

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

behind their breastworks on "the point" where the St. Croix joins its waters with the noble Aroostook, they sallied forth on their grand advance on Fort Fairfield, and it was to these same breastworks that they made their masterly retreat of seventy miles in a day after the capture of McIntyre and others at Fitzherbert's tavern in Fort Fairfield.

One cannot help being patriotic at Masardis, so closely is the place connected with the history of those warlike days. Here we are shown the site of the old "commissary." Yonder is the point on which the troops of Maine camped behind their breastworks, their four-pounders and six pounders pointing down the Aroostook River. Ere we have been half a day in the town we are presented with a rusty old six pound cannon ball as a relic of the war.

But Masardis is older than the Aroostook War, and we must first give the history of the town in its *ante bellum* days and let the events of the war come in their order.

In 1833 Thomas Goss came to Masardis with his family and settled on a beautiful intervale on the west bank of the Aroostook, opposite the mouth of the St. Croix Stream. Mr. Goss was originally from Darville, Me., but previous to his settlement at Masardis he lived upon the Pyles farm, now the Hutchinson farm, a short distance north of the Aroostook bridge in the present town of Presque Isle. He remained at Masardis until 1840, when he moved to the mouth of the Little Machias River in Ashland, where he lived for some time and then took up his abode in the wilderness away out on the road to Fish River.

The next man with a family who settled in the town was John Knowlen, who came from Passadumkeag in 1835, with his wife and three children and settled near the St. Croix Stream, about half a mile above its mouth. They left Passadumkeag in January, with one single team and a double team to haul their household goods. Five miles north of Patten they found the road so narrow and snow so deep that the double team could go no farther, so they piled their goods up in the woods and covered them with bark and boughs, intending to send back for them as soon as the road would permit. The snow increased so that they could not get out to them and were obliged to leave them there until the next winter. From Mrs. Knowlen, who is still living in the town, a smart old lady of 83, we learned many particulars of these early days. The first two years the frost killed their crops and they raised nothing to eat. The river and stream was full of trout and the woods of berries and this helped out their living

in the summer time and in the winter Mr. Knowlen worked in Patten and got provision for the family. In 1836, Roswell T. Knowlen was born, he being the first child born in Masardis.

These pioneers were subjected to many hardships during the early years of their settlement in the new town. Mrs. Knowlen relates that in the summer of 1839 they got out of provision and her husband started with a boat to go down the river to Presque Isle, then called Fairbanks, to obtain a supply. She was left with four children and had only one pint of Indian meal in the house. She had a farrow cow that afforded milk for the little ones, and the oldest boy caught fish from the river. She says that for three days she ate nothing but boiled wild chocolate root. A neighbor, Mr. Wm. Cowperthwaite, who had recently moved in there, learned her situation and brought her a little flour and tea. Mr. Knowlen could get no flour at Fairbanks and was obliged to go to the mouth of the Aroostook, where he paid \$22.00 for a barrel of flour and \$18.00 for a barrel of herring. He was gone ten days and the old lady says they were sad and anxious days to her and the little ones, but from that time they never lacked for bread.

Mr. Joseph Pollard came from Old Town to Masardis in 1837. Mr. Pollard formerly lived in Cornville, where all his children were born. Mr. Pollard moved to Old Town and for some time was employed by lumbermen and land owners to look up timber and attend to various interests in the forests of Northern Maine. He thus became acquainted with the Aroostook country and, believing that it would at no distant day be opened to settlement, he decided to build a mill and take up a lot for a farm on the upper Aroostook. Late in the winter of 1838, Mr. Pollard left Old Town with five tons of supplies loaded on sleds for the far off Aroostook. The West Aroostook road was passable for teams at that time as far as the Knowlen place, where the road turns off to go down through Smyrna to Houlton. Arriving at that place, Mr. Pollard sent his teams back and with a crew of eight men made hand sleds with wide runners and went to work to haul the supplies through to Masardis. This was a work of much magnitude, and was performed in this way: Loading the hand sleds the crew would start in the morning and proceed through the woods all day, camping at night. They would then return and haul another load to this camp, and when all was up proceed another stage, and in this way they continued until all the goods were up to a camp some four miles from Masardis, where the road now turns off to the Oxbow. It was now late

in March and finding a good sugar berth at this place, the party camped here and made 300 pounds of maple sugar and then proceeded to haul their goods to Masardis.

Making his headquarters at Masardis, Mr. Pollard built a mill on the St. Croix Stream about nine miles from its mouth, in Township No. 9, R. 4. The mill contained an up and down saw and a run of stones and bolt. At the same time he took up a lot of 160 acres on the hill, a short distance south of the junction of the St. Croix with the Aroostook, and immediately commenced clearing up a farm, but did not move his family to the new home until October, 1840. The family came by team as far as Mr. Daniel Smith's, who then lived on what is now called the Cliff place, about fourteen miles from Masardis. Mr. Smith was the father of Hon. Oramandel Smith and it was here in the wilderness of Northern Aroostook that the genial Secretary of State first saw the light. This road being impassable for carriages from that place, Mrs. Pollard and her five children, the oldest being eleven and the youngest seven, walked fourteen miles through the woods to her forest home. The old lady is still living at Masardis with her son, Mr. J. F. Pollard, and is bright and active at the age of 87. From her we received many incidents concerning the hardships of their pioneer life.

They were obliged to leave all their goods at Mr. Smith's until snow came, and the old lady says that for three months she had no pillow to lay her head upon and was subjected to many discomforts.

Mr. Pollard continued to run the mill on the St. Croix for five years, when he sold it to Leonard Jones of Bangor. It afterwards passed through a number of hands and was burned about 1855. In 1843 Mr. Pollard built a frame house on his own land, the family having previously occupied a log house built by Leonard Reed, who moved to Presque Isle and kept a hotel there in the early days. In his new house Mr. Pollard commenced keeping tavern, and having bought a tract of land on the west side of the road opposite his original lot he there built a large house in 1866. This house was burned in 1884. Mr. Pollard and his wife were alone in the house when the fire broke out, and she lay in bed with a broken leg. Neighbors finally came and carried her out, but not until the fire had come uncomfortably near her bed. The house was rebuilt during the next summer. Mr. Pollard died in February, 1888, being almost 90 years old. His son, J. F. Pollard, was a soldier in the 1st D. C. Cavalry and afterwards in the 2d Me. Cavalry.

Sanfield D. Reed came in with Mr. Pollard in 1838. There were then at Masardis, besides the Goss and Knowlen families, Samuel Leavitt, a young man who came about the same time that Mr. Goss came, Benj. Howe, Geo. Fields, Sanford Noble, Wm. Cowperthwaite and a man named Dow.

In the winter of 1839 we first begin to catch glimpses of the Aroostook War, and in that winter a number of new settlers came to Masardis. Wm. Fitzgerald came with Mr. Pollard in 1838 as a millwright and having finished the mill, settled at Masardis in 1839. He built the house in which Mr. Quincy now lives and kept hotel there for a number of years. He was also engaged in trading and lumbering and moved to Presque Isle about 1870. During the same winter, 1839—9, Alexander Woodward and Samuel Fogg came from Old Town. Mr. Woodward was for a number of years a prominent business man at Masardis, where he engaged in lumbering and trading until 1854, when he moved to Minnesota. Abel McAllister came from Montville the same winter and lived at Masardis some ten years. Isaiah Pishon came from Passadumkeag and settled near the mouth of the St. Croix Stream.

In February 1839, the famous posse under Sheriff Strickland and Land Agent McIntyre arrived at Masardis and built a building called the "Commissary" a short distance north of Mr. Pollard's. On the point where the St. Croix enters the Aroostook, they built a fort or breastwork, behind which they stationed their artillery, consisting of four and six pounders, and here the troops camped in tents. In a few days the advance was made to the mouth of the Little Madawaska above Fort Fairfield, and immediately after that the hurried retreat of the posse to their breastworks on the point. Mrs. Knowlen describes the arrival of the posse after the retreat and says that many of them came to her house in the night, and that teams loaded with soldiers were coming all night long. All was excitement at Masardis, as it was expected that a body of British troops would follow on up the river for the purpose of capturing the Yankees. Videttes were placed down the river to give the alarm on the approach of the enemy. One day a man from the outpost came rushing in and reported that the British were coming. All was confusion and consternation at the little settlement as the officer notified the settlers to be ready to leave their homes at once. It was soon learned, however, that the dreaded British were only some loads of hay coming up the river.

As much of old history is preserved in the form of ballads,

I here insert some rhymes written by a lady at Masardis during these stirring times. It will thus be seen that history and the ballads of the period agree as to the incidents of that bloodless war.

“Come all ye noble Yankee boys, come listen to my story.
I'll tell about those Volunteers and all their pomp and glory.
They came to the Aroostook their country to support,
They came to the St. Croix and there they built a fort.

They started down the river some trespassers to find,
They came to Madawaska Stream, and there they formed a line.
But McIntyre and Cushman they thought it too severe
To lodge with private soldiers; to a tavern they did steer

They came to one Fitzherbert's at eight o'clock at night,
Where these poor weary officers expected much delight.
But instead of taking comfort, as I think you all will own,
They were taken by an Irish mob and hauled to Fredericton.

Then on parole of honor these gentlemen went home,
And never to Aroostook were they again to come.
When Rines and Strickland heard the news they knew not
what to do.
Their heads were quite distracted, their hearts were full of woe.

Strickland turned unto his men and to them he did say,
“We'll retreat back to Masardis; we can do it in a day.”
They came to Col. Goss's, they halted on the shore;
Such a poor distressed company you never saw before.

Some with empty stomachs and some with frozen feet.
This is a feather in Rines' cap, this seventy miles retreat.
Now they've gone across the river, a breastwork for to built,
For fear the British would come up and they would have to yield.

'Tis built of spruce and many a cedar tree,
So neatly framed together is this famous battery.
And now we defy the British Queen and all her red-coat crew
To beat our noble Yankee boys, let them try what they can do.”

During these troubles there was much anxiety among the families in this new settlement, but fortunately the disputes were settled without bloodshed, and the cloud of war passed by.

In April 1839, the State troops went through to Fish River. Mr. Sarfield Reed, now living at Masardis, went as a teamster with a company of men under Captain Nye. They went with teams down the river from Masardis to Ashland, thence up the Little Machias to Little Machias Lake, thence across through the woods some two and a half miles to Portage Lake, and followed down through the chain of lakes and Fish River, to the mouth of the river, where a block house was afterwards built called Fort Kent.

Immediately following the departure of the troops, new settlers began to come to the town. On the 21st of March, 1839, the town was incorporated.

In 1840 William Ellis came from Dexter and settled a short distance south of Mr. Pollard, on the lot afterwards occupied by John Knowlen. Mr. Ellis remained but a few years, and moved to Ashland.

Mr. Eben Trafton came from Newfield in 1841, and settled near the north line of the town. Mr. Trafton taught the first school ever opened at Masardis. He has for many years been one of the prominent citizens of the town, and at one time was largely engaged in lumbering, but for a number of years has given his whole attention to his large farm.

William Cowperthwaite, a son of the pioneer settler, came in 1841, and settled on his father's lot about a mile north of the St. Croix. Mr. Cowperthwaite remained one of the principal citizens of Masardis until his removal to California some two years ago, and was at one time a member of the legislature.

In 1842 Amasa Goding came from Corinna and bought the farm of Thomas Goss. This is now one of the finest farms in the town, and is occupied by Mr. Llewellyn Goding, a son of the original settler.

In 1854 Charles W. Clayton came to Masardis and bought the property of Alexander Woodward. Mr. Clayton engaged largely in lumbering and farming, and was for years the principal business man of the town. In 1870 Mr. Clayton moved to Ashland, where he has since resided. Mr. S. D. Reed purchased the Clayton farm, and now lives upon it. In 1883, Mr. Clayton built a starch factory on Squa Pan Stream in Masardis, and two years later Mr. Walker built the grist mill on the opposite side of the stream.

Unmistakably Masardis is an excellent farming town as is evidenced by the indications of prosperity seen on every hand. The buildings are large, neat and tidy, the fields broad and level

and free from stone and there are but two or three mortgaged farms in the town. The town is abundantly watered by the Aroostook and its tributaries, and all the people here seem to add to their prosperity is a railroad to the outer world.

MONTICELLO

Twelve miles due north from Houlton is the pleasant village of Monticello, located upon the banks of the north branch of the Meduxnekeag Stream. The town of Monticello is one of the best of the border towns of Aroostook and contains many beautiful farms and fine and attractive residences. The soil throughout the greater part of the town is fertile and productive and is easy of cultivation. The road from Houlton to Presque Isle runs in a due north course upon the centre line of the town, thus dividing it into two equal parts. The eastern half of the town, lying between the County road and the New Brunswick line, has been longer settled and perhaps contains the greater portion of good farming land. In the western half, however, there is much very fine farming land, though in some portions the farms seem newer and not yet under cultivation like the eastern section. Monticello is bounded on the north by Bridgewater and south by the town of Littleton. Its eastern boundary is the New Brunswick line and on the west lies the wilderness township of Letter C, Range 2.

The town shows evidence of having been settled earlier than the towns in the Aroostook Valley. Occasionally may be seen an old dwelling whose style and general appearance tell of its having been built nearly a half century ago, but in most instances the old dwellings have been either taken down or modernized and the grounds around them handsomely arranged and attractive. Upon the older farms the general aspect is one of thrift and prosperity, though the great need of this, as of the other Aroostook towns, is a better and more direct connection with the outside world by means of a railroad running upon our own soil to the great trunk lines of the State.

Gen. Joel Wellington of Albion, Me., bought the township about the year 1828, and it was formerly known as Wellington Township. By the conditions of the deed from the State of Maine, Gen. Wellington was required to make certain improve-