

to the north at what is called Morton's Corner and runs northward across the town. Mr. George F. Morton came from Silver Ridge eight years ago and bought the Henry C. Taylor farm at what was then called Taylor Corner. Mr. Morton has a very good farm here and also keeps public house. Mr. Albert Smart has a farm a short distance west of Mr. Morton's and also has a store. Mr. Eli W. Tibbetts, Mr. Charles Libby and Mr. John R. Gerrish also have farms on this road. Mr. George Burpee has a farm two miles north of Morton's Corner, and beyond him are Wm. T. Higgins and his son, Andrew J. Higgins. Mr. Franklin S. Higgins has a small farm and a neat residence a short distance farther north. Mr. Higgins is a carpenter by trade and has been clerk of the plantation since 1873.

Mr. John M. Brown and Mr. Geo. W. Brown have farms still further north. Mr. Willard Braman and Mr. Allen Walton have good farms in the western part of the town.

Oakfield is well supplied with roads and has good schools. The population in 1880 was 720.

Though possessed of a rough and rugged surface in many portions of the town, yet there is much good farming land in the town, and the time may yet come when all the hills, now covered with a lofty forest growth, will be converted into fertile farms, and occupied by a prosperous farming community.

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## WESTFIELD

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Southward from Presque Isle the road leads through a beautiful farming country, and evidences of thrift may be seen on every hand, while the natural scenery is most pleasing. A short distance from the village we come to the handsome buildings of St. John's School, where some ninety of the boys and girls of Presque Isle, besides others from without the town, receive efficient instruction. The buildings are placed upon a healthy eminence and are of much architectural beauty without, while within they are roomy, convenient and comfortable. A handsome dome surmounts the principal building, from which the Stars and Stripes of the Union float proudly in the breeze. Next beyond is the large farm of Rev. G. M. Park, with its numerous and commodious farm buildings and its broad and fertile fields stretching away to the distant woods. A short distance below is the beautiful cemetery, with its well kept grounds and newly finished receiving tomb. We pass many fine farms with fields of rich green grass and grain, and with many acres of potatoes,

somewhat backward this season, but giving promise of a bountiful harvest. A few miles below the village we come to Akeley Brook, upon which is situated one of the finest starch factories in Aroostook County, with two large dry houses and a convenient boarding house, the buildings all neatly finished and painted. This factory is the property of Hon. T. H. Phair, and many bushels of potatoes are here ground up and made into starch each year. Crossing the brook and ascending the hill beyond, we see on the right the lofty and irregular height of Quaggy Joe and its thickly wooded sides, while at its foot nestles the pretty little suburban village of Spragueville. Most of this village is hidden from view as we ride along the stage road, but the handsome new Methodist Church, but recently dedicated, is in plain sight upon the higher ground and shows to good advantage with the dark sides of the mountain for a background.

Something over three miles from Presque Isle village, at the mouth of the road leading to Spragueville, we come to the large and handsome Grange Hall which the enterprising Patrons of South Presque Isle and Westfield erected a number of years ago. The building has two stories, the lower one being used for the Grange meetings and a large and convenient dining hall is finished off above.

For six miles southward from the village the road leads through the town of Presque Isle and when nearing the south line of the town we come to Clark Brook, where is situated the starch factory belonging to Hon. G. W. Collins of Bridgewater. Crossing Clark Brook we are soon out of Presque Isle and come into the thriving town, or rather plantation, of Westfield, as this township has not yet been incorporated.

Westfield is composed of two half townships which years ago were granted by the State of Massachusetts in aid of the establishment of institutions of learning in that State. The north half of the town was by the liberality of the mother State granted to Deerfield Academy and the south half to Westfield Academy. This township lies in the second range and is bounded on the north by Presque Isle, on the east by Mars Hill, on the south by the unsettled half township of "E" Range 2, and on the west by the south part of Chapman and by township No. 10, Range 3. The stage road from Presque Isle to Houlton enters the town about midway of the north line and running in a southeasterly direction across the northeast quarter, leaves the town a mile below the middle point of its east line.

The half townships were long ago sold by the trustees of

the institutions to whom they were granted to proprietors and after passing through several hands, passed into the possession of the present owners, the unsettled land in the north half or what was formerly Deerfield Academy grant, being now owned by Hon. Parker P. Burleigh the father of our honored Governor, and the south half which is nearly all unsettled, being the property of Messrs. Powers, Madigan and Wellington. The settled portion of the town is nearly all in the northeast quarter, where are some very fine farms, although the entire township is composed of grand farming land. The timber, which is abundant upon this town was what made it particularly valuable in the olden time, and years before any of these fine farms were cleared lumber roads were cut through different portions of the town and in the winter time crews of hardy lumbermen camped upon the town and were at that time its only inhabitants.

The first settler who made a clearing upon the town for farming purposes was James Thorncraft, who came in 1839 and settled on what is now the Trueworthy farm, about three miles south of the Presque Isle line and nine miles south of Presque Isle village on the Houlton road. When Thorncraft made his first chopping and built his little log house in the forest the whole country for miles on every side was an unbroken wilderness. There was no road anywhere near him, and his nearest neighbors on the north were the pioneer settlers of Presque Isle, while on the south there was no settler nearer than Bridgewater, and at that time very few had settled upon that town. Upon the whole of the town of Mars Hill no settler had at that time entered, while the now flourishing town of Easton was still in its original wilderness state. For two years Thorncraft and his wife lived here alone in this grand forest, adding each year to the little clearing and making the beginning of what is now a beautiful farm. The spot chosen for his home was on a fine swell of hard wood land, while at a short distance from his house ran a clear, pebbly brook. In 1841, he was joined by John H. Bridges, who remained seven years and then removed to the adjoining township of Mars Hill to become its earliest pioneer settler.

The farm thus early commenced by Thorncraft has long been the property of Mr. John N. Trueworthy, who is well known to all who have ever been in the habit of travelling upon that road. Mr. Trueworthy was originally from Unity, Waldo County, and came to Aroostook in 1843, settling upon what is now the farm of Deacon Charles Tarbell, on the Centre Line

road in Presque Isle. In 1861 he purchased the Thorncraft farm, which had already passed through a number of hands, and has resided upon it ever since. Upon removing to this farm Mr. Trueworthy at once opened his house as a hotel and as at that time all the goods for the upper country were hauled by teams from Houlton, his house was a convenient stopping place and had a large custom. Though the house was not large, yet it was always noted for its neatness and for the excellence of the abundant cheer which the good landlady placed upon the table. Mr. Trueworthy was appointed postmaster in 1862, and though a good old Democrat, has held the office through every administration until the present time and will probably continue to hold it during his life. The old gentleman is now upwards of 70 years old and has in a great measure retired from active life. Since the extension of the railroad to Presque Isle the business of the hotel has been considerably diminished, though the best of entertainment can still be had there.

In 1846 Mr. John Young moved from Bridgewater and commenced a clearing on what is now called Young's Brook, near where the Houlton road crosses the line of Westfield and enters Mars Hill. He was the third settler upon the town, Thorncraft and Bridges at the time living some four miles north of him. Two years later these two last named settlers removed to Mars Hill leaving Mr. Young the only settler upon the town. His widow, an old lady nearly 90 years old, still lives on the old place and from her we learned many incidents in connection with the early settlement of the town. His sons are also among the citizens of Westfield today. For a number of years no new settlers came to the town. Mr. Young extended his clearing and found a market for his surplus crops principally at the lumber camps in the vicinity.

The invasion of the "Press gang" in 1858 called attention to the fertile lands of Aroostook and soon after that time emigrants began to rush into the new county. A few stopped in Westfield and had this been a State town probably every lot in town would long ere this have been settled. It being, however, the property of proprietors who held the land at two dollars per acre and wished to reserve a large portion of the town for lumbering purposes, most of the newcomers pressed on to the cheaper lands upon the State towns beyond, where lots could be had for fifty cents per acre, to be paid in road labor.

About that time, or a short time previous thereto, Mr. Granville Coburn of Lincoln took up the lot next above Mr. True-

worthy's, upon a beautiful ridge of maple land where he made a very fine farm. His widow and daughters are now living in Presque Isle and the farm at present has no tenant residing upon it. Mr. Pickering settled next above Coburn on what is now the Jewell farm, and next above, on the farm now occupied by Mr. Charles W. Allen, James Lucy commenced a clearing.

As late as 1858 the settlers named were all that were upon the town. In the fall of 1858 Mr. A. C. Dodge came from Liberty, in Waldo County, and settled a short distance above Mr. Young's, on the road to Presque Isle. Mr. Dodge is still one of the prominent citizens of the town and has for a number of years been agent appointed by the County Commissioners for the expenditure of the road tax, a large proportion of which is paid by the non-resident proprietors.

In 1859 Cyrus Chase, Levi W. Reed and Asa Reed of Danville, and Sewall Woodbury of New Gloucester, settled on the road on adjoining lots south of the Trueworthy place. Asa Reed was killed in the army, and Levi W. Reed remained and made a fine farm upon which he worked during the summer time, being engaged in school teaching during the winter months, until about a year ago, when he removed with his family to New Gloucester, where he now has charge of the butter factory. Mr. Reed and his wife were prominent members of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry of Northern Aroostook and are much missed by their old neighbors and friends. Mr. Cyrus Chase is still a resident of Westfield, and has made from the forest one of the finest farms in the town. He is one of the officers of the North Aroostook Agricultural Society in whose prosperity he is much interested. He was a good soldier in the 19th Maine Regiment and is one of the progressive farmers of Northern Aroostook.

In 1860 Mr. Joel Howard, who the previous year had commenced a clearing upon Mars Hill Township, came to Westfield and purchased two lots opposite the Trueworthy place. Here Mr. Howard cleared up a large and productive farm, upon which he built a fine stand of farm buildings and where he continued to reside until some five years ago or thereabouts he moved to the village of Presque Isle. During his residence in Westfield, Mr. Howard was one of its most prominent citizens and at one time represented his district in the Maine Legislature.

In 1861 Mr. L. A. Blaisdell came from Somerset County and purchased a lot in the north part of the town, his residence being on the main road about a mile south of the Presque Isle



line. Here Mr. Blaisdell cleared up a good farm and built a comfortable set of buildings where he still continues to reside. For years Mr. Blaisdell has been extensively engaged in bee culture and has justly been named the Bee King of Aroostook County.

All the farms of which we have so far spoken are located upon the main stage route from Houlton to Presque Isle. A mile west of this road, and parallel to it, a road commences near the north line of the town and runs for about two miles through a splendid farming section, though the farms upon this road are much newer than those located upon the main thoroughfare.

Upon this road Mr. Robert M. Fox, from Dixmont, made the first clearing in 1870. Mr. Fox has now forty acres cleared and has a comfortable set of buildings.

The plantation, including the two half townships of Deerfield and Westfield Academy grants, was organized in 1861 and has not been incorporated as a town, the citizens preferring to retain their plantation organization. The first schoolhouse was built in 1863 and in this house Mrs. L. W. Reed taught the first school in town.

In the fall of 1859, Peavy Bros. of Bangor built on Young's Brook, near the Mars Hill line, a factory for the manufacture of peavy stocks from the abundant supply of maple timber in this vicinity. The building contains a fine 25 horse power engine, with 50 horse power boiler, saws, lathes and all the machinery necessary for the finishing up of the stocks. The maple is delivered at the factory in logs of suitable length for the stocks which are from four to six feet long. The company pays \$2 per thousand feet stumpage for the timber and hire it cut and hauled to the factory. Last winter the factory turned out 35,000 stocks finished ready for ironing. Mr. Cyrus Chase hauled these 35,000 stocks to Presque Isle during the winter. They were shipped to Bangor to be ironed and doubtless many a stout lever from good Westfield maple will be used in lifting and rolling the big pines upon the rivers of the far West.

There is no starch factory in town, the nearest one being upon Clark Brook in Presque Isle, a short distance north of the Westfield line. The larger portion of the potatoes ground at this factory are supplied by Westfield farmers who are largely engaged in this profitable branch of Aroostook agriculture. Large quantities of potatoes are also hauled from this town to the station at Presque Isle and sold for shipping purposes.

The route of the survey for the line of the Bangor & Aroos-

took Railroad runs but a short distance from this town, and when completed and the station established at Mars Hill, will be a great help to the farmers of the town.

Like all the towns in this section, Westfield is finely watered in every portion of the town. The Presque Isle of the St. John enters the town about a mile from its northeast corner and flows for a distance of nearly four miles in this portion of the town, when it crosses the line into Mars Hill. Many brooks throughout the entire length of the town flow eastward and northward and empty into this stream. Clark Brook, a strong flowing stream, rises in the southwest quarter of the town and flows in a northerly direction, leaving the town through its north line and entering Presque Isle. This brook then bends to the eastward and flows into the Presque Isle of the St. John. In the southwest quarter of the town is also Burnt Land Brook, which rises in the adjoining township on the south and flows in a southwesterly course across the southwest corner of the town, whence it continues on through the adjacent towns and empties into the Presque Isle of the Aroostook. This brook receives three strong branches from Westfield, by means of which the southwest quarter of the town is amply watered.

After carefully looking over this town we must pronounce it one of the best of the towns in this vicinity for agricultural purposes. The principal portion at present settled is in the northeast quarter of the town, the settlements extending only a short distance into the northwest and southeast quarters. All the remainder of the town, including the entire southwest quarter, is still an unbroken wilderness. All along the main road to Presque Isle are fine fertile farms with comfortable homes, and from this road can be seen immense tracts of fine hard wood land upon which no settler has yet entered. Good timber is abundant throughout all these forest tracts and large lumber operations are carried on each year. With the exception of the low lands along the streams the timber is mixed throughout the hard wood growth and when it is cut off the land will in all probability be sold to settlers and this will eventually be one of the finest farming towns in Northern Aroostook. The very best of wild land suitable for farms can now be bought here for \$4.00 per acre and probably before many years the whole town will be lotted and placed upon the market.

The continuation of the Quaggy Joe Range extends for some distance down through the northwest part of the town, but is in few places sufficiently high to interfere with farming oper-

ations, and in general the surface of the town is not badly broken.

The fact that the town was owned by proprietors who have heretofore valued it mainly for lumbering purposes, has of course retarded the settlement of this fine town. The population in 1880 was but 103 and in 1890 was 166. The valuation of the town in 1890 was \$34,426.

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### CASTLE HILL

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The beautiful Aroostook River in its many windings throughout its tortuous course toward the St. John flows through many fertile towns, and along its banks were made the humble homes of the first settlers of the northern part of the county. One of the finest, in an agricultural point of view, is the town, or rather plantation, of Castle Hill, for it has not yet been incorporated as a town. This may be classed among the river towns, although the Aroostook flows only for a distance of about three miles through its northwest corner.

Castle Hill, formerly known as Township No. 12, Range 4, is bounded on the north by Wade Plantation, east by the town of Mapleton, west by Sheridan Plantation and south by the unorganized township of No. 11, Range 4. The old State road from Presque Isle to Ashland runs across the northern portion of the town, and it was in this part that the first settlement was made.

According to the most reliable information that we have been able to obtain, the first settler on the line of the State Road was Jabez Trask, called by the old settlers Gen. Trask, he having acquired that title in the militia of the western portion of the State. Trask came to Castle Hill in 1843 and settled on the spot where Smith's hotel now is, something over four miles west from the east line of the town.

About the same time Ephraim Knights, Caleb Spencer and one Seavey commenced clearings at the mouth of Beaver Brook which enters the Aroostook River in the extreme northwest corner of the town. The lot upon which Knights and Spencer made their clearing was afterwards granted by the Commissioners appointed to locate grants under the treaty of 1842 to Robert Milliken, whose grant also included Beaver Brook Island, and the Seavey lot was at the same time granted to Patrick Powers, these grantees having purchased the improvements from the original settlers.

Mr. Trask cleared a large tract of land on both sides of