

live his aged mother and only sister, Miss Sarah E. Sewall, who holds the commission of postmaster of Island Falls. Mr. Wm. W. Sewall was the first white child born at Island Falls, and he is a white man in every respect. He has for years been a friend and companion of Theodore Roosevelt of New York, who formerly came to Island Falls every summer for a few weeks' outing. A few years ago Mr. Sewall went with Mr. Roosevelt to Dakota and for two years took charge of a large cattle ranch for that gentleman. Mr. Sewall also having an interest in the business.

The township was organized as a plantation Sept. 6, 1858. At the first meeting Levi Sewall was chosen moderator, Jesse Craig, clerk, D. A. Sewall, Cyrus Barker and Nathan Thorn, assessors. The town was incorporated in February, 1872.

We have visited few towns where there is so general a community of feeling and such a genuine each-help-the-other spirit as in this town of Island Falls. Every man says his neighbor is the best fellow in the world, and I think they all tell the truth.

MOLUNKUS AND BENEDICTA

Two miles west of the village of Macwahoc the Military road enters the township of Molunkus, now an unorganized plantation with the exception of the little hamlet at the mouth of the Aroostook road. This township is in the extreme southwest corner of Aroostook County and is bounded on the north by the unsettled township No. 1, Range Five, on the east by Macwahoc, on the south by Mattawamkeag in Penobscot County, and on the west by Medway in the same county. The entire township, with the exception of a comparatively small tract near the mouth of the Aroostook road and a few clearings farther north upon that road, is still covered with forest growth and is owned by non-resident proprietors.

The old Aroostook road starts from Molunkus and continues northward through No. One, Benedicta and Sherman to Patten, and thence on to Fort Kent, at the mouth of Fish River. The intersection of this road with the Military road at this point made Molunkus an important business center for lumbering operations and for the moving of supplies to the country away to the north.

Soon after the opening of the Aroostook road, a hotel was built at Molunkus, the first house of entertainment as near as we can determine, having been erected by Mr. Richard Libby, who had previously kept the hotel for a number of years at Macwahoc. After remaining some years at Molunkus, Mr. Libby removed to Mattawamkeag. The hotel was afterwards kept for some time by Mr. Samuel Crocker, who was succeeded by the Burnham Brothers of Lincoln, who remained some five years. Messrs. George and Joseph Libby then had the house for one year and were succeeded by Mr. E. H. Davis, who kept it two years. In 1865, Mr. B. F. Coburn came from Lincoln and bought the hotel of Mr. Davis and continued in the house until last spring, when he leased it to Mr. F. A. Wing of Mattawamkeag.

In the southwest portion of the township is Mattawamkeag Lake, a fine body of water some two miles long and half a mile wide. Two streams flow southward and empty into this lake, the West Mattesunk being near the west line of the township and the East Mattesunk flowing in the more central portion. A portion of Molunkus Lake is in the northeastern part of the township, the northern portion of the lake being in Number One and the southern portion in Macwahoc. The Penobscot River skirts the southwestern corner of Molunkus and the Mattesunk Lake discharges its waters into that river.

The Molunkus Exchange is seven miles distant from the railroad station at Mattawamkeag and daily stages run from Mattawamkeag to Patten, stopping at this hotel for dinner.

Molunkus has now no plantation organization and has but a small resident population for a point of so much business importance. The population of Molunkus in 1890 was 77.

Leaving the Molunkus Exchange and journeying northward on the Aroostook road, after passing a number of primitive habitations erected by new settlers, we enter the forest, through which we ride for nearly ten miles with only an occasional opening in the wilderness. A ride of a little more than four miles from Molunkus brings us to the north line of the township and here we enter Number One, Range Five, a timber township lying along the border of Penobscot County. Five miles from Molunkus we come to the farm owned by Mr. Melville Johnson of Macwahoc. Two miles farther on, or seven miles from Molunkus, is the farm and hotel of Mr. Peter Millmore. Mr. Stephen Cobb made a clearing and built a house here more than

fifty years ago and, after keeping public house for a number of years, moved to Michigan.

The town of Benedicta comprises the western half of township No. 2, Range 5.

Nearly sixty years ago Rt. Rev. Benedict Fenwick, Catholic Bishop of Boston, conceived the idea of settling a Catholic colony upon the cheap lands of northern Maine and also of erecting and maintaining a Catholic college in connection with the colony. The project of establishing the colony was carried out, but the idea of the college in northern Maine was afterwards abandoned and the proposed institution was located at Worcester, Mass. The half township selected was then the property of the State of Massachusetts, and on the 7th day of July, 1834, Bishop Fenwick made his contract for the land. The township had been surveyed by Joseph C. Morris and Andrew McMillan in 1825. Though Bishop Fenwick purchased the tract he did not receive his title to it until March 31, 1846, on which date it was deeded to him by George W. Coffin, agent of the General Court of Massachusetts. Soon after purchasing the half township in 1834, Bishop Fenwick commenced to take measures to carry out his project of establishing a colony upon it. The township was in the midst of an almost trackless wilderness, but it consisted of good land, and large lumber operations were being carried on in its vicinity. Midway of the town from north to south, village lots were laid out, and in course of a short time a church was built, also a parsonage and nearby a tract of land was set apart for a college farm. The erection of buildings for the proposed college was commenced, and one large college building was nearly completed, when this part of the project was abandoned. This building remained unoccupied for a number of years, and was finally taken down. The Bishop also built a mill on the Molunkus Stream, near the east line of the town. This mill contained an up and down saw and shingle machine, but was afterwards abandoned and allowed to decay.

The first settlers came to the town in 1834. The Bishop charged the settlers \$2 per acre for land upon the line of the main road and \$1.50 per acre for land farther back, giving them all necessary time to make payment for their farms.

The first settlers upon the town are said to have been David and Joseph Leavitt, but whether these men were a part of the Bishop's colony or squatters who had come previous to his purchase, we have not yet been able to determine. Among the first of the Catholic colony to settle upon the town were Nich-

olas Broderick, Timothy Dorsey, Martin Qualey, Philip Finnegan and John Millmore, who came in 1834. Patrick Brade, Chris. Keegan, John Byrne, Francis Smith and John Perry were early settlers, as also were Henry Rivers and Martin Lawlor. These settlers were all Irish emigrants who had worked for some time in the cities of Massachusetts. Nicholas Broderick, one of the earliest settlers, settled in the south part of the town on the lot where Fenton McAvoy now lives, and died there some fifteen years ago. Timothy Dorsey settled a mile and a half north of the church and cleared the farm on which Daniel McDonald

In 1838 and 1840 quite a number of settlers came in. John D. Rush came in 1838 and settled opposite where the church now stands, that edifice not having been erected until 1843. now lives.

The Catholic Cemetery is neatly enclosed and carefully kept and nearby is the Catholic Church, a comfortable and comfortable distance from the church is the parsonage, a neat, two-modious edifice of sufficient size for the needs of the parish. A story residence now occupied by Father Kearney, who has recently taken charge of the parish. The college farm, so called, is not now cultivated, but is devoted to pasturing and is a part of the church property.

Benedicta may not perhaps be classed among the best half townships in Aroostook County for agricultural purposes, but it has a good soil, the land lying in a succession of easy swells and not very stony. The many good farms and neat and comfortable homes in the town give ample evidence of what a colony of thrifty and industrious Irish emigrants can accomplish under even quite unfavorable circumstances at the beginning of their settlement, and the improvement here made bears witness to the wisdom and philanthropy of the good Bishop in planting this colony here in the wilderness.

The town was incorporated in 1872 and was named Benedicta, in honor of its founder, Bishop Benedict Fenwick. It is bounded on the north by the town of Sherman, on the east by Silver Ridge, on the south by No. 1, Range 5, and on the west by Penobscot County. Its citizens are nearly all Catholics of Irish descent and are a thrifty, industrious and prosperous community. In 1890 the town had a population of 317 and a valuation of \$57,849.