

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

by Charles Turner, Jr., and lotted into blocks containing 200 acres each. By a resolve of the Massachusetts legislature these lots were granted to the soldiers of the Revolution who were citizens of that State. The plan of the original survey as "drawn by Charles Turner, Jr., surveyor, September, 1804," lies before us as we write, while from the window of a hospitable home at the foot of Mars Hill can be seen the steep, wooded side of that beautiful eminence, flooded with the light of the full moon on this lovely July night. St. Paul as he stood in the midst of Mars Hill of old did not look upon a landscape half so fair as can be seen from the summit of this grand Aroostook mountain. Rising abruptly from a beautiful plain to the height of nearly 2000 feet above the level of the neighboring stream, its top overlooks the fair and fertile Valley of the Aroostook, while with the aid of a glass the village of Houlton and the towns in its vicinity can be distinctly seen. Hilltop and valley, fertile farms and dense forest, glassy lakes and meandering streams, with here and there the clustered buildings of some neat village are the varied features that go to make up a landscape view of indescribable beauty.

The original plan is entitled "Plan of Mars Hill Township as lotted by order of the General Court of Massachusetts for the soldiers of the late Continental Army who enlisted for during the war as a part of this State's quota of said army and served three years under this enlistment." The starting point of the survey of the township was from a hemlock tree in the southeast corner of the town, which a note of Turner's on the wide margin of the plan informs us was "marked S. E. C. S. T., being 37 miles due north from the monument at the source of the Schoodic Waters." This monument was the point of departure for all those old surveys, as it marked the northernmost point to which the boundary line between Maine and New Brunswick had been agreed upon. This hemlock tree, probably the first tree marked with the axe in what was intended to be the township of Mars Hill, has since been cut by some rapacious Bluenose, for when the boundary was established by the Treaty of 1842 and the line between the two countries was finally run, it sliced off a strip a half mile wide from the entire eastern side of the town and left the township but five and a half miles in width from east to west. Every lot in the town with the exception of four lots on the top of the mountain, lot 115 in the extreme northwest part of the town and the lots reserved for ministerial and school purposes, was granted to some Revolutionally soldier and his name is upon the lot

on this old plan. Lot No. 54 in the centre of the town is marked "For first settled minister," and the lot immediately adjoining on the north is marked "Ministry Lot," while lot No. 33 is marked "For Schools." This shows the interest the good old commonwealth took in the religious and educational advantages of her citizens. The names on most of the lots are good old familiar English names, while here and there one shows that the soldier was a son of the Emerald Isle. As in every good work since names were invented, "John Smith" took an active part. We have here the record that he served his country at least three years in the old Continental Army, for lot No. 46 bears his honored name. The name of Isaac Dyer appears upon a lot next to the boundary line and we may thus conjecture that from this good old Revolutionary stock the gallant Colonel of the 15th Maine may be descended.

Three miles north from the southeast corner of the town, on what was supposed to be the boundary line, is marked on the plan the "40 mile tree" and a note informs us that from this tree a "lane was marked and bushed out to the St. John River" some four miles distant.

Quite a number of the lots are marked as deeded to the widow, heirs or assignees of the soldier to whom they were granted, but very many of them were not deeded and these are simply marked with the name of the grantee. The name of Samuel Cook appears upon Lot No. 61 as the original grantee, while quite a number of lots bear besides the name of the grantee the note "Deeded to Samuel Cook assignee." Samuel Cook was one of the early settlers of the town of Houlton and his old title to these lots in Mars Hill had much to do with the subsequent history of the proprietorship of that town. It came about in this wise. After this township, in common with all the other land in Aroostook came wholly under the jurisdiction of the State of Maine, the lots upon which unpaid State and County taxes had accrued, which indeed includes nearly the whole township, were advertised by the State as for sale for the taxes due.

The town as well as other towns in like condition in Aroostook, was purchased by John Hodgdon, J. C. Madigan and Jeremiah Trueworthy, who took what is known as tax titles from the State. Subsequently an arrangement was made between these gentlemen by which Jeremiah Trueworthy became sole proprietor of Mars Hill township under this tax title. Mr. Trueworthy proceeded to open the town for settlement and to give to the settlers bonds and deeds for their lots. Roads were opened

throughout the town and Mr. Trueworthy gave to the settlers land at the rate of one acre for every rod of road built. Some land at the rate of one acre for every rod of road built.

Some early settlers who had for some time been squatters upon the town disputed Mr. Trueworthy's title and refused payment to him and in some instances retained their lands without payment. This state of things remained for years, until Mr. Joseph Chandler obtained from the heirs of Samuel Cook the lots which in the olden time had been deeded to him by Massachusetts. These lots were at the time of Mr. Chandler's purchase in the possession of parties who held them under titles given by Mr. Trueworthy, Mr. Chandler commenced suits to obtain legal possession of the land. The cases were carried to the full bench of Maine and in 1885 were decided in Mr. Chandler's favor, thus invalidating Mr. Trueworthy's title to the town. Those of the settlers who had been twenty years upon the town held their lots by possession, while in other cases various arrangements were made to give valid titles. It was found also after the town was incorporated that Mr. Trueworthy had given deeds of the school lots and that settlers were then living upon them and making farms. In order to give these settlers as little trouble, the town authorities, thinking Trueworthy's title good, made an exchange with him by which they released their claim to the original school lands and took from him deeds of other lots to an equal amount. These lots the town sold to settlers and a sum of \$1065 dollars was received for them, which was invested for the credit of the Ministerial and School Fund.

When the court decided adversely to the claim of Mr. Trueworthy it became evident that the deeds given by him to the town were worthless and the town was obliged to make good the warranty they had given to parties who had bought these lots. They therefore decided to hire of the trustees of the school fund this \$1065 at six per cent for fifty years, and with this money the titles to these lots were made good to the settlers and the town is simply raising an additional sixty dollars for school purposes each year.

We have been thus particular in describing these events in regard to the history of the proprietorship of the town as they seem to be of more than local importance and will be of interest to readers in all portions of the State. We will now endeavor to trace the story fo the opening of the town and of its development to the present time. As in the case of all the towns in this

portion of the county lumber parties had invaded the town long before a tree was cut upon it for farming purposes. Many a grand old "pumpkin pine" had been cut and floated down these streams to the St. John River and a market years before any pioneer thought of making a home upon the town.

The first settlers to make an opening upon the town for farming purposes were John H. Bridges and John W. Ruggles, who in 1844 made a chopping in the southeast corner of the town on what is now the road from Houlton to Presque Isle.

The farm upon which the first tree was cut by John H. Bridges is now owned by Mr. Benj. F. Jones of Blaine. Bridges and Ruggles were at the time living in the adjoining township of Deerfield (now Westfield) and did not remove to Mars Hill until four years later.

In 1844, Mr. Moses Snow commenced a clearing in the same vicinity and the next spring moved with his family to the new home, thus being the first actual settler to establish a residence in the town. About the same time John Akeley came with his family and commenced making a farm in this neighborhood, and soon after came James McDonough.

All the above named settlers were originally from New Brunswick and as this was previous to the sale of the township for taxes, were simply squatters upon the town. Akeley remained but a year or two and his lot was afterwards taken by John Banks.

At that time the entire township with the exception of the small clearings made by these few pioneers, was an unbroken wilderness, penetrated only by the hardy lumberman and the adventurous hunter.

The first chopping made upon what is now the mail route from Fort Fairfield to Blaine was made in 1852, by David Tewkesbury, who fell twenty-five acres of trees upon the farm now occupied by John J. Hill, who two years ago represented the district in the State Legislature. Mr. Tewkesbury did not clear the land, however, and some three years later it was cleared up by Mr. Jeremiah Trueworthy, who built a barn upon the farm and in 1859 sold it to Benj. Whitehouse, who lived upon it for a number of years and then sold it to John J. Hill, a worthy veteran of the war of the Rebellion, who now resides upon it.

Henry Wilson removed from the town of Easton about 1856 and took a lot on Rocky Brook in the south part of the town, a short distance east of the Fort Fairfield road.

Upon this lot was a good mill privilege and Mr. Wilson at once proceeded to build a mill with an up and down saw and afterwards put in a shingle machine. Here Mr. Wilson made a good farm, upon which he resided until his removal to Houlton some two years ago. During Mr. Wilson's residence in the town he was one of the leading citizens. He was for years Mr. Trueworthy's agent and did much for the interest of the town.

In 1856, James Shaw and family came from New Brunswick and settled on the lot adjoining Mr. Wilson. Members of this family are still among the prosperous farmers of the town.

In 1859 Mr. Sewall N. Pierce came from Auburn and bought a lot on the line of the Fort Fairfield road some four miles from Blaine Corner. Mr. Pierce has long been one of the leading citizens of his town and has done much for its religious and educational interests as well as for its industrial development.

In 1859 quite an extensive opening was made upon what is called the West Ridge, though there was no road there at that time. In that year Joel Howard, Warren Preble, Lucius Smith, Hazen Hill, Wm. D. Graves and Nathan Oakes made large choppings in that part of the town. Some of these, however, did not settle in the town, but sold their improvements. Joel Howard and Wm. D. Graves are now prominent citizens of the town of Presque Isle.

In the same year, 1859, Warren L. Boynton came from Liberty, Waldo County, and bought 400 acres on the west side of the mountain and of this he has made a fine productive farm.

In 1861 Mr. Benj. F. Jones came to Mars Hill and bought about 160 acres of land on the Fort Fairfield road. Here he cleared up a good farm, upon which he lived for seven years, when he removed to the town of Blaine, where he now resides.

The breaking out of the war and the uncertainty in regard to titles to the land, both had the effect to retard the growth of the town, and in 1863 diphtheria raged with fatal violence, and in that year there were twenty-five deaths in the town. In spite of all these drawbacks, however, the town continued to increase and new settlers came each year.

The township was organized as a plantation in 1866, and at the first plantation meeting Henry O. Perry, B. F. Jones and S. A. Rhodes were chosen assessors, and Sewall N. Pierce, clerk.

H. O. Perry came to the town about the time of the war, but left to join the Union Army in which he did faithful service. Upon his return he settled in Mars Hill and engaged in farming

and was twice elected to represent the district in the State Legislature. Mr. Perry removed to Blaine about 1870. He has served upon the Board of County Commissioners, and is now serving a second term as Deputy Collector of Customs at Fort Fairfield.

In the early days of the settlement religious meetings were held in private houses until schoolhouses were built. The first clergyman was Rev. J. G. Ricker, who came from Boston in 1859 and bought a lot and commenced to build a house. He remained but a short time, however, and for some time Rev. Elbridge Knight of Fort Fairfield preached in the town. Meetings are still held in the schoolhouses, as no church building has yet been erected, though one is now in contemplation.

Private schools were early established and immediately after the organization of the plantation a tax was assessed for the support of public schools, and upon the passage of the Free High School law a High School was at once established. The town has now nine district schools, which are all supplied with schoolhouses. Mrs. Lizzie York is the present superintendent and the schools are prospering under her careful management.

In 1877 Messrs. Collins and Hume built a starch factory at Mars Hill village. This factory is now owned and operated by Hon. Geo. W. Collins of Bridgewater. Soon after the opening of the starch factory Mr. Bedford Hume built the first store at the village. This store is now occupied by B. F. Pierce. Soon after this Mr. George Stewart built the store now occupied by Mr. Howard Safford.

The village of Mars Hill is situated in the south part of the town upon the Fort Fairfield road. The line of the Bangor & Aroostook Railroad runs directly through the village and the building of that road will no doubt make this one of the most prosperous villages of Northern Aroostook.

MASARDIS

Masardis is one of the historic towns of Aroostook, and many are the incidents of the Aroostook War related by its oldest citizens. It was here that the troops of the heroic McIntyre and the redoubtable Rines entrenched themselves and here the brave Strickland bade defiance to the power of Britain. From