory. Not until the time of the boundary disputes which culminated in the Aroostook War, was the attention of the citizens of Maine called to this fertile region, or were its grand agricultural resources known to our people.

Then the old "State Road" from Presque Isle to Ashland was cut through and in 1842, Shepard Packard came from the

town of Foxcroft and settled on the line of that road some four miles west from what is now Presque Isle. Mr. Packard remained upon this lot and cleared up a fine farm, where he lived to see the wilderness about him cleared away and fine fields made all along the road to Presque Isle. He died at his home at a ripe old age some five or six years ago. His son, George W. Packard, lived with him, and was for years the active manager of the farm until his death, which occurred last spring. Ansel Packard, another son, lived upon the farm opposite his father's until some eight years ago, when he moved to Fort Fairfield, and he too, recently died. Thus no member of the family who made the first settlement upon this part of the town is now living.

Members of the Bull family came up upon this road soon after Mr. Packard made his clearing, and Charles W. and Peter Bull are still living upon lots a short distance east of the Packard farm.

Many of the lots upon this part of the town were covered with their original forest growth until after the war, since which time every lot has been taken and there is a continuous settlement across the town upon this road.

In 1865 Mr. Thomas Munn took up the lot next east of Mr. Packard's, and has now forty acres cleared and is making a fine farm.

Another road enters the town from Presque Isle and runs entirely across the town, parallel to and a mile and a half distant from the south line of the town.

In the fall of 1858, Mr. George L. Emerson came from the town of Stow, in Oxford County, and took a lot in the southwest part of the town, a half mile south of the line of the road above named. He made a chopping that fall and in the spring brought his family to his new home, where he had built a log house. Mr. Emerson's experience was like that of many another Aroostook pioneer. When he arrived with his family and settled in his forest home he had just fifty cents in his pocket. He cleared up two acres and put it into crop, and then leaving his little family, went to work in Presque Isle, and also upon the mill which was that year built near his home, to earn means to provide food until his crop grew.

The road in this part of the town was not then opened, and all supplies had to be brought up the old State Road and across a "portage" through the woods. The distance from Presque Isle by this route was about seventeen miles, while by the road

now traveled it is but about six miles. In 1862, Mr. Emerson, who then had a clearing of ten acres on his lot, left his home and joined the Union Army, being enrolled in the 18th Maine Regiment, known as the 1st Maine Heavy Artillery. Many a brave and sturdy recruit for the Army of the Union went from the new settlements in the forests of Aroostook, and in many of the log houses on these little clearings in the wilderness the lonely wife and little family anxiously awaited the return of the loved one who was fighting the battles of his country on Southern fields. Nobly, indeed, did Aroostook respond to the nation's call to arms, and today in every town in this new county may be found many veterans of the war.

Mr. Emerson returned from service with broken health, but succeeded in making a fine productive farm and buildings comfortable and commodious. Being unable to carry on a large farm, he has recently sold a fine tract of fifty acres, and is living quietly upon the remainder.

In 1859 Freeman L. Ball and Reuben A. Huse came from Hallowell and commenced the erection of a mill at the point where the road now crosses the Presque Isle Stream in the southwest part of the town of Mapleton. This mill became the nucleus of what is now the pleasant and busy little village of Ball's Mills. Messrs. Ball and Huse received from the State a grant of a mile square of land in aid of building the saw mill, which at first contained but an up and down saw for sawing long lumber. A year or two later they put in a shingle mill. At the time the mill was built there was no clearing anywhere in the vicinity, and no road in that portion of the town.

In 1859 also came Chas. M. Spooner, Benj. Chandler and Benj. Gray, who took lots east of the mill and made clearings, and Mr. Geo. L. Emerson moved his family to the new settlement.

The same year Josiah McGlaulin, A. H. Thompson, B. J. Hughes, Garner Wilcox and some others settled on lots near the mill to the north and west.

Mr. Ball soon after sold his interest in the mill to his partner, Mr. Huse, and commenced making the fine farm near the mill upon which his son, Mr. Albert Ball, now lives. In 1886 Mr. Huse sold the mill to John P. Roberts and Franklin Ball, who carried it on until 1870, when they sold to Hon. David Dudley of Presque Isle. Mr. Dudley made extensive repairs upon the mill and also built a store and entered into trade. He also devoted himself somewhat extensively to farming upon the

land near the mill. In 1874 he sold the mill to Messrs Stewart and Morton, the present proprietors, who made extensive additions and put in a rotary saw and planer. The new firm had succeeded in establishing a good business when, in the summer of 1877, a fierce forest fire swept down the valley of the stream, consuming in a short time the mill and all buildings connected with it, the new starch factory just completed by Messrs. Johnson & Phair, Mr. Albert Ball's barn and outbuildings, and at one time threatened to consume the entire village. The bridge across the stream near the mill was also burned, and it was only by the greatest exertion on the part of those present that the village was saved from total destruction. The events of this disastrous fire are still spoken of by the residents of the village as an experience never to be forgotten by those who passed through it. Messrs. Stewart & Morton were in no way discouraged by their great loss, but at once set about the work of rebuilding the mill. This work they pushed with so much vigor and energy that by fall of the same year the new mill was completed, machinery put in and in successful operation.

The destruction by fire of the starch factory resulted in much inconvenience to the farmers of the vicinity, who had planted large fields of potatoes with the expectation of delivering them at this factory in the fall. The potato crop proved good that year and, as many of the Mapleton farmers hauled their potatoes to the Maysville factory, also owned by Messrs. Johnson & Phair, this additional supply loaded that factory to its utmost capacity. Sometimes as many as eighty teams, loaded with potatoes could be counted, waiting to unload at the Maysville factory. Messrs. Johnson & Phair rebuilt the factory at Mapleton in 1879 and in the summer of 1886 the main building was struck by lightning and entirely consumed, the dry houses being saved. The factory was immediately rebuilt and was completed in time to receive the crop of potatoes in the fall of the same year.

The village hotel is kept by M. L. Stewart, who came to Mapleton from New Vineyard, in Franklin County, in the year 1864, and bought a lot of 160 acres on the Presque Isle road a short distance east of the mills. At that time there was but six acres cleared upon the farm and the buildings consisted of a log house and a small barn. Mr. Stewart at once set about the work of making a farm and in a few years the forest upon the front of his entire lot had disappeared and given place to fertile fields. In 1878 he built a large two-story house and at

once opened it for a hotel. This house is one of the most pleasant and homelike hotels in the county, and here the traveler is always sure to find rest and refreshment and the kindest attention from the courteous landlord and his pleasant family.

Col. S. C. F. Smith, the resident member of the firm of Dudley and Smith, is the principal merchant of the village. Col. Smith was from the town of Charlotte, in Washington County, and made a splendid war record as Captain of Co. H. 9th Maine Regiment. Immediately after the war he came to Aroostook and went into business in the pretty little village of Spragueville in South Presque Isle. He afterwards removed to Fort Fairfield, and in 1878 formed a co-partnership with Hon. David Dudley of Presque Isle for the purpose of carrying on a mercantile business at Ball's Mills. Mr. Dudley's extreme antipathy to tobacco was well known, and as he could not conscientiously countenance its sale or use, he refused to extend the partnership to this branch of the business, and the tobacco trade was carried on by Col. Smith alone, Mr. Dudley refusing to receive any share of the profits. Mr. Dudley was long an honored citizen of Presque Isle, and was a member of the Maine Senate from this county. He died at Presque Isle in the summer of 1890.

Col. Smith has served as Colonel of the Veteran Regiment of Aroostook G. A. R., and has also represented his district in the Legislature of Maine. He has a very handsome residence at Ball's Mills, and is one of the sterling business men of Aroostook.

Nearly opposite Col. Smith's store is the fine building erected in 1884 by Eureka Grange. The second story of the building is used as a Grange hall, with a dining hall above. The lower story has recently been sold to Mr. M. E. Ingraham, who has opened a grocery and provision store. Mr. Ingraham is a young man who was brought up upon a farm in the town and is well known and respected by all his townsmen.

Mr. E. A. Smith came from the town of Charlotte and has a farm of forty acres on the high land east of the village and has a fine set of buildings. He has been collector of taxes for a number of years. Mr. James McGlaufflin also came from the town of Charlotte in 1861 and took a farm about half a mile from the village, which he carried on for three years. He then moved his family to Presque Isle and went into the army. He returned to Mapleton in 1882 and has been postmaster at Ball's Mills ever since. He keeps a stock of light groceries and dry

goods, but like Mr. Dudley, has conscientious scruples against selling tobacco. His store is on the west side of the stream near the bridge.

Mr. Phineas Swan is the village blacksmith and has a shop opposite the postoffice, where all kinds of work in his line are executed to the satisfaction of his customers.

About one-fourth of a mile west of the mill we come to the fine farm of Mr. A. S. Griffin, which lies next to the town line. Mr. Griffin also came from the town of Charlotte, which has furnished many good citizens to this part of the county. He has now nearly fifty acres cleared, and has recently built a very handsome two-story house and is making a valuable property. Mr. Griffin was a soldier in the 7th Maine Regiment.

A little over a mile east of the village is the farm of Mr. Charles Higgins, a hale old gentleman of 78, who came to the town from Calais in 1870. Eleven years ago his house took fire in the night and the flames were well under way before the inmates awoke to their danger. It was only by the greatest exertion that the old man and his sons were able to save the lives of the women of the family, but they succeeded in rescuing all from the grasp of the flames. When the sun rose next morning it shone upon a heap of smouldering ruins, and when it set that night its last rays fell upon a new house ready to shelter the family, built entirely in one day. In the morning after the fire the trees of which the frame was made were growing in the woods. The neighbors turned out in large numbers. The trees were felled, the frame hewed and hauled to the building spot, the timbers were framed and raised, the boards and shingles hauled from the mill, the house enclosed and shingled, windows put in, floors laid and rooms partitioned off ready for the family, all in one day. Who will say that Aroostook is not a good county for a poor man to live in, or that Mapleton is not one of its good towns? Mr. Higgins's three sons, Orren J., Charles O. and Shepard I. Higgins, all live on good farms nearby and are making comfortable homes.

In the east part of the town is a splendid ridge of land known as the Creasy Ridge, upon which are many fine farms. The peculiarity of the soil in this part of the town is that the ledge is red sandstone and is of much value for building purposes. In 1860 Mr. Benj. D. Creasy came from Mt. Vernon and settled upon this ridge. The same year came Mr. Francis Winslow from Westbrook, and also Eben, Robert and James M. Grendell, and settled in the same vicinity. There was then no

clearing in that part of the town, but it is now a very fine farming section. Mr. Charles E. Creasy now lives upon the farm commenced by his father, and has a very handsome farm with a good stand of buildings. Mr. Winslow has also a fine farm on the opposite side of the road. He was engaged in hop raising for a number of years and found it a profitable business for a time.

Mr. Alexander Ross came to Mapleton in the spring of 1864 and bought a lot on the Creasy Ridge about two and one-half miles from Presque Isle village. When he bought the lot there were but ten acres cleared upon it and no direct road leading to Presque Isle. He now has a good road to the village and has one of the finest farms in this section. Mr. Ross is a good farmer as well as a good citizen. He has served on the Board of Trustees of the North Aroostook Agricultural Society and is one of the "old reliables" in Grange work.

A short distance west of the mill a road runs in a northerly direction across to the old State Road through a very fine farming section. Mr. S. H. Waldron, a veteran of the war, has a large farm upon this road with an attractive set of farm buildings. There are numerous other good farms on this road and also on the other cross roads throughout the town.

Mapleton was first organized as a plantation in 1869, and George L. Emerson, A. H. Thompson and Shepard Packard were chosen assessors, and Chas. M. Spooner, clerk. The town was incorporated in March, 1880, at which time it had a population of 705 and a valuation of \$51,642. The population in 1890 was 832, and the valuation \$138,338. The rate of taxation was eleven and two-tenths mills on a dollar.

MORO

In the western part of Aroostook County and lying along the border of Penobscot County is the township formerly known as Rockabema, but now the plantation of Moro. This township is No. Six, Range Five, and is directly west of Merrill Plantation, north of the town of Hersey, and has for its northern boundary the unsettled township No. Seven, Range Five. The old Aroostook road, the mail route from Patten to Ashland, traverses the town, entering it about a mile and a half from the southwest corner and continuing in a general northeasterly direction entirely across the town, crossing its north line a little more than a mile from the northeast corner of the town.