

He has now a fine farm of over 300 acres, with 80 acres cleared and under good cultivation. Mr. Ambrose has served for many years on the board of County Commissioners, has represented his district in the State Legislature and held various town offices.

Mr. John W. Perry and James F. Farmer, sons-in-law of Mr. Ambrose, took up lots in the adjoining township of Silver Ridge and these two lots were afterwards annexed to the town of Sherman in order that these settlers might have the benefit of schools. The settlers in this part of the town immediately commenced to open the road, which was run directly east from the Mills to Woodbridge's Corner, and thence in a southerly direction to the south line of the town. This is now a fine, smooth road and runs through a good farming country.

Taken as a whole the town of Sherman is a grand agricultural town, nearly all the waste land being in the extreme north-west corner.

We neglected to make mention of Hon. Wm. Irish, who came to Sherman from Oxford County in 1869, and was for years a prominent citizen of the town. Mr. Irish was a member of the House in 1871, and of the State Senate in 1872. He died in Dakota about a year ago.

The town of Sherman is justly proud of its war record. The population of the town in 1861 was 486, and the town furnished during the war 113 soldiers, actual residents of the town and all volunteers except twelve. Thirty-four were killed or died in service and the term of actual aggregate service of the soldiers of the town was 220 years. A handsome soldiers' monument stands in the village cemetery, having been erected at a cost of \$1000, and dedicated July 4th, 1882.

The township was at first organized with Benedicta, afterwards with Island Falls and then as a separate plantation under the name of Golden Ridge. The town was incorporated Jan. 28, 1862, and was named for Senator John Sherman of Ohio.

WOODLAND

The task of opening up a new town in the wilderness section of Northern Aroostook is one of greater magnitude than many imagine, and the labor, hardships and privations attending

the work of hewing a home out of the wildwood and at the same time providing the means of support for a family are such as are calculated to put to a severe test both the physical and mental vigor of the man who undertakes it. The idea of making the wilderness blossom as the rose is a very pretty and poetical one when someone else does the work, but he who essays the task must make up his mind that between the wilderness period and the advent of the rose era there must be many weary days of toil and a brave and manly struggle which only a man of grit, energy and persistence can bring to a successful termination. Hard though the task may be, however, and severe and trying as are the hardships incident thereto, yet many sturdy men have fought the battle through to a happy issue and are today enjoying the fruits of their toil in the way of a pleasant and comfortable home and a fertile and productive farm, the income from which renders them comparatively independent.

The close of the war seems not so far away to many of us, and yet there are many sections in the Aroostook Valley where may now be seen broad, smooth and productive fields and fine houses and other buildings, where at the time of the muster out the original forest covered all the hills and vales, and the grand old woods had never been invaded save by the sturdy lumberman, or the adventurous hunter.

Other towns there are where the first few pioneers came just before the commencement of the war, and, though seemingly "out of humanity's reach," yet the bugle call to arms penetrated even the far northern forest, and the patriot left his axe to rust in the cleft of the huge maple, while he marched away to fight his country's battles.

Such a town as this is the present prosperous town of Woodland, which is today covered all over with beautiful farms and upon all the roads are the comfortable homes of a happy and contented people. "Where are your peasantry?" inquired a distinguished foreigner, as he looked upon the comfortable homes of the laboring class in some of the more thickly settled portions of our country. Well indeed might he ask this question could he visit the homes of many of the farmers in these new towns of Aroostook, and see the evidences of comfort, and also of culture and refinement there presented. None of the cringing humility of the European peasant here, but each man the peer of his fellow, and all on an equal footing before the law as free citizens of this grand republic. Surely it is worth a struggle to make a home in such a land as ours, and in all its

broad extent there is no portion where a man possessed of the requisite muscle, pluck and energy can sooner surround himself with a generous share of the necessaries and comforts of life than in this Garden County of Northern Maine. Those of the early pioneers of these new towns who are now living upon fine smooth farms, as they look back upon the period between the wilderness and the rose, will tell you with a flush of pride that the struggle was a hard one and that they hardly know how they came through, but that somehow or other they managed to live until the farm yielded a support, and many will aver that the days when they were clearing their farms and rearing their new homes were the happiest of their lives. Too much credit and honor cannot be given to the wives of the hardy settlers upon these forest tracts. Many of them were women who had been brought up in comfortable homes and accustomed to a moderate share at least of the luxuries of life. Without complaining, they followed their husbands to the new home, leaving behind them the comforts and pleasures of society, and bravely faced the privations of pioneer life. Many a man here is proud to admit that his success is largely due to the help and encouragement of the good wife who shared and lightened the toil of all these early years. The first settlers of nearly all these towns were men of small means, and what money they had was usually exhausted in reaching their new home and they were left with no capital save their strong arms and stout hearts. They were usually, however, men of courage and pluck and not easily frightened by difficulties or hardships. Here, as elsewhere, the law of the survival of the fittest held good, and those who had not the requisite sand gave up the fight when the hard pinch came and returned to the older settlements. Those who held on succeeded and are now enjoying the fruits of their toil.

The town of Woodland, formerly known as Township No. 14, Range 3, was surveyed for settlement by Lore Alford, of Old Town, in 1859, and was divided into lots of 160 acres each. The township is bounded by New Sweden on the north by Caribou on the east, Washburn on the south and Perham on the west. At the time when the first clearing was made in Woodland, both Perham and New Sweden were wilderness townships and had not even been lotted for settlement. The low price at which the State offered these new lands to actual settlers attracted the attention of men who wished to make homes for themselves and families, and they were not long in the mar-

ket before the sturdy blows of the pioneer's axe were resounding through the forest and clearings were commenced in different portions of the town.

The first to make an opening in the new town was Mr. Frederic E. Lufkin of Caribou, who as early as 1858, before the town had been lotted, made a chopping of six acres in the north part of the town.

In 1859 Enoch Philbrick came from Buckfield, in Oxford County, and made a chopping near Mr. Lufkin's. Both these choppings were burnt on the same day in the summer of 1859, fire being set to Mr. Philbrick's first.

In the same year Charles E. Washburn, B. F. Thomas and Moses Thomas came from Oxford County and took lots in the north part of the town, and T. L. Jennison, Carlton Morse and Charles Carlton came from North Dixmont and settled near the centre. None of these brought their families that year, but after building their log houses and making small clearings, went out and returned with their families the next year.

The first settler who brought his family to the town and remained was Mr. Ephraim Barnum, who came from Ware, Mass., in 1860 and took a lot in the southeast part of the town. Other settlers who came in 1860 were Jonathan Sawin from Westminster, Mass., John G. Thayer and Luther Robbins. E. A. Cunningham had arrived during the previous year. In 1861 L. B. McIntire came in and settled near the centre of the town and a few years later sold his lot to R. A. Sanders. In the same year came George E. Ross from Kennebec County, Willard Glidden from Etna in Penobscot, and John Eddy from Ware, Mass., who settled on the lot adjoining Ephraim Barnum's.

Most of the above named settlers are still residents of the town and have fine smooth farms and large, comfortable houses with spacious barns and outbuildings.

The township was organized as a plantation in 1861, and in April of that year the first legal meeting for choice of officers and other business was held. At this meeting John G. Thayer was chosen Moderator, E. A. Cunningham, Clerk, and T. L. Jennison, Luther Robbins and Charles Carlton, Assessors.

A few more settlers came during that year but the outbreak of the war put a check upon immigration and hardly any new settlers came until after its close. It is the proud boast of this town that every citizen except two, who was fit for service, went to the army, either as a volunteer or as a conscript. This necessarily placed a check upon the growth of the town, but at the

close of the war immigration was resumed and the town began to increase in population.

The first male child born in the town was Ernest Thayer, son of John G. Thayer, who was born in 1851, and the first female child was Julia E., daughter of Charles Carlton, born in 1862.

The first school in the town was taught by E. A. Cunningham in his own house in 1863. A log schoolhouse was built during the next year and Miss Maria Adams of Caribou taught the first school in the new house.

The first minister who held service in the town was Rev. W. P. Ray, a Methodist clergyman stationed at Caribou in 1861, who held meetings once a month in Woodland. The meetings were held in private houses until the log schoolhouse was built.

In 1872 all the unoccupied portion of the north part of the town was resurveyed and lotted into 100 acre lots and granted to the Swedes who could not be provided for in New Sweden, and they now form the larger portion of the citizens of this part of the town. As early as 1880, every lot in the town considered fit for settlement was taken up, and the remainder, comprising about 1000 acres, was sold by the State to Messrs. Arnold and Dunn, who have since sold it to settlers. In the original survey a block of 1000 acres in the south part of the town was reserved for school purposes. This block was afterwards sold to Messrs. Johnson and Phair of Presque Isle, and the money placed at interest for the support of schools. This land has since been sold to settlers. There are now no lots in the town owned by the State and very few by non-resident proprietors.

Soon after their settlement in the north part of the town the Swedes built a mill on a small brook running into the east branch of the Caribou Stream. This was the first mill built in the town and was a steam mill with one shingle machine. For some reason this mill did not prove to be a profitable one and after running a year the machinery was removed and the mill abandoned.

Some six miles from the village of Caribou, on the road running through Woodland to New Sweden, is the steam mill of Messrs. Goodwin and Hackett. This mill was built in 1878 by York and Merrill and forms the nucleus of what is to be the village of Woodland.

As an agricultural town Woodland ranks among the best of the many good towns in Northern Aroostook, and, as the

center of the town is but about six miles distant from Caribou station, the farmers are provided with a convenient outlet for their potatoes and other surplus produce.

Though a new town, there are now good roads in all parts of the town and the character of the soil is such that they are easily kept in good repair. Previous to 1860 there was no road anywhere in the township, and only a logging road leading from Caribou to the east line of the town. In 1860, a road was laid out by the County Commissioners running from Caribou through the towns of Woodland and Perham and away on through the wilderness until it struck the road leading from Ashland to Fort Kent in Township 14, R. 6. The road was built across the two towns named, but was never continued farther than the west line of Perham, owing to the opposition of the proprietors of the wild lands in 14, R. 5 and 14 R. 6, who succeeded in defeating it. This road runs nearly through the centre of the town of Woodland and there are fine farms with broad, smooth fields along its entire length.

The northern part of Woodland is for the most part occupied by Swedes and as late as 1870 was nearly all wilderness. It is now covered with fertile farms and on all the roads are good, comfortable houses and most of them well built and neatly kept in all their surroundings. These Swedish settlers are good citizens and have been quick to adopt the manners and customs of their Yankee neighbors. The first tax was assessed on these Swedish citizens of Woodland in 1872, and this they refused to pay, as the colonists in the adjoining town of New Sweden were exempted by the State from taxation for five years from the date of their arrival. The tax collector of Woodland attempted at one time to drive away a Swede's cow, whereupon the owner appeared with his gun and drove the collector off his premises. For this the Swede was arrested and taken to Houlton, but was released without any punishment. For three years in succession the Swedes in Woodland refused to pay their tax and it was finally paid by the State. Since that time they have been prompt taxpayers and good, law abiding citizens.

Rev. Andrew Wiren, the Swedish pastor, settled among the people in this part of the town and built a handsome residence. He afterwards married a daughter of Mr. W. A. Vaughan, of Caribou, and removed to Florida, where he died some two years ago.

Woodland was incorporated as a town March 5, 1880. The population in 1870 was but 174 and in 1880 it had increased to

679. In 1890 the population was 885. The valuation of the town in 1880 was \$77,539 and in 1890 was \$170,612. The rate of taxation was 017.

There are many enterprising farmers and business men in the town and when the completion of the Bangor & Aroostook Railroad shall have given its added stimulus to the business of the County, Woodland is sure to become one of the most prosperous towns in Northern Aroostok.

LUDLOW

The half township now incorporated as the town of Ludlow lies immediately west of the north half of Houlton which was the grant to Williams College. This half township (Ludlow) was granted by the general court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to the trustees of Belfast Academy by a resolve passed Feb. 29, 1808. John Reed and William Smith were appointed by the general court as agents to deed the grant to the trustees of the academy. The half township was surveyed by Park Holland in the month of September, 1809, and was deeded to the trustees on Dec. 6, 1809. The grant is thus described in the original deed: "Beginning at the southwesterly corner of a township granted to Williamstown College, at a hard maple tree, thence west, thirteen degrees north six miles to an ash tree, thence north, thirteen degrees east three miles to a maple tree, thence east, thirteen degrees south six miles to a cedar, thence on Williamstown College westerly line south, thirteen degrees west, three miles to the first bounds and containing eleven thousand five hundred and twenty acres, etc."

The conditions of the deed bound the trustees to "lay out and convey to each settler who settled on said tract before the first day of January, 1784, one hundred acres of land to be laid out so as best to include his improvements and be least injurious to the adjoining lands." As no settler had entered upon this wilderness region previous to 1784, this provision was really superfluous. The trustees were also bound to "settle on said tract ten families in six years, including them now settled thereon." They were also to lay out three lots of 160 acres each, "one lot for the use of the ministry, one lot for the first settled minister and one lot for the use of schools."