

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.

MERRILL

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

farm formerly occupied by Edward T. Merrill. The stage road from Houlton to Patten crosses the corner of the town and Mr. Anderson's buildings are on this road, the State road also running along the south line of this farm. Mr. Arthur Rosie occupied the farm after Mr. Merrill left it and Mr. Anderson came to Merrill twenty-three years ago and bought the farm of Mr. Rosie. This is a very handsome farm, situated upon elevated land and has some very fine fields. It is under good cultivation and has a good set of farm buildings. The large barn was built by Capt. Merrill and the hinges upon the barn doors were made from iron taken from the British brig Boxer, which was captured off Portland by the gallant Lieutenant Burrows of the U. S. Brig Enterprise, on the 5th of September, 1813. The old settlers of the town report that Capt. Merrill bought the remains of the old British hulk and that he brought to the township many articles, mostly iron implements, obtained from that source. Relic hunters can yet find in the town an old crowbar or two and some broken sabers and other articles taken from the Boxer.

Turning to the right near Mr. Anderson's and riding toward the west on the State road, we first come to the farm of Mr. Ira K. Tarbell, which was the farm originally occupied by Mr. Wm. G. Merrill. This is a good farm, well located and consists of 110 acres of level land, with about 70 acres cleared. Next west is the farm of Mr. G. W. Tarbell, who came from Solon when a small boy, some forty-eight years ago. The next farm is occupied by Milo E. Leavitt, a son of Moses Leavitt, whose residence is just across the road in Dyer Brook Plantation. Beyond Mr. Leavitt's the road enters a strip of woods and the land falls off toward Dyer Brook Stream, which the road crosses on a substantial bridge.

After passing through the woods we come out to the farm of Mr. Mellin Grant, and next beyond him, Mr. John Grant, both of whom have good farms. The next settler is Mr. Herbert Brown, who has a good farm on a handsome hardwood ridge. The next farm is occupied by the widow of Mr. Chas. Stephens, who came here from Ludlow eleven years ago and bought this lot, upon which there was a small clearing. He cleared up a large farm and built a handsome two-story house and a large barn. The farm is situated on a beautiful ridge of land and the view extends over vast areas of forest to the west and north, with little clearings dotted in at intervals and winding streams glancing here and there in the sunlight, while the ranges of mountains extending northward from old Katahdin form a grand

and beautiful background to the picture. From the Stephens farm the land falls off to the west toward Moro, and there are no more settlers on the State road in Merrill.

The old Smyrna and Rockabema road starts from the East Branch near Smyrna Mills and runs diagonally across Merrill Plantation in a northwesterly direction, leaving the town at the northwest corner and, after running about a mile and a half due west on the north line of Moro Plantation, intersects the stage road from Patten to Fort Kent. This road runs for a greater portion of the distance through an unsettled country, though there are some farms at intervals along the road. There are also some very good farms in the southwest quarter of the town on roads running from the State road to the old Rockabema road. A large part of this township is still in its wilderness state, but much of it would cut up into good farms and this land will one day be wanted for settlement. Hastings Brook, a tributary of the West Branch of the Mattawamkeag, runs through a portion of the northwest quarter of the town and Dudley Brook, an affluent of the East Branch, crosses the northeast corner.

Merrill Plantation had in 1890, a population of 244, and a valuation of \$64,396.

OAKFIELD

Oakfield is the Switzerland of Aroostook. It is the most mountainous and broken of all the towns in the county now opened for settlement. It reminds one of the hill towns of West Oxford and for ruggedness of surface may be compared with the old town of Albany with this difference, that the mountains of Oakfield are yet covered with a heavy growth of birch and maple. The southern and southeastern portions of the town are extremely stony, immense granite boulders lying thick upon the surface and greatly interfering with agricultural operations. In the northern and northwestern portions of the town the granite disappears and the surface is somewhat less broken and better adapted to farming.

Oakfield was formerly known as Township No. 5, Range 3, and is bounded on the north by the town of Smyrna, on the east by Linneus and New Limerick, on the south by the unsettled Township No. 4, Range 3 and on the west by Dyer Brook Plantation.

The east branch of the Mattawamkeag flows in a due south course entirely across the extreme western portion of the town,