

turning to the east and flowing on to Houlton and beyond. In the northwest corner of the town is Cochrane's Lake, the outlet of which runs into Bradbury's Lake, a short distance farther to the east, and from the latter lake a considerable stream flows in a southeasterly direction, uniting with the Meduxnekeag branch a short distance from the tannery.

SMYRNA

The town of Smyrna was originally Township No. 6, in the third range of townships west from the east line of the State. It is bounded on the north by Township No. 7, R. 3, on the east by the southern part of Letter B, R. 2, town of Ludlow and the northern part of New Limerick, on the south by Oakfield, and on the west by Merrill Plantation.

The surface of the town in the southern portion is considerably broken, and in some places high wooded ridges or bluffs rise to a commanding height and can be seen from all the surrounding towns.

Leaving the village of Houlton near the residence of Col. B. H. Putnam, the stage road runs in a westerly direction across the western portion of the town of Houlton, cutting through the "horseback" and passing some very handsome farms in that town. It then continues due west for about two thirds of the distance across New Limerick, when it turns to the northwest and skirting the foot of Cochrane's Lake, near Titcomb's mill, leaves New Limerick at the extreme northwest corner of that town and enters Smyrna about half a mile north of the southern line of the town. The road continues across Smyrna in a general westerly course, when it turns to the south and runs in a south and southwesterly course across the plantation of Dyer Brook to Island Falls.

The first settler upon the town of Smyrna was Mr. Nehemiah Leavitt of Royalton, Vt. who came to the town about the year 1830. Mr. Leavitt had, previous to that time, received from the State Legislature, a grant of the township on condition that he should place 100 settlers upon the town within five years, build a saw mill and grist mill and four schoolhouses.

The East Branch of the Mattawamkeag runs in a southerly direction entirely across the town near its western line Mr.

Leavitt made his first clearing on a lot in the southwest part of the town on the bank of the East Branch. He was a minister of the Methodist denomination and induced a number of settlers of that faith to come and make homes upon the new township. Not having the required number of settlers at the end of five years, he obtained from the State an extension of five years more in which to comply with the conditions of his grant, and near the expiration of this second term he sold his claim upon the town to Messrs. Dunn and Jefferds. Mr. Leavitt continued to live upon his farm until about 1846, when a Western fever broke out, and he, with a number of the other early settlers left for the West.

About 1841, Dunn and Jefferds built a sawmill on the east side of East Branch, in which there was an up-and-down saw and one run of stones. The mill run for a number of years, but after the building of Cary's mill at Houlton it was abandoned and allowed to decay.

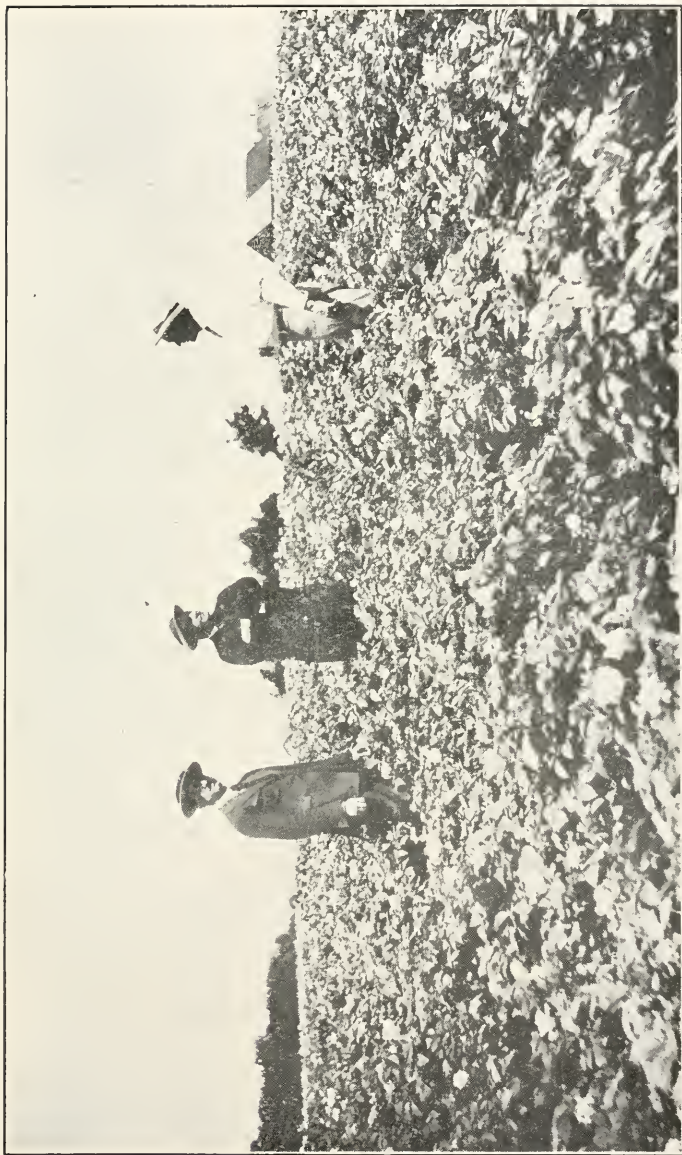
Among the early settlers of the town we have been able to trace the following: John Marley came from England to Boston, and in 1831 moved to Smyrna and settled on the lot where his son, B. T. Marley, now lives. He cleared up the farm and lived on it until his death twenty years ago.

Willard Corliss came from Lubec in 1833 and settled on a lot next to the east line of the town. He cleared his farm and lived on it until twelve years ago, when he moved to Wade Plantation, near Washburn. He has been a hunter and trapper in this region for many years. Elias Blodgett came from the western part of the State and settled on the lot where Charles Adams now lives. He afterward took the lot where John Rosie now lives. He married a daughter of Nehemiah Leavitt and left for the West with him. Franklin Blodgett, brother of Elias, settled on a lot south of the Marley farm now on the Oakfield road. He also removed to the West. Thomas Adams came from Mirimichi and settled near the east line of the town. He afterward moved to Linneus, where he lived for many years. Samuel Drew came from Limerick in 1820 and settled in New Limerick, where he lived until 1835, when he moved to Smyrna and settled on a lot near the east line of the town. Mr. Drew was a brother of Capt. Moses Drew of New Limerick and was a local preacher of the Free Baptist denomination. He lived in Smyrna until 1866, when he removed to Dyer Brook, where he died some four years later. His son, Moses Drew, bought half the lot south of his father's, where he cleared a farm and built

a set of buildings. He lived upon this farm until 1874, when he bought the lot upon which the Yerxa Hotel now stands. He kept hotel here for twelve years and then bought a lot near the East Branch, where he made a clearing and built the large hotel which he has since kept. Mr. Drew's wife was a daughter of John Marley, and was the first child born in the town of Smyrna. Johnson Frost came from Norway, Oxford County, and settled near the east line of the town. He lived here a number of years and then returned to Oxford County. Thomas Hassett came from Ireland and settled upon the lot upon a part of which the Baptist meeting house now stands. He cleared a large farm upon which he lived until his death, some seven years ago. Alexander Herrick came from Norridgewock and settled on a lot on what is now the Oakfield road. He left the town many years ago. William Irish came from Buckfield, in Oxford County, and settled on the lot where Mr. John Rosie now lives. He cleared a large farm and lived upon it until about 1850, when he removed to Sherman. He afterwards went to the West, where he died a number of years ago. Mr. Irish was a man of considerable ability and force of character. He was for many years a prominent citizen, was a representative to the Legislature and was afterwards a senator from Aroostook County.

Enos Leavitt was a nephew of Nehemiah Leavitt. His farm was at Smyrna Centre. He has been dead a number of years. Oramil Leavitt, a brother of Enos, had the farm where Edward Estabrook now lives. He moved to Hodgdon and afterwards to Sherman, where he died some years ago. Thomas S. Leavitt, with his father. Nehemiah Leavitt, Jr., had the farm upon which Henry McGary now lives. He was a land surveyor and in 1836 lotted the town of Smyrna and all deeds in the town refer to his survey. He also went to the West with his father.

Luther Laughton settled on the farm upon which Augustus Benn now lives. He did not remain long in the town. Michael Lyon came from Ireland and settled on a lot north of the Centre. He has been dead many years. Gideon Oakes came from Argyle and settled in the east part of the town on a part of what is now the Hemore farm. His daughter is the wife of Dr. T. S. C. Berry. He left the town about 1850. James Perkins came from Parsonsfield and settled on the lot where Wm. Sewall now lives. He cleared the farm and lived upon it for many years. Jonathan Sleeper came from New Hampshire and settled near the Centre. He moved to Sherman about 1850 and



A TYPICAL FARM SCENE IN AROOSTOOK

died there. His sons, Moses, Daniel P., William T. and Jonathan, Jr., all had farms in Smyrna in 1839. William T. Sleeper became a clergyman of the Congregational denomination and was for a time settled in Sherman. He afterward removed to Caribou and for a number of years published the North Star at that place. He is now pastor of a church in Worcester, Mass. George Taylor came from New Hampshire and settled on a lot near the Mills. He cleared a farm and kept hotel for many years. He removed to the West about 1846. Mr. Charles Wiers now lives on the farm.

Sheubael C. West came from Industry and settled on a lot in the east part of the town, where he made a farm. He became insane and was removed to the asylum at Augusta. William Woods came from Rhode Island and settled on the lot now occupied by Artemas Leavitt. He did not remain long. Elijah Wiggin settled on the lot now occupied by Amos Noyes. His brother, Ephraim Wiggin, lived with him and was afterward employed in the mill. They both went West with Nehemiah Leavitt.

Thomas McGary came from Ireland and settled on the farm where I. N. Robinson now lives. He afterward took a lot near the Centre, where he cleared a large farm, upon which he lived until his death some 30 years ago. Ira Webber came from Limerick and lived on a part of what is now the Hemore farm. He soon after removed to Bangor, where he has been a house carpenter for many years. The above named are about all the settlers who were in the town at the time of its incorporation in 1839.

Mr. Osgood Pingry came from New Hampshire in 1840 and settled at Smyrna Centre on the farm now occupied by Henry Donlley. He was elected to the Legislature in 1841. He afterward lived at Smyrna Mills, where he kept a hotel for a number of years. He was also a justice of the peace and was a prominent man in the town. Mr. Pingry afterward moved to Island Falls, where he died a number of years ago. Levi Berry moved from Wilton, Franklin County, in 1841, and took the lot upon which Mr. D. D. Hemore now lives. Samuel Dunn had made a small clearing and abandoned it. Mr. Berry cleared this farm and built the buildings now standing. In 1860 he bought of Wm. Briggs the farm upon which Wellington Yerxa now lives and remained upon this farm until his death in 1873. Mr. Berry was for many years a prominent man in the town and was largely engaged in lumbering and trading. He built the mills at

the foot of Cochran Lake now owned by F. W. Titcomb of Houlton. His son, Andrew J. Berry, was a small boy when he came with his father to Smyrna, where he has resided ever since. When he became of age he bought the farm upon which Mr. Chas. E. Lilly now lives. There was then but a small clearing on the lot. Mr. Berry cleared a large farm and built a substantial set of buildings. He sold the farm six years ago, reserving a building lot upon which he built a neat and convenient residence. He is now postmaster and does conveyancing and pension business. Mr. Peleg Berry, a son of Levi Berry, was for some years a merchant in Houlton and has now retired from business on account of ill health. Dr. T. C. S. Berry, another son, was for some years a physician in Houlton, and is now living in the West.

Mr. Franklin Ham came to Smyrna about 1856. He first traded for a time at Smyrna Mills and afterward built the East Branch House, on the west side of the river, where he kept a hotel until his death. Mr. Ham was a genial, kind hearted man and had many friends in Aroostook County. He was for some years a member of the board of County Commissioners, and died in 1871, from the effects of exposure while in performance of the duties of that office.

The northern half of the town of Smyrna is not settled and is still in its wilderness state. For many years the town of Smyrna was in an unfortunate condition financially and this fact gave it rather an unhealthy reputation. It is now, however virtually out of debt and the tax is but seventeen mills on the dollar. We predict that with the opening of the railroad Smyrna will take good rank both as an agricultural and as a manufacturing town.

ASHLAND

The town of Ashland, formerly Number Eleven, Range Five, lies due west from the town of Presque Isle, with two ranges of townships between. The stage road from Presque Isle to Ashland follows the curve of the Aroostook River and runs through the northern portion of the towns of Mapleton and Castle Hill, and thence in a southwesterly direction across the corner of Sheridan Plantation to Ashland village. Though quite