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EARLY HISTORY OF CARIBOU



EARLY HISTORY  
OF  
CARIBOU  
MAINE



1843 - 1895

BY  
STELLA KING WHITE

In recognition of the excellent result obtained by the author of this Early History of Caribou and of its people, and the financial support given by her husband, S. L. White, the citizens of Caribou have had this photograph of them printed on the opposite page.

Mrs. Stella King White, the author, was born in Caribou and she knew many of the people she has written about. Other information was obtained by diligent search, inquiry, and investigation. She is generously giving the entire proceeds from the sale of this history to the Caribou Public Library for the purchase of new books.

1524699



MR. and MRS. S. L. WHITE







*“There comes a voice that awakes my soul;  
It is the voice of years that are gone; they roll  
Before me with all their deeds as on a scroll.”*

*Ossian*

*Gaelic bard of the 3rd century*

*“How dear to my heart are the scenes of my childhood  
When fond recollection presents them to view.”*

*The Old Oaken Bucket*

*By*

*Samuel Woodworth*



## FOREWORD

Believe it or not, much time, thought and real work have been expended upon the following pages in gathering facts and making sure of their accuracy. My heartfelt thanks go out to all the many friends—present and past residents of Caribou—without whose help this historical sketch (I hesitate to call it a history) never could have been brought about.

Some explanations and apologies must be made for having ventured at all upon these annals of my native town when laboring under the handicap of not having lived there for the last thirty six years, though often visiting there. But when the Caribou Public Library officials discovered a real need of a history of Caribou for the young people of the town, they decided that one should be written, if possible, by some one who had been born there and who had actually lived there through some of the early pioneering years.

As I had lived through some of them, having been born only two years after the arrival of my parents, Mr. and Mrs. L. R. King, I seemed to answer to the specifications. When approached upon the subject by the Librarian, Mrs. Lettie Hale, I was greatly astonished, but upon a little reflection I came to a realization of the fact that I was very nearly “the last leaf upon the tree”, and as such, perhaps I had a duty to perform, and moreover, perhaps it should be done quickly, for “the last leaf” might fall at any time. So I promised Mrs. Hale that I would see at once what I could do.

One qualification I did have: I could remember the faces of every one of the first pioneers, my father's friends, as they passed our house or came to our

door, or as I went into their stores or mills when I was a small child.

I soon found, however, that I was facing what might be called an insuperable obstacle. The war-time restrictions on the use of gasoline, coupled with the distance of fifty four miles between Houlton and Caribou—so lightly considered in happier days—made travel back and forth for historical research work practically impossible with only an A card in our possession. That information would have to be secured by correspondence which is in no way so satisfactory as verbal communication.

The one bright spot in the picture was that I had interviews in 1909-1910 concerning pioneer days with children of the first settlers, then old people themselves, all now passed away. I had been asked, and had promised to write the Caribou chapter for a History of Aroostook County that the State Librarian of that day was endeavoring to get written by the plan of securing a chapter from each town. The book never materialized but the chapter that I had written thirty-five years before containing first-hand information about the early days of Caribou had been kept by way of being published in a county newspaper and the columns being cut out and pasted into a scrapbook.

This scrapbook which I had not seen for at least twenty years and the existence of which I had forgotten was resurrected and proved a godsend at this time. With this as a nucleus I began on the work. If I had lived nearer the base of supplies—a war term much used just at present—I could have secured a great deal more material but my Caribou friends never failed me in finding the information I asked for — if it was to be found.



In addition to this, I found all the records in the Registry of Deeds in the Houlton Court House thrown wide open to me by the Recorder in my search for titles to lands taken up in early days. The Clerk of Courts also furnished me with historical data from his office to clear up many dates and facts. It was pleasing to find so much kindly co-operation on the part of busy people when one is searching for help on a project in which these people could have no personal interest whatever.

The assistance of Caribou friends in connecting the past with the present, bridging the gap of thirty-five years between the first writing and the present day, has been invaluable.. Otherwise it would have been impossible for the present generation—for whom this is written—to locate farms and homes spoken of in the “first edition”, in other words, to make sense of it all. Much care has been taken in the verification of all facts when possible, even going as far as the Pacific Coast in this search. Otherwise this historical sketch would be worthless. Some errors have doubtless been made in spite of the pains taken but after reading these explanations the reader may, perhaps not condemn but forgive. “To err is human, to forgive divine”

One thing more: In writing town histories it is customary to bring them down approximately to the present day. In this case it meant almost exactly one hundred years — from 1843 to 1943. Not half that time had been covered when I realized that it would not be humanly possible for me to write up the whole century of progress as first planned. I had undertaken too arduous a task. The spirit was willing but the flesh was weak. “The first fifty years are the hardest”, therefore the most interesting, so the end of the half

century was chosen as an appropriate time for bringing this to a close. Anyone that has lived in Caribou the past fifty years can write the story of the last half century far better than I could.

In closing I wish to say that I was made the more willing to do this work by a feeling that perhaps it might be doing something for a town to which my father and mother came in the early years as young people with nothing but their courage, and who had so much love for the town, and pride—even in the difficult years — in the later rapid growth and progressiveness not only of Caribou but of all Aroostook. It has always been a matter of deepest regret to me that my father — who died in April 1894, eight months before the arrival of the Bangor and Aroostook Railroad—could not have lived until that day because he would have been so rejoiced with the assurance of the town's still greater growth and prosperity, for nothing lay nearer his heart. He lies buried beside my mother in Evergreen Cemetery where the graves of so many of Caribou's early settlers are to be found.

“After life's fitful fever they sleep well”.

Stella King White

Houlton, Maine, 1945







## EARLY HISTORY OF CARIBOU

The first white man to set foot on the soil of what is now known as the town of Caribou was probably Alexander Cochran, a Canadian, who came up the St. John and Aroostook rivers in 1829 looking for a mill-site.

In two articles written by Olof O. Nylander (now deceased) for the *Presque Isle Star-Herald*, March 13th and 20th 1941, are found the following extracts giving full and explicit information concerning the life and death of Alexander Cochran, showing real research work on the part of the writer. This certainly pertains to the early history of Caribou and no other information concerning Cochran, so authoritative, can be found.

“The first settlers and lumbermen came up the St. John River about 1820, all Canadians and most all Irish, and the territory was considered a part of New Brunswick.

Alexander Cochran, a Protestant, came from a place in the north of Ireland, though what year he left Ireland, no one seems to know. He came to St. John, N. B. and there he married a girl from this province by the name of Polly Armstrong. Together they came up the St. John River to throw their lot with the early settlers along the Aroostook River, which at the time—in the years 1828-29—was considered part of the Province of New Brunswick.

In going up the Aroostook River he selected a site for his home on the Caribou stream. He built a log cabin on the north bank of the stream near the present site of W. E. Crockett's woolen mill. In 1829 he built a dam across the Caribou stream

and erected a grist mill. Then he "grubbed out" a road up over the steep bank of the Aroostook River on the north side of the stream, to the grist mill. In the early days he had an ox and crude cart and used to go down to the river and meet those who came up with the grain in bateaux or canoes to the landing, but it often happened that Cochran was away, and they carried the grain on their backs to the mill. At a later date a road was cut through the heavy woods of spruce and cedar on the south side of the stream up to the Cochran mill-pond, and then he had a horse to haul the grain to his mill.

Cochran built a barn on the Aroostook River flat near where the B. & A. R. R. roundhouse now stands, and a road was cut through the woods from this mill.

At the close of the Bloodless Aroostook War, Alexander Cochran was given by the Maine Commissioners to Locate Grants, lots number 3, 4 and 9, containing 468 acres of land in what is now known as Caribou village.

Alexander Cochran and Polly Armstrong—his first wife—had two children, John and Mark. Polly died and was buried in the old Kelly flat on the north side of the Aroostook River near the Fort Fairfield town line.

Alexander married for his second wife, Olive Virginia Jane Parks who was born in Ireland. To them were born ten children, George, Tom, Ann, Henry, Alexander Jr., Rachel, Lydia, David, Olive and Rosetta. Alexander Cochran died November 6th 1864 and was buried beside his first wife in the old Kelley cemetery. There are no markers on these graves. This is one of the oldest burying places in Caribou and many of the pioneer settlers are here laid to rest.

After they disposed of the Caribou property in 1865, Mrs. Jane Cochran (the second wife) and part of her children moved to New Brunswick and located on the Tobique River. They moved the grist mill from Caribou to a point about eight

miles below Plaster Rock on the east side of the Tobique River, built a dam across the Cochran Brook, erected the grist mill and in the upper story over the mill they had living quarters. Mrs. Cochran operated the mills some years, then sold the millstones and machines to Alfred Giberson who moved them to the Monquart stream at Bath, N. B.

I am under great obligations to all who have given me information. Caribou, November 21, 1939."

Olof O. Nylander

There is a legend that the name of Caribou stream came from the shooting on that stream, of a caribou-- then, as now, rather a rare animal -- by one of the Cochran boys when they first camped on that stream. From the stream the name extended, later, to the village that grew up along its banks.

The land that is spoken of in Mr. Nylander's article as being granted to Cochran by the Maine Commissioners to Locate Grants extended from the river up the north side of the Caribou stream, as far as the Main Street of the present day; from thence as far north as the Letter I line (upon which the standpipe is located) then to the river again.

No more settlers followed the coming of Alex Cochran in 1829, and when the Bloodless Aroostook War threatened, the winter of 1839, Caribou was liter-



ally not on the map. The settlers at Presque Isle and Fort Fairfield communicated with each other by means of the Reach road, ten miles in length, which had been blazed across to cut off the long distance by river, twenty-four miles.

The actual settlement of Caribou may be said to have commenced with Ivory Hardison, the first American settler, who drove a span of horses bringing a load of soldiers from Bangor to Fort Fairfield that winter of 1839. The danger of war was soon over, but Mr. Hardison stayed that summer to assist State Land Agent Cunningham in surveying and lotting out land for the settlers who were beginning to come to Aroostook, attracted by the new opportunities made known by the war.

Ivory Hardison, being a practical farmer, surmised the wonderful fertility of the virgin soil under the fine hardwood growth, and decided to make his home in this county. He took up a lot for himself in township Letter H, Range 2 running up from the Aroostook River, and from the Prestile brook south up over the hill to the farm later taken by Winslow Hall.

The Aroostook River was the route for all travel and transportation, by dugout, canoe or raft in summer, and on the ice in winter. In an eddy where the waters were deep and still, was an old landing place used by British trespassers before the Aroostook War, to reach their camp, which they had hastily abandoned

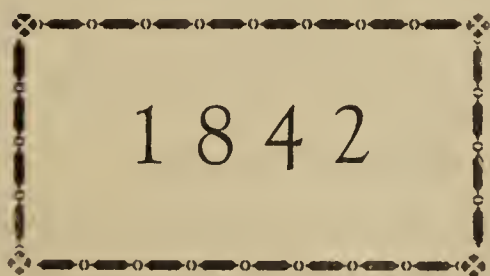
upon the approach of the State Militia, leaving tons of fine timber behind them.

From this landing place Mr. Hardison "grubbed" a road through the woods, a half mile or more up the hillside to a spot where he had decided to locate his house.

Mr. Hardison then returned to his home in Winslow, Kennebec County, Maine, sold his farm, moved his family to China village, and in the spring of 1840, accompanied by his oldest son, Jacob -- a boy of fifteen -- and one or two other men, started again for Aroostook. At that time, the road from Houlton to Presque Isle did not extend much farther than to Monticello, and they took the "Old Aroostook Road" from Mattawamkeag through Patten to Masardis on the Aroostook River.

At Masardis Mr. Hardison sent the team back, constructed a raft and took the river where they floated down to the landing selected -- a quick journey with the swift current of a spring freshet -- reaching Presque Isle the first day.

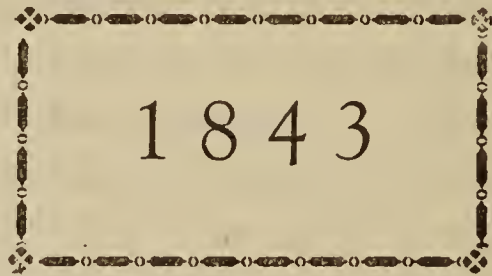
The first summer (1840) Ivory and his son spent chopping on their lot, also helping the officials the State had sent to finish the surveying of the township and to locate the road as now travelled from Presque Isle to Caribou.



Then the Hardisons returned to Kennebec County in the fall, not coming back again until the spring of

1842 when they chopped and burned and cleared their lot still more, and planted wheat, corn and potatoes between the logs.

They also built during the same year the house of hewn timber, occupied in later years by Ivory Hardison's grandson, George Hardison, until his death in 1941. Ivory was assisted in the building of the house by Harvey Ormsby and John T. Pike of Fryeburg who came in the summer of 1842 on a prospecting trip. In December 1842, having harvested their small crops and hauled a good supply of wood to the door, Mr. Hardison and son started back to China to get the rest of the family.



On February 12, 1843 the family of father, mother and six children started for Aroostook on a two-horse sled, on which was also loaded all their household effects. They were sixteen days on the journey of two hundred and fifty miles, which means some fifteen or sixteen miles a day, on an average. Some may wonder why Mr. Hardison chose to bring his family in the dead of winter instead of summer. It was because it was easier, in old times, to move heavy loads on runners than on wheels.

From Presque Isle to Caribou they drove down river on the ice as there was no road between the two places, though a rough road had been grubbed out be-



tween Monticello and Presque Isle in the year or two previous. The Hardisons arrived at their new home on the last day of February, 1843 — sixteen days, and “the mother wept with joy that the long journey was ended in safety” as a grand daughter wrote of her many years after.

Shortly after their arrival heavy storms came on and the snow became so deep that travel on the river--their only highway -- became impossible and they had no snowshoes. The middle of April the snow was six feet deep and their supplies began to run short. They were practically alone in the snowy wilderness, their nearest neighbors living some three miles away, and no road between.

For several weeks all the bread they had was made from meal ground in a small coffee-mill, though they had plenty of potatoes and salt pork. At last there came a thaw and a crust, and the boys took a grist of buckwheat on a handsled to Cochran's mill on the Caribou stream, and the bread famine was broken.

This family, Mr. and Mrs. Ivory Hardison and their seven children, Jacob, Dorcas, Oliver, Mary Ann, Martin, Ai, and James were the first American family to settle at Caribou with the purpose of staying and making a home. Mr. Hardison's other children, Harvey, Ida and Wallace were born after they came to Caribou. Harvey, born February 9, 1844 has the honor of being the first American child born in Caribou.

A few more words regarding Ivory Hardison should be said before going on to later comers. A Souvenir Edition of the Aroostook Republican issued in 1894 contains the following sketch of his life and that of his wife:

“Ivory Hardison was born in Berwick, Maine in the year 1800 therefore was in his early forties when he came to Aroostook. He was a wheelwright by trade but settled upon a farm in Winslow, Maine when young and married Dorcas Libby Abbott in 1824. After the family came to Aroostook in 1843 he engaged largely in farming and lumbering and was successful in business. He erected the first framed barn in the township which, the first year, was used also for a meeting house and school house.

Mr. Hardison always took a deep interest in town affairs, was many times elected to positions of trust, and was never found wanting. He was the first postmaster of Lyndon (which Caribou was first called) under Pierce and Buchanan.

He was a man of marked executive ability, industrious, prudent and farseeing, upright in all his dealings. He was a good citizen and possessed the entire confidence of all his acquaintances.

His wife, Mrs. Dorcas Hardison was a woman well calculated to adorn any home, whether in palace or cottage, but somehow she seemed to be remarkably well fitted for a pioneer life; of excellent physique, and a cheerful, hopeful temperament, she was able to endure the toils, privations and hardships of a backwoods life with a courage and cheerfulness that imparted something of her spirit to all with whom she came in contact”.

By such people as these, endowed with uprightness, courage and cheerfulness, was Caribou started on its way.

Mr. Hardison died May 11, 1875, aged 75, his wife March 7, 1887, aged 82, and they are buried in Evergreen Cemetery in Caribou.



In March of this year, 1843, Harvey Ormsby of Fryeburg who, with John T. Pike, had been prospecting this country the summer before, returned with his family and settled where he had taken up four lots cornering on the Carr schoolhouse lot on the back Presque Isle road so-called, some three miles from the Ivory Hardison farm.

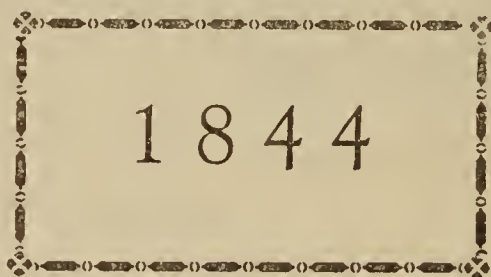
It may be mentioned in passing that John T. Pike stayed and lived to a good old age, marrying Mrs. Sylvester Washburn, later in life. He is buried in Evergreen Cemetery, his marker giving his birth date as 1820, his death date as 1880.

In June of 1843, Winslow Hall from Hartford, Maine and his brother Hiram from Buckfield, a neighboring town, came to Presque Isle, practically the end of the road. There they built a raft on which they descended the river to the Hardison landing place. Winslow selected the next lot south of the Hardison lot, afterwards called the "Griff Hall farm" from his son Grinfell who lived and died there. This farm is now owned by Lewis Emery.

Hiram took the lot in more recent years owned by Silas Hatch, just between the George Hardison lot on the north and the "Griff Hall place" on the south.

The Halls "toted" their supplies a mile and a half, up from the river, through the woods, went into camp and made a clearing. In the fall, Winslow built a log house and Hiram a small frame house on the road which was cut through from the Aroostook River at Presque Isle to the Caribou stream, by the State, that summer of 1843.

Then the Hall brothers returned to Oxford County and Winslow fitted out a four ox team to convey the household goods. On Christmas day Abram Parsons, a neighbor who had been secured as driver, started with the ox-team from Hartford. At Buckfield he was joined by two four-ox teams loaded by Hiram Hall, one of which was driven by Cephas Sampson. After getting the other teams started, Winslow fitted up a large covered sled provided with a stove.



In January, 1844, he left Hartford with his wife and six children, Edward, Grinfill, Marcella, Sarah, Ruth Abigail and Jennette, the eldest son, Joseph, being left behind to finish a term of school he was teaching.

On arriving at Presque Isle, they stopped at the tavern kept by E. Packard. Here the families remained until the road through the woods had been broken out by the ox-teams to the log cabins built the summer before. These teams were thirty days making the trip, arriving at the clearing February 15th, 1844. Ox-teams, of course, are the slowest form of travel or transportation but oxen were considered more valuable for farm work than horses in Oxford County a hundred years ago, and Mr. Hall used ox-teams for the double purpose of transportation and farm work which, in this case, included tough clearing, felling trees, pulling and burning stumps and the like.

The Souvenir Edition of the Aroostook Republican alluded to before, gave many valuable sketches of the pioneers of the town, the more valuable because written, many of them, while the subjects, or their immediate descendants, were still living — has the sketch from which we have culled the following facts clothed in the words of the sketch.

“Winslow Hall, the subject of this sketch, came of good old Puritan stock. His father, Enoch Hall, was a Revolutionary soldier who was with Washington’s army during the terrible winter of Valley Forge, and later, saw the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown. After the close of the war, Enoch followed the tide of immigration into the Province of Maine and settled on a new lot in Buckfield, Oxford County.

There Winslow was born June 19, 1798. On May 3rd 1824 he married Ruth Howland, daughter of Dr. Michael and Abigail Blake Howland of Bowdoin. Mrs. Hall was a lineal descendant of Admiral Robert Blake of the British Navy, and Dr. Howland was a descendant of the John Howland who came over in the Mayflower.

Winslow Hall and his wife settled in Hartford, a town adjoining Buckfield, where he engaged in farming and trading, building saw and grist mills. In 1835 he represented his class in the Maine Legislature, and was for many years postmaster of Hartford. He came to Aroostook in the spring of 1843 and moved his family here in 1844. Mr. and Mrs. Hall’s later years were spent in Washburn with their youngest daughter Jennette, who had married Wesley Stratton of Washburn. There Mrs. Hall died in 1879, five years after their golden wedding, and her husband followed her into the ‘land of rest’ four years later, in 1883.”



This sketch closes with the following tribute to Winslow Hall found in a newspaper clipping written at the time of his death.

“He was a man of incorruptible integrity, of rare purity of heart and life, of modest, retiring habit and always enjoyed the esteem and full confidence of his fellow citizens.”

Winslow Hall's children are as follows:

Joseph Blake, eldest son, was married twice, first to Frances Newhall of Sangerville, second to Lucinda Todd of Lyndon; had three sons and a daughter, viz: Joseph E., lawyer in Caribou and Portland, deceased; Alfred Winslow, editor of Aroostook Republican, deceased; May Frances Stetson, and Willis Blake, a lawyer in Portland.

Marcella, eldest daughter of Winslow, married Joseph Edward Hines of Washburn where they lived some years, then moved to Massachusetts where they died. They had one daughter, Marcella Hines Gibson, who continued to live in Washburn.

Grinfill, married Martha Pratt of Presque Isle. They had three children, Minnie, Vernon and Nettie; always lived on Presque Isle road.

Sarah, married Henry Rackliff of Easton, where they lived until Mr. Rackliff's death when Mrs. Rackliff moved to Caribou. They had five children; Ethel, married Carl C. King of Caribou, both deceased; Alton, married Althea Bridges of Mars Hill, both deceased; Earl, married Maud Hayward, niece of Mrs. Salmon Jones, both deceased; Elva, married Eben Welts of Caribou where they have always lived, and Clinton,

married, lives in South Carolina where he is engaged in his profession of electrical engineering.

Ruth Abigail, married Nathaniel Bartlett, had one son, Roy, who died in his youth; adopted a daughter, Charlotte, who married Wilber Roberts.

Jennette, married Wesley Stratton of Washburn where they lived until Mr. Stratton's death when Mrs. Stratton moved to Caribou. No children; adopted a daughter, Grace, unmarried, living in Boston.

Edward, a photographer in Caribou, married Henrietta Leach of Wisconsin, well known as Town Clerk for years. She long outlived her husband, dying in 1931 at the age of 81. No children. One adopted daughter Mildred, married, living in California.

The first postoffice at Presque Isle was established in 1843 and thereafter the mail came via Houlton, once in two weeks at first; afterwards once a week, the settlers in Letter H taking turns in going after it. The first postoffice in Letter H was in the house of Ivory Hardison who was appointed the first postmaster in 1844.

In the spring of 1844 the next settlers arrived. two single men, Samuel W. Collins born in Bangor but brought up in Calais, and Washington A. Vaughan, born in Burlington, Vermont but brought up in Brookfield, Mass.

Mr. Vaughn was among the earliest of the pioneers of Aroostook, first coming to the county in 1829, when in company with four other men, he ascended the Penobscot River to its headwaters in a "bateau" (the French name for boat) then "carried over" to the

headwaters of the Aroostook River, and descended the river to Presque Isle. There Mr. Vaughan formed a partnership with Dennis Fairbanks, (the first settler in Presque Isle) in building the first saw and grist mill at that place. Mr. Vaughan remained at Presque Isle about nine years, then in 1838 he "pulled out" and went to St. Stephen, N. B. just across the St. Croix River from Calais. While here he made the acquaintance of Samuel Collins, somewhat younger than himself, and told him much about the wild woods country one hundred and fifty miles north of them. They talked over the possibilities of making some money in those virgin forests and decided to go there together and take a chance, the spring of 1844.

At this time legislation had been enacted in Maine by which the settlers could get two lots of land for every mill they built and maintained, on certain named streams of which the Caribou stream was one. So Mr. Vaughan and Mr. Collins decided to build two mills, a saw mill and grist mill, the latter first, because food for the stomach was more important than a roof over the head. Mill stones were the most essential thing in a grist mill, of course to grind the grain, also they were the hardest to get. But the partners knew of a place in Ohio where they could be obtained and they ordered a set.

The stones - a pair of thick heavy stone disks - put on a boat on the Ohio River, shipped up that river until they reached the Allegheny River in Pennsylvania, then across that state by water ways — rivers,





S. W. COLLINS, I





streams and canals — to Philadelphia. At that port, the stones were put on a sailing vessel for Boston, and from Boston to Bangor. There were no dams in the Penobscot River then but a tow boat ran from Bangor to Mattawamkeag, so the stones were towed to Mattawamkeag and from there they were hauled to Ashland — a road of sorts, having been grubbed out from Mattawamkeag via Patten to Masardis and Ashland on the Aroostook River. At Ashland the stones were put on a raft and floated down the river to the mouth of the Caribou stream, from which point it was no light task to get them up stream to the location chosen for the mill. A long and arduous journey from Ohio! But those mill stones served first a small, then a large community for many a year.

The flour bolt that the flour was sifted through was made of silk gauze; the new ones were back-stitched by hand at home by Mr. Collins' wife after his marriage, as the old ones wore out. There was no one else to do it and pioneer wives were always ready to help their husbands in any emergency. They worked hard but cheerfully to overcome the disadvantages of life in a pioneer country, which the older portions of the state had outgrown.

After the grist mill was built, perhaps while they were waiting for the millstones to arrive, a matter of weeks and weeks, Messrs. Collins and Vaughan proceeded to build a saw mill a little farther upstream.

The saw mill was burned two years later but was immediately rebuilt on the same site — the one still occupied by the S. W. Collins Co., very much enlarged today, however, extending many acres up along the banks of the Caribou stream.

Through building the two mills Collins and Vaughan secured four lots comprising all the land now occupied by Caribou village except that owned by Aleck Cochran. Mr. Vaughan also bought of the State two more lots, 19 and 20, three hundred and sixty one acres for \$21., paid in road work. In the sawmill they had built, they sawed the great pine trees into square timber for shipment to England, floating it down the St. John River.

Much business came to Collins and Vaughan as the county grew in population — from all the settlers up and down the Aroostook River, grist being brought from as far away as Ashland and Masardis, by canoe or rowboat for several years thereafter. Logs were also needed for local use as the new settlers coming in had to have homes. This was the beginning of the village proper.

The very first settlers, the Hardisons and Halls, had chosen the higher ground to the south for their farms, probably because of better drainage, less

swamp-land, and greater fertility of soil under the dense hardwood growth on the hills. They chose even better than they knew. Messrs. Collins and Vaughan were not looking so much for farms as for commercial possibilities. They were the first business men of the little plantation, under rather difficult circumstances.

The supplies for the lumber camps and settlements at this time had to be hauled from Bangor, one hundred and seventy miles away. A few years afterward an arrangement was made by which the supplies could be placed in bond and brought from St. John, N. B. by steamboat, up the big river to Woodstock and even Andover, N. B. for several months in the year. The first steamer was put on the St. John River in 1816 and it ran regularly until the 1830s. A stern-wheel steamer with a draft of only fourteen inches plied the river between Fredericton and Andover, N. B. as late as 1850. In later years the river grew more shallow as the woods along the banks of the Upper St. John were being stripped for lumber to float down to the St. John harbor for the English trade. Stern-wheel steamers of still lighter draft were then put on the river and they gave good service carrying freight up and down the St. John until the railways came.

Shaved shingles were an important part of the freight shipped out from the Aroostook settlements to Boston in the earliest days. Cedar trees grew in a-



bundance in the swamps of Aroostook and after a man had his log cabin built and his family settled, he could go into the woods, cut a cedar log into short bolts, split them into slabs, shave them into shingles, then tie them in bundles with birch withes. These could be taken to the general stores in the settlements where they could be exchanged for the necessities of life, keeping the family from hunger many times. Then the store keepers, like Collins & Vaughan and David Adams, shipped the shingles to the outside world where they were in good demand. The four-horse teams used in this transportation to Bangor (from whence the shingles were shipped down the Penobscot River to Boston) were loaded for the return journey with groceries of all kinds besides clothing and hardware for the merchants. This gave employment to scores of teamsters and their teams, and led to the opening of many small taverns all along the way from Caribou to Bangor where the drivers could be fed and housed and stabling found for their horses.

Thus was the machinery to supply the wants of the settlers set in motion in this region during the early years.

Another settler who came in 1844 was Abram Parsons from Hartford, who had driven one of Winslow Hall's "moving vans" the January previous, and who had remained a month before he returned to his home. He came back in April, making the whole journey on foot. He took up the lot next south of Winslow Halls—long owned by L. E. Hildreth and in more recent years by Joseph Brown, now by his son,



Ray— and started making his clearing. He felled four acres of trees, built a log house, and the latter part of August started on foot for Hartford. He returned to his new home with his wife and six children, by ox-team, taking twenty-three days for the journey, arriving in October, 1844.

Other settlers came in that summer of 1844. Cephas Sampson—who had driven one of the Hall ox-teams the winter before—his brother George, and Watson R. Starbird came from Hartford, and took up lots. George Sampson took the first lot north of the Prestile Brook—now the John McElwain farm; Cephas took the next one north, now occupied by Arthur Ginn.

The Sampson brothers kept bachelor's hall together in a log house until 1851 when George built a house and married Louisa Hoyt of Fort Fairfield. They had four children, Albert, May, Lottie and Lizzie, only one of which is now alive, Lottie, who married John Pattee now deceased, living in California with one son, George, who is married.

Cephas married Irene Small, daughter of Robert Small, had two children who lived to maturity, Edward and Myra. Watson Starbird took the farm across the road from Cephas, now occupied by Ernest Murphy.

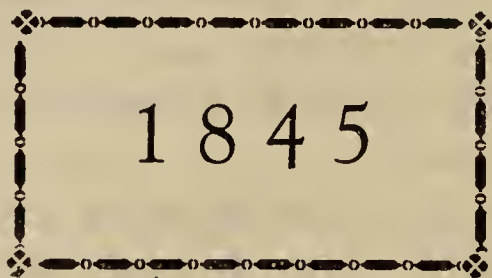
Most, if not all, of these men now seeking farms hailed from Oxford County and it is noticeable how many of the early settlers of Caribou came from that section of the state.

At this time State lands were sold for only \$1.25 an acre, twenty-five cents in cash and the rest to be worked out in labor on the settlers' own roads. This seems very cheap, but other prices went to the oppo-

site extreme. Flour cost from \$12. to \$20. a barrel; pork \$4. a barrel; molasses \$1. a gallon; black tea \$1. a pound; common cloth 15 to 20 cents a yard; and salt \$2. a bushel. Pretty high prices considering the small amount of cash coming into the settlers hands in those days, but when one stops to consider the high cost of "teaming" everything over the abominable roads of those days, and the time it took to make the round trip from Caribou to Bangor and return—twenty days some times—one can not wonder at high prices.

On the 22nd day of August that summer of 1844 a heavy frost came, killing the crops and freezing the growing grain so hard that the heads would break off when they were touched. One can only conjecture the state of mind of those early settlers and wonder that they stayed any longer in such a country. But of such stern stuff were these hardy pioneers made that history records no discouragement on their part.

During the summer of 1844 a clearing was commenced by Jacob Hardison, eldest son of Ivory, on the farm nearest to the village—as it happened—which he occupied for forty two years before selling it.



In 1845, Joseph B. Hall, eldest son of Winslow, commenced clearing the lot afterwards called the Pett



Todd farm, now occupied by Idell Jacobs. Joseph Hines came over from Presque Isle and took up the A. W. Todd farm next north and later married Marcella, eldest daughter of Winslow Hall. A shingle and clapboard mill was built on Hardwood Creek in this vicinity by Winslow Hall in 1845, the first of its kind in the region. The State, this year, pushed the road—now the main street in Caribou—through to Van Buren, building also the little bridge across the Caribou stream.

Among the men who settled on farms in 1845 was David F. Adams of Rumford who came late in the fall of the preceding year (1844) with his wife and young son, Weston, nine years old. Mrs. Adams rode horseback from Bangor to Presque Isle, then was rowed in a boat down the Aroostook River and up the Caribou stream until they came to the camp her husband had built on the shore of the stream (just below the Vaughan House) beside the camp of Collins and Vaughan and there they lived through the winter.

Mr. Adams assisted the firm in getting out lumber for their business while he was preparing for the building of his own log cabin on the lot he had taken up; the wife taking over the cooking for both camps—which the men gladly gave up for the time being. In the spring (1845) the Adamses moved to their lot adjoining Cephas Sampson's on the north (now the Arthur Thomas farm).; finished their cabin and made a good clearing that summer. The previous winter, December 14, 1844, the second child, Maria came to

the Adams family. The question may be asked where they got a midwife in those years. The answer is that the wives of the Canadian settlers living along the Aroostook River between Caribou and Fort Fairfield, were always ready to assist in any time of trouble, sickness or death. They came by boat or horseback, whichever was the quickest way. Bless them!

Other settlers coming that year were John Hall, (a cousin of Winslow); Joseph Bickford, his son-in-law, Haskell Farnham; and Ansel G. Taylor. The last named was the man for whom the Caribou G. A. R. Post was afterward named, he having been the first man from Caribou who was killed in the Civil War. Captain Amos Dwinal of Bethel took up the lot (opposite the Lorenzo Todd farm) that of late years has been occupied by the widow and son of Joseph Brown.

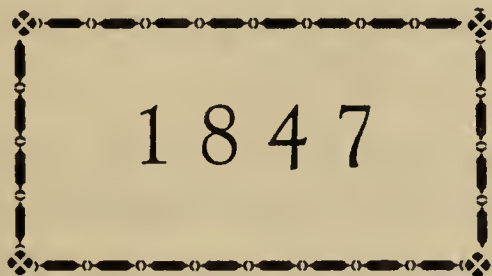
In the summer of 1845 Frances K. Newhall of Sangerville came and taught the first term of school in Winslow Hall's log house. After the building of a new house by Winslow, his old log house was used as a school house for some time.

The first frame house in the village was built in 1845 by Collins and Vaughan. They built it for a boarding house (in connection with the sawmill they had built) at the other end of the mill-dam, across



the stream—getting to it by a foot bridge over the dam. This house—a mere shack at first—is still standing on what was first called Myrtle (now called Grove) Street; and for many years was called the “Jim Smith house”, Mr. Smith and his family occupying it for at least two generations, the second being the W. P. Allens. (The house is now occupied by Russell Getchell.)

The second frame house in the little settlement in the woods was also built in 1845 by a Mr. Hubbard; a little one-story cottage situated, originally, a little in front of the present Collins residence but moved across the road to its present location in 1857 by S. W. Collins who had bought the lot to place the little house upon from Aleck Cochran, the owner of all the land on that side of the road, it will be remembered. Later, after some changes in ownership, the little house was occupied for a long time by Henrietta Hall (widow of Edward Hall, one of the sons of Winslow) who after her husband's death was acting Town Clerk for many years. For this reason the house, to this day, is often called the Henrietta Hall house though occupied at the present time by W. E. Warman.



The first marriage among the Americans in the settlement was that of S. W. Collins to Dorcas, eldest daughter of Ivory Hardison, in 1847. Dorcas was only twenty years of age at the time but she made an ideal wife for a pioneer, a woman of strong character and tireless industry. They lived first in the little house

above mentioned for ten years, then moving it across the road they built on its present location a larger house, which since then, has been much changed, notably in 1899, when it assumed its present appearance, a handsome home on its slight elevation, continuously occupied by the Collins family for nearly ninety years.

Mr. and Mrs. Collins had a family of thirteen children but only five lived to mature years: Charles, Clara, Florence, Herschel and Edith.

(Charles, the eldest, early in life went to Pennsylvania where he entered the oil industry, and made a fortune. He married Ida, daughter of Luther Merrill, and they made their home in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and died there in later years. Clara, married Milton Teague, eldest son of J. D. Teague; later moved, first to Kansas, then to California where Mr. Teague died. They had three children, Zoe, Madge and Charles, all born in Caribou, all married, and all living in California. Charles is very prominent in California in the growing of citrus fruits; president of Limonera, (one of the largest lemon growing organizations in America) also president of California Fruit Growers Association; of both for many years. Has one of the most beautiful homes in California, located in Santa Paula; has a wife and three children.

Florence, married Rev. C. W. Porter, Congregational clergyman; had three children, Helen, Florence and Charles. After her husband's death in Caribou, she with her children moved to California, to join her many relatives there, where she took up journalism as a profession and became very prominent in women's club work and in politics.



REV. C. W. PORTER

Pastor of Union Church in the late 70's and early 80's





Herschel married Freda Files, daughter of Eben P. Files of Caribou; successfully carried on his father's extensive business in Caribou during his life which ended only a few years ago, leaving, besides his widow (now deceased) one son, Samuel Wilson, living in Caribou, four daughters, Mary, Maude, Clara and Ida, all married, Mary, living in Caribou, Clara and Ida in Massachusetts, Maude, in Portland, Maine.

Edith, the youngest of the Collins family, married Charles Oak formerly of Garland. They lived in Caribou some fifteen or twenty years then moved to Augusta where they lived some time while Mr. Oak was holding State office, then moved to Bangor where he died in later years. His wife is living in Orono. They had four children, Zelma, Gertrude, Edson and Donald. Zelma married A. K. Gardiner, for many years member of faculty of University of Maine, now State Commissioner of Agriculture, still retaining his home in Orono; Gertrude married, lives in Massachusetts. Edson and Donald, married, living in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

The death of S. W. Collins — the head of the family — took place in February, 1899 when he was 88 years of age. His wife died in September, 1919, aged 92.)

A very interesting book may be found in the Caribou Public Library entitled, "Our Folks and Your Folks", compiled by the two elder daughters of S. W. Collins, Clara and Florence; a real genealogy of the Hardison, Collins, and Teague families.

Of Mr. Collin's partner, W. A. Vaughan, a little more needs to be said. Born in 1807 he did not take unto himself a wife until 1856 when he married Lydia Bickford, daughter of Joseph Bickford and sister of Haskell Farnham's wife. They lived in the upper story of the first store that Collins & Vaughan built, until 1860 when Mr. Vaughan built the original Vaughan House. They moved there but that was burned July 5, 1863 and Mr. Vaughan immediately rebuilt on a larger scale. Mr. Vaughan was the first postmaster in the village — often carrying the mail around in his pocket to be distributed to the settlers when he saw them — keeping the office from the late 40s to 1861.

They had three daughters, Abia, Mabel, and Martha.

(Abia married a Swedish minister, Rev. A. Wiren, and lived thereafter in New Sweden; had one son, Washington.

Mabel married Freeland Jones, who came from Bangor in 1884. They had three sons, Vaughan, Lawrence and Austin, all born in Caribou and two married to Bangor girls, the family moving back to Bangor while the boys were still small. Lawrence is a lawyer in Bangor, Austin living in Veazie, Vaughan in Colorado.

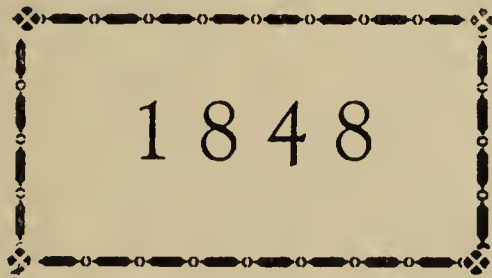
Martha was the first wife of Fremont Small, died young, leaving one daughter, Lucy.)

Mr. Vaughan's first wife, the mother of the three girls, died in February 1864 at the age of 29. Two years later he married Mrs. Lizzie Carlton, who was of much assistance to him in caring for his young daughters and managing his hotel. Mr. Vaughan died

suddenly at his home — the Vaughan House — in June 1883 at 76 years of age.

Caribou was again fortunate in having among its earliest settlers business men like Samuel W. Collins and W. A. Vaughan.

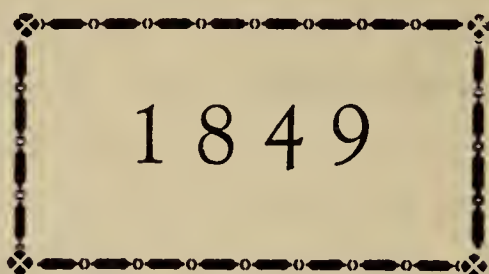
The third frame house in Caribou village was built in 1847 by Joseph Bickford, father-in-law of W. A. Vaughan, on the corner of Grove and Main streets, next to the present Universalist Church. It was occupied by Mr. Bickford for twenty two years.



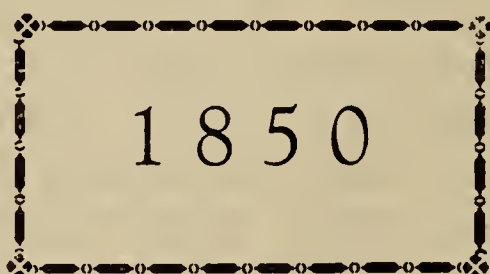
A meeting was held in the barn of Winslow Hall on April 24, 1848 and the plantation of Letter H was organized on that date. Ivory Hardison was chosen moderator, Harvey Ormsby, clerk, and Samuel Collins, Winslow Hall and John Bubar, assessors; Harvey Ormsby, David F. Adams and Joseph B. Hall, superintending school committee. Ivory Hardison, Washington A. Vaughan and William Bubar were chosen as a committee to divide the plantation into school districts. (The settlers were mindful of schools from the first.) At this meeting thirty votes were cast and this number would indicate approximately two hundred people. Almost all of the business at this time was done at the Center (as it was called) where Hiram Hall had opened a tavern called the Letter H House. The post office was only a short distance away, in the



house of the first postmaster, Ivory Hardison and J. W. Hines had opened a store near the Winslow Hall house not far away.



For several years now, settlers came in very slowly. Cyrus Small, a brother-in-law of Captain Amos Dwinal, came from Rumford in 1849, the only man to come that year, and "took up" (as they called it then) what is now known as the Aldice Hitchings farm on the Presque Isle road. Mr. Small brought his family three years later (1852) bringing, also, a string of wagons he had built by hand with iron work forged by hand also, notable for being the first wagons to be brought into the town. They were five weeks on the way. The horse-and-buggy-era had arrived!



In 1850 Lorenzo Todd came from Hodgdon with his brother, Howard Pettingill (or Pett as he was familiarly called), and his father, Alfred Todd. Lorenzo bought from Joseph Hines the lot now owned by A. W. Todd's sons, and Lorenzo's father (Alfred Todd) took the next farm south begun by Joseph B. Hall (now owned by Idell Jacobs).



Looking back over the record of farms taken up in the first seven years of settlement it will be seen that a large proportion of them were taken on the Caribou-Presque Isle road. Later years justified the wisdom of these early pioneers for no less an authority than Dr. Augustus O. Thomas, then State Superintendent of Education, hailing from Omaha, Nebraska, in writing of a trip he had just made through Aroostook County in 1916 said in a newspaper interview on his return.

“I made the drive from Presque Isle to Fort Kent, a distance of fifty miles and it is interesting every foot of the way. But from Presque Isle to Caribou, a distance of thirteen miles, is the finest agricultural possibility in America. The homesteads are wonderful, the fields of timothy and clover are up to your neck and the fragrance is country wide. I never saw such potatoes. The Lord made a good job when he created Aroostook County and the people were no fools when they moved into it.”

So later judgment has proved these men were wise in their generation when they took up farms on this thirteen mile road — “the finest agricultural possibility in America”.

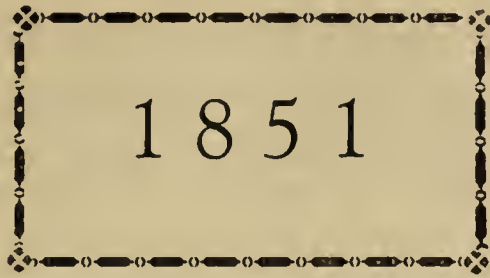
Jacob Hardison, Ivory's eldest son, went back to his old home and married at Fort Halifax, Winslow, on March 5th, 1850. Adeline Smiley of China, who had been a friend of his boyhood days. They lived the first summer in the small house built by Collins and Vaughan (spoken of previously as being probably the first frame house in the village) The following Christmas, Jacob and his wife moved into the house built that summer on the farm that he had begun to clear.

This house was burned in 1860 but it was soon replaced by the ell of the much larger house now standing. A good barn was built the summer of 1852 and much enlarged in later years. (This was burned in 1933 and smaller buildings now take its place.) In 1886 Jacob sold the homestead farm to his son Haines, and bought a small farm on outer Sweden Street where he lived until his death in 1891, aged 66 years. His wife lived until October, 1920, 93 years of age, at the home of her son Haines in Fillmore, California, (where she was visiting) but brought home to be buried beside her husband in the Evergreen Cemetery.

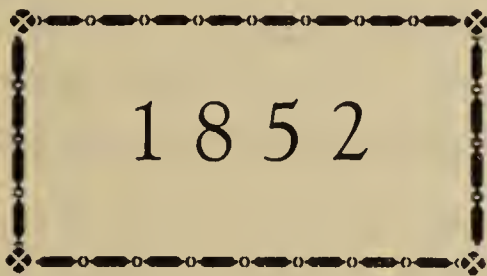
Jacob Hardison paid the state \$86.45 for the farm which was sold in later years for \$22,500. The present owner is J. Philip Jacobs and it is one of the best farms in the county at the present day.

Jacob's children were Waldo, Lowell, Haines, Parker and Allen, all of whom married except Waldo, the eldest, and all but Parker moved to California, drawn by many relatives living there. Haines married May, daughter of Luther Merrill, thus uniting two of the old pioneer families, and in later life moved to California. Parker was one of the first State Highway Commissioners and always made Caribou his home.

(Grover Merrill Hardison, long-time Town manager of Caribou is one of the comparatively few descendants of Jacob Hardison now left in the town. He is the great-grandson of Ivory Hardison, grandson of Jacob — also of Luther Merrill — and son of Haines and May Merrill Hardison. He married Jennie Lewis, daughter of Clayton Lewis of Caribou)



In the fall of 1851, Hiram Hall returned to Buckfield, his old home, abandoning the tavern, and not long after this the little village on the Caribou stream, having the mills, became the trade center. Messrs. Collins and Vaughan employed a large number of men in the woods around their mills, which made a nice little business for them.



In 1852 the first real schoolhouse was built with funds raised by private subscription on land belonging to Winslow Hall about where Luther Hall's house now stands. Pupils from all parts of the plantation — six miles in width by twelve miles in length — were obliged to go there to school as there was no other school in the plantation. It was a long distance to travel for some of the scholars. The first teacher in this new schoolhouse was Miss Mary Fowler.

Miss Fowler, a daughter of Deacon E. S. Fowler, then of Fort Fairfield, afterwards married Franklin



Smiley, a brother of Mrs. Jacob Hardison, Sidney Smiley (Mrs. Hardison's father) having followed with his family not long after his daughter's coming, and settling on the "old Washburn road".

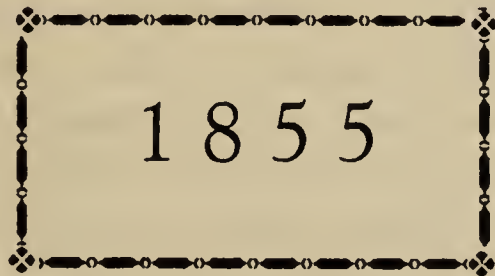
To go back a little to some other farms which have not been mentioned. One was the farm of Oliver Hardison — one of the sons of Ivory — at the top of the hill on the south side of the Prestile Gully, once the terror of all travellers, now a harmless little downward grade in the road as it crosses the Prestile Brook. Oliver Hardison and his family have all passed away and for many years it has been called the Orin Hatch farm, now occupied by his daughter, Mildred.

Ai, another son of Ivory, took up a farm on Green Ridge — across the river — when he was married, and they remained there all their lives, bringing up a fine family of children; descendants all living in California.

David and Harvey Collins, brothers of Samuel, came not long after him, and David settled on a lot at the mouth of Otter Brook. A few years later, in 1854, he built a dam and a shingle mill where was afterward the Crockett woolen mill. Harvey Collins took up a farm on the Van Buren road about a mile north of the Settlement and married a niece of Mrs. Ivory Hardison but they did not remain in Aroostook very long; moving West.

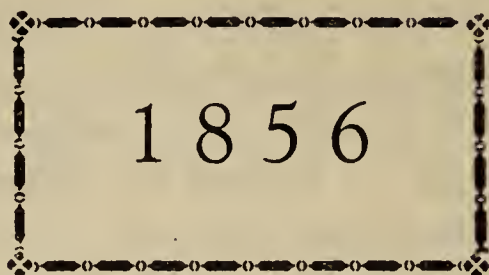


In 1852 the Messrs. Collins and Vaughan built a tannery on the Caribou stream, abutting the bridge, opposite the gristmill, the building occupied so many years by George O. Smith. This tannery was operated by William Farrell — father of Elbridge Farrell so well known as a business man of Caribou in later years — who bought hides of the farmers and also of the lumbermen that sometimes drove beef cattle into the woods to be slaughtered. Mr. Farrell also manufactured the leather into thick boots for the lumber trade.

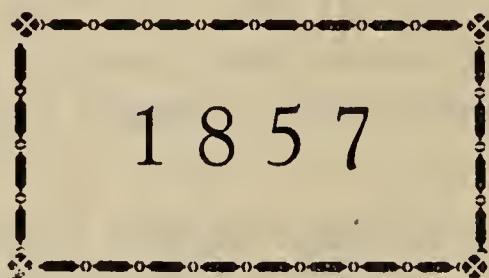


Collins and Vaughan also built about this time on land in front of the present Universalist Church a blacksmith shop — the first in the township — and employed Benjamin Annas, who was the first blacksmith, a very necessary man now — as quite a number of horses were being brought in for work in the woods.

In 1855 the Messrs. Collins and Vaughan built the first store in the little village on the upper half of the lot (now occupied by the Bouchard block) standing on a little higher ground than their mills, although conveniently near. Here they kept a general stock of goods for their men and, of course, for all the settlers round about.



In 1856 John L. Smith, another brother-in-law of Captain Dwinal, came from Bethel and took the farm that was bought and somewhat cleared in 1844 by a young man named Morton Taylor. This man lived only two years, dying in 1846 at the home of Abram Parsons — the first death in the township and was buried on his own land, but his body was later taken to Albion, Maine, his old home. This farm is the one so long known in later years as the Libby and King farm, Roy Libby and Carl King being partners in its ownership for some time. In earlier days the farm was long known as the John Irving place, next occupied by his son, Henry Irving.



In 1857 Messrs. Collins and Vaughan dissolved the partnership of thirteen years and divided their holdings equally, the Caribou stream as an "imaginary line" between them. Mr. Collins took the saw mill

first built and most of the land north of the stream (as far as the standpipe of today, to the Letter I line), and west as far as the Farnham Brook, which was still in the dense forest. Mr. Vaughan took the grist mill and most of the land south of the stream, up over the hills to the Jacob Hardison farm and down to the Aroostook River; taking also the little eminence on the north side of the stream, on which the Vaughan House was afterward built.

## 1524699

In a booklet written by Samuel W. Collins, Jr. (or 3rd) great grandson of the first S. W. Collins — to commemorate the year 1944 as the centennial of the founding of the lumber industry in Caribou by the first S. W. Collins, a noteworthy paragraph is found, especially noteworthy just here as it bears upon the division of property between Collins and Vaughan — usually a quarrelsome affair. It is copied here.

“The firm of Collins and Vaughan was carried on through a truly remarkable relationship. Never was a set of books kept nor even a memorandum made to determine a division of work, property, or profits. Both men worked diligently and in perfect harmony and each took from the till according to his needs. As Vaughan grew older he decided to leave active business life and invest his accumulated capital. Accordingly in 1857, the two partners sat down to divide their property. It was an example of complete trust as the pioneer mill men amiably divided their extensive



holdings without aid of any sort of paper or calculation.”

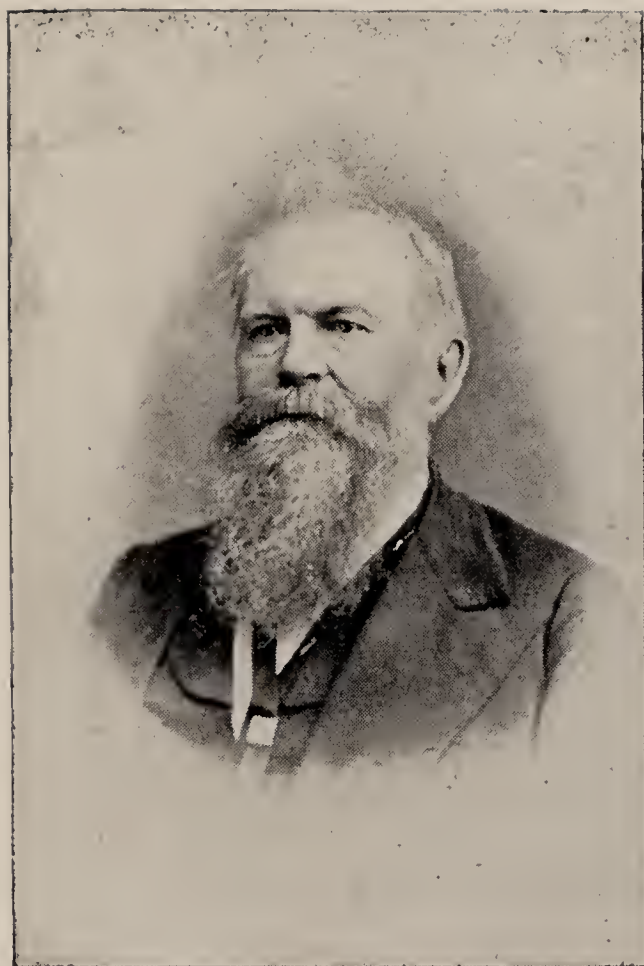
“A truly remarkable relationship!”

Both men succeeded well in the business they chose. Mr. Collins built a small store just where the Currier & Belyea store is today and remained in business there some twenty or thirty years then removed to Sweden Street. He also continued in the lumbering industry and the business he founded then is being handed down to succeeding generations, a large and profitable industry covering many acres of land up along the banks of the Caribou stream.

In 1857, Luke and James Smith, brothers of John L. came from Bethel. Luke took up the lot just north of the Columbus Hayford farm in Maysville, and James took a lot on the old Washburn road, later called the Tom Harmon farm, now Roy Whittiers.

John L. Smith bought Winslow Hall's clapboard and planing mill and adapted it to long lumber. He also had a little store beside the mill. That year Alonzo Burgess came from Rockland and settled on the old Washburn road where their relatives, the Smileys, parents of Mrs. Jacob Hardison, had settled in 1853.





JOSEPH B. HALL



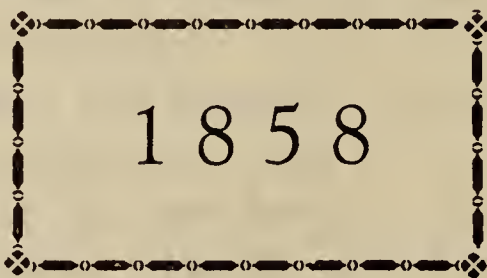
Winslow Hall, his son, Joseph B. and one of his sons-in-law, Joseph W. Hines had been gradually selling out, and moving to Presque Isle, a little older and larger settlement. Winslow Hall and Hines opened the third store in Presque Isle. Joseph B. started a newspaper, the Aroostook Pioneer, in Presque Isle in 1857 in company with W. S. Gilman, over Winslow's store but sold his interest to Gilman in 1860 and moved to Portland. However some of the Hall descendants came back to Caribou in later years like A. W. and Willis B. Hall.

Now something about the roads or streets in the little village of Lyndon at this time. What is now called Water Street led from the Collins and Vaughan mills to the Cochran grist mill and to the Aroostook River, following the north bank of the stream all the way. This was the first road in the village, being a travelled road when the main road was put through to Van Buren in 1845. A bridge across the Caribou stream at the Collins and Vaughan gristmill was built as a part of the new road the same year (in 1845). Bridge Street came a little later to accommodate users of the ferry between the mouth of the Caribou stream and the foot of the Fort Fairfield road across the river. Bridge Street followed the south side of the stream to the river. At the corner now occupied by the Nylander Museum a road was cut across from the main road to join Bridge Street; accommodating the settlers on the Presque Isle road wishing to take the ferry. At the Cochran mill — on the site of the later Holmes Starch Factory — one could ford the stream

to strike Water Street; and pedestrians used a foot bridge over the little dam Cochran had built.

A spring between the Sweden Street and the Vaughan Avenue of the present day, running from Sweden Street around in front of the Vaughan House to Main Street, furnished the village with drinking water, a wooden pipe running from there to a town watering trough located at the junction of Main and Water streets. This wooden watering trough (will the young people of the present day, reading this, know what a watering trough is?) was later moved across the street to the side of the Vaughan House stairs leading to Main Street.

A little one-room schoolhouse was built, in 1857 at a cost of \$375, where now stands the modern brick building known as the Sincock School. This was the first school building in the present village and was used for every purpose, church services of all denominations and meetings of all kinds.



In the fall of 1858, David F. Adams who came in 1844 and settled on the lot now called the Arthur Thomas farm, decided to build a little store “down-



town". He had begun selling supplies from the farm homestead to his workmen and others for some time and now felt that the time had come for him to build a regular store — the second store in the village. It was first located in the middle of the present Main Street at the top of the Mill Hill and the road wound around it but in 1861 the road was straightened and the store was moved across the street to the location where it was a landmark for many years. (After undergoing various vicissitudes the "old Adams store" was removed in recent years from the old location at the junction of Main and Bridge streets, and a modern filling station takes its place).

Mr. Adams continued in business in this "little red store" for many years, in fact until his death, carrying a general stock from calico to molasses taking in exchange shaved shingles, buckwheat, grain and the like. He built a dwelling house on the site of the Nylander Museum, at the top of the hill just above the store, in 1861. He afterwards enlarged it and operated it as a hotel — the Adams House — for a number of years with the assistance of his son, his son's wife, and his grandsons. He then retired to a new house he had built on the next south. Here he and his wife lived until their decease, then the house passed into the hands of James Hayes, a Miramichi lumberman whose family occupied it until his death when they moved away. (The house is now occupied by Earl Lombard.)

Te tell a little more about Mr. Adams. He was a practical surveyor and a useful citizen in a new community, running the lines for the incoming settlers buying lands. He was also a Justice of the Peace, solemnizing many of the early marriages. He was

a strong character, never to be forgotten by anyone who had ever known him.

He married Dorcas Glines of Rumford and they both belonged to good old Pilgrim stock. They had three children, Weston, Maria, and Martha.

Weston married Amanda Brown, daughter of Reuben Brown, one of the early pioneers, living on the back Presque Isle road; they had three boys, Charles, Delbert Weston and Florus. Delbert was a successful merchant, having a large department store in Augusta for many years; died only a few years ago, leaving two daughters; his wife died several years before.

Maria married 1866 to Alden Green of Houlton, had no children.

Martha, b. 1850 married Lysander Sawin in 1870, had two children, Josephine Gerrish of Brownville and Bangor, Bret Harte, unmarried, died many years ago.

David F. Adams born in Standish, 1813, died 1882, aged 69.

Dorcas, his wife, born in 1811, died 1889, aged 78.

Elder J. P. Roberts came from Hartland, near Pittsfield, in the year 1858 with his wife and part of his family, of which Ida who married Dr. C. F. Thomas, and Frank, a lawyer who married Lilla — A. M. York's eldest daughter — were best known in town. Another daughter was Olive, who married Benj.

Webb, a Civil War veteran; children, Pearl and Winfield S. Elder Roberts — as part time ministers were called in those days — settled on the east side of the Aroostook River, nearly opposite the Ivory Hardison farm. His only means of getting to this farm, or to any of the settlements on the river, Presque Isle, Caribou or Fort Fairfield — the first year of his coming, was by boat or ford in summer, or on the ice in winter, until the first ferry was established not long after. Then the first bridge across the river at Caribou was built in 1863, the state appropriating one-half the cost, and the citizens of the township contributing the other half. This bridge of course made life easier for those living on the east side of the river.

In passing it may be mentioned here that this wooden bridge lasted 28 years until 1891 when it was destroyed by fire. An iron bridge was started late that year and completed in 1892, during which interval a ferry service was again established in practically the same place as where the old ferry ran.

A. M. York came from Bethel in 1858 and bought from Mr. Vaughan the land extending from the school-house lot — sold previously — to the north line of Jacob Hardison's farm. Mr. York was an experienced builder and was kept busy with the work then going on in the settlement; first a house for himself (next to



the schoolhouse lot) then brought his family here the next summer. Two years afterward, in 1861, Mr. York sold from his land a small lot which was the beginning of Evergreen Cemetery that has received many additions of land on the south and west as the years went by. The Yorks had four children, Frank, Fred, Lilla and Nellie, all now deceased.

Sylvester Washburn came from Canton — another Oxford County town — in 1858 — and buying land of W. A. Vaughan in September of that year immediately built a sash and blind factory where the Hutchinson Steam Laundry now stands. The next year, 1859, Mr. Washburn bought of Mr. Bickford the lot above the Bickford home and built himself a cottage on top of the hill, which faced the lot where the Nylander Museum now stands. In 1865 he sold this house to John L. Smith who enlarged it and opened a small hotel — called the Caribou House. In 1873 Mr. Washburn bought land over the river just opposite the village for \$897. — a bargain! This land stretched from the bank of the river up over the Washburn Hill to the Nathan Lufkin farm. The first house on the right hand side after crossing the C. P. R. R. track is the house Mr. Washburn built for a home.

This farm was occupied for many years by his son, Ernest, who married his neighbor's daughter, Emily Goud. Ernest built a spacious home half way up the hill which afforded a beautiful view of the town and river. In later years the farm was sold to Jerry Smith.



Their children were: Sarah who married Ezra Briggs; Avis, not married; Lewis, married, died in 1935; Russell, married Gertrude Elliot, lives in New Hampshire; and Leila, unmarried. The wife and mother, Emily Washburn, died in October 1896. Ernest died in 1906.

Sylvester Washburn's other children were George, Alice and Gertrude. George married Leila Powers, Alice married John Haley of Fort Fairfield, Gertrude married Carl Ullrich.

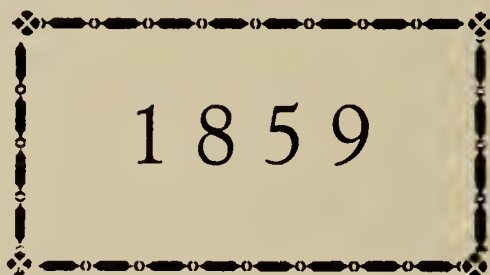
Benjamin O. Barrows of Rockland came in 1858 and began to build the Dr. Thomas home on South Main Street but the house was not finished for several years thereafter, Barrows going away.

In 1858, fifteen years after the coming of the first settlers, there were only two stores in the village; the Collins and Vaughan store — the first built — on the north side of the stream and the Adams store on the south side, and five dwelling houses. These were— not counting the old Cochran log house on Water Street — the Jim Smith house on Myrtle (now Grove) Street; the first Collins house, later moved to the opposite side of street, long called the Henrietta Hall house; the new Collins house on present location; the Bickford house on the corner of Main and Grove streets; and the Haskell Farnham house — so long known as the Blake Roberts house. The growth of the village was slow.

The rest of the settlers were living on farms, clearing their lands, planting crops and building homes. The clearings west of the village extended only to

where the Court House now stands; those north only to where the standpipe is today — the Letter I line; beyond these points were unbroken forests. Those south of the village were the most numerous, extending — even then beyond the town line between Presque Isle (or Maysville rather) and Plantation Letter H — which, as yet, had no other name.

Such was the village in 1858. That year there were three months of school in the new schoolhouse, and the teachers' board was sold to the lowest bidder. The first teacher was boarded for \$1.50 a week; wood for the winter term — seven cords — was secured for the sum of 4.75, sixty-eight cents a cord!



Meanwhile the taking up of farms continued quite steadily. Perez Thomas, whose wife was a sister of George and Cephas Sampson, came from Hartford in 1859 and bought the David Adams farm. Benjamin and Moses, sons of Perez Thomas were single men when they came, but before long they married Sarah and Harriet Small, daughters of Robert Small, a second cousin of Cyrus. Robert came from Limington, Maine and bought the farm first taken up by Harvey Ormsby. Cephas Sampson had already married Irene, Robert Small's eldest daughter. So it came about that

an uncle and two nephews married three sisters, Cephas Sampson being a brother of Mrs. Perez Thomas, the mother of Moses and Benjamin.

Another sister, Ruth Small, married Henry Allyn who came about that time from Chelsea, Mass. and who was a most useful citizen in the little settlement. He had been a hospital nurse and the medical knowledge gained in that capacity made him exactly what the community most needed at that time. He might be called the first doctor (a homeopath) though not a medical graduate. Mr. Allyn built himself a house on the high bank of Water Street facing the stream and kept a tailor shop there, also a "photograph gallery" where the early citizens and their families had their tintypes taken. He may be said to have had many and diversified talents.

Woodland was surveyed in this year, 1859, and lots were taken there by the Withees of Harmony, Benjamin and Moses Thomas (sons of Perez), Fred Lufkin, Edward Washburn, Ximenes Philbrick and William Bickford, all arriving in 1859 or 1860.

Also in 1859 there came on a prospecting trip, a party of seven men from Bethel: Joseph Goud, his father-in-law John Bradbury, Hazen Keech, Mr. Richardson, Nathan Reynolds, his son Otis and his son-in-



law, Moses Coburn. Settlers were now taking more lots on the east side of the river, and the Reynolds and Coburns took lots in the Green Ridge district, bringing their families the next year.

Joseph Goud and John Bradbury came from Bethel and took up lots on the "old Washburn road", making the farm now owned by F. J. Balckstone. Mr. Goud had married Sarah Bradbury, daughter of John Bradbury in Bethel, and all their children were born there, coming to Aroostook with their parents. They were as follows: Philander, Arthur, Jessie, Emily and Frank.

Philander, married Aurelia Patterson of Belfast; children: Louise died young; Margaret, living in Caribou, unmarried; Fred, married Alyne Hammond of Van Buren now living in Portland.

Arthur, married Eliza, daughter of J. D. Teague; children: Zella, married L. H. Denton, living in Saratoga Springs, N. Y.; Mary, married to R. N. L. Brown, living in Caribou; Leon, living in Alamo, Texas; Carroll living in Silverdale, Washington; Lyman, living in L. I., New York.

Jessie, married to Lewis Townes, no children, moved to Indiana where Lewis died, Jessie returned to Caribou, died there.

Emily, married Ernest Washburn, son of Sylvester Frank, died in his youth.

Joseph Goud, born in 1820, died in 1878

Sarah, his wife, born in 1826, died in 1890

Arthur Goud, born in 1849, died in 1939

Eliza, his wife, born in 1849, died in 1904

Township Letter H became the town of Lyndon by incorporation on April 5th 1859. In 1860 the population was still very small, only 297, after seventeen years of settlement, and the valuation was \$23,694. The first selectmen elected in 1859 were Amos Dwinal, David F. Adams and Henry L. Rolf. The members of the second board of selectmen elected in 1860 were Amos Dwinal, S. W. Collins and Cephas Sampson.

The following selectmen were elected for the four ensuing years: 1861 — Amos Dwinal, Cephas Sampson, and Jacob Hardison. 1862 — Cephas Sampson, Jacob Hardison, and Cyrus Small. 1863—Cyrus Small, Joseph Goud, and John T. Pike. 1864 — Cyrus Small, S. W. Collins and John Colby Whittier.

The first Town Fathers of Caribou! Fine men all of them.

For many years now, settlers had been coming up the St. John River to Woodstock and Andover, and up the Aroostook River, taking farms along the rich, alluvial flats on both sides of the river. Notable among these were the owners of fine farms between Fort Fairfield and Caribou. Newman, James, and Fred Doyle, grandsons of Edward Doyle of Fredericton, N. B. Descendants of this family are all prominent business men in Aroostook today.

Among others of the early settlers coming from New Brunswick was Thomas Vance, later known to all as "Tommie Vance", who came in the early '50s with his wife and ten children and settled on the land just below and across the road from Abram Parsons. Four of his sons enlisted and served in the Civil War, three of them dying in the South and one returning at the close of the war to die in a very short time from the effects of life in Libby Prison.

In 1877 George H. Ginn, a young man of eighteen came from Canada to work for Mr Vance, and later he married Mr. Vance's grand-daughter, Rebecca Parsons. His daughter Rebecca Vance, had married John Parsons — a son of Abram Parsons, pioneer settler — so their daughter Rebecca Parsons — the wife of George Ginn — was the granddaughter of Abram Parsons as well as of Thomas Vance.

In a very short time the farm was divided, the north half being taken over by Edwin H. Vance, the only surviving member of Thomas Vance's family at that time. The south half was taken by George Ginn with whom Thomas lived until the time of his death about eight years later. (At the present time the Ginn farm is owned by Jack Bishop and the Vance half by Ernest Hitchings. Among the descendants of Thomas Vance still living in Caribou is one grandson, Seneca Vance, and several great grandsons all of whom are prosperous farmers of this day and age.)

Other Canadians that came early were the Hales. Arden Hale came from New Brunswick with his father Dennis Hale and family in the early fifties and in 1862



they took up the lot on the east side of the Aroostook River, next south of that owned by Arthur Goud for many years.

Arden married Mary McDonald of Washburn and they had twelve children, John, Alice, Nellie, Myrtie, Dennis, Carrie, Fred, Myra, Ben, Thomas, Maria and Arden; the last-named, married and living in Caribou, all the other children now deceased.

(Arden and Mary Hale lived on this farm until the death of Mr. Hale in 1909; the two sons, Thomas and Arden, carrying on until 1918. Thomas then buying Arden's interest and living there until his death in 1937. Thomas Hale had married Lettie Ginn (recently deceased) daughter of George and Rebecca Parsons Ginn. Mrs. (Carl C.) Nellie G. King, and Arthur A. Ginn are the other children of George and Rebecca Ginn, both living in Caribou. The Hale farm is now owned by Harold C. Clark.)

In her "Reminiscences of Other Days", written in 1895 Mrs. Ruth Whittier, daughter of Hazen Keech, tells in a very interesting way the story of her journey to Aroostook. Some extracts are given here.

"In the spring of 1859 people in southern Maine learned of the wonderful farming lands up in Aroostook County. These lands were being offered at a bargain to men who would take advantage of the opportunity to secure a home by using a little pluck and perseverance until they could get established. A. M. York and his brother Edwin, who had been there, came home with glowing accounts. They said that it

was the place for a poor man and that they were going to take their families there in the near future. Father and a number of other citizens of Oxford County — for they were informed that a large portion of the settlers of North Aroostook were from that county — decided to take the trip and see for themselves.

About the middle of May, 1859, seven men, namely, John Bradbury, his son-in-law, Joseph Goud, Eli Richardson, Nathan Reynolds, his son Otis, his son-in-law, Moses Coburn, and Hazen Keech started by single teams, two men in each of them, while the seventh man with a load of baggage such as the men would need, followed in the rear.

On their way (from Presque Isle to Caribou) they passed farms occupied by Oxford County people on every hand, many of them known to my parents. In Maysville (now a part of Presque Isle) they found Luke Smith, whose wife was a relative of my mother.

The Halls, Sampsons, Starbirds, Smalls, D. F. Adamses, and many others that had emigrated ahead of them were found along the road.

They were advised to try Green Ridge but found that nearly all the best farming land had been taken already. The Reynolds and Moses Coburn, did get lots there. The rest forded the river and taking the Military Road, came to the little settlement where Collins and Vaughan had built mills and started a village on the Caribou stream near its outlet into the river. This village, at that time, consisted of very few families.

But to return to the locating a farm question. Quite a number of men had preceded Father by a few days and had gone over what is now called the New Sweden and Perham roads — at that time an unsettled

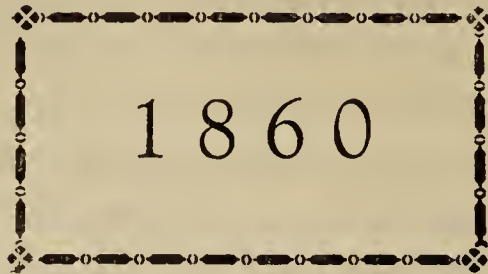
wilderness. They had secured all the available hardwood land, and to get a good lot Father and the rest of the men must go a long ways from the mills. Mr. Bradbury and Joseph Goud found lots near James Smith (brother of Luke), and Alonzo Burgess on what is now called "the old Washburn road". Father kept his eye on a hardwood ridge in I Plantation. He was told that it was lacking in good water but he resolved to find out for himself. After a few days prospecting they decided they would commence clearing.

While looking for a chance to dig a well, Father found a nice spring of water quite a little nearer at the David Collins mill. It was at the mouth of Otter Brook, a stream that crossed the road we must take to get to the farm that Father had taken, yet the spring was on Father's land. So he cleared a small piece and then built his log house. This was the beginning of the farm now (1895) owned by the Powers' twins, the sons of my sister. She married Corydon Powers and remained on the place during the lifetime of my parents.

During the year that Father was here before we came, he built a sawmill for John L. Smith at Hardwood Creek. He also built a bridge at the foot of (David) Collins hill. It was the first across Otter Brook, at that time a very dangerous place at certain times of year, a very steep turn in the road.

I think most of the party of which Father was a member spent their remaining years in Aroostook. Mrs. John Bradbury died a few years later. I think in the spring of 1864, and Mr. Bradbury soon returned to Oxford County to spend the rest of his life.





The last of June, 1860, we had word from Father to be ready to start whenever Mr. John L. Smith of Lyndon, Aroostook County, a former acquaintance of my parents, was ready to start back. Mr. Smith had arrived at his old home in Bethel, three or four miles from us and wanted to start back with his load in a very short time.

In a few days we were ready to start. The early morning of July tenth found us wending our way from Bethel down the Androscoggin River through Hanover, Rumford and Dixfield, then turning to Farmington we reached Bangor the afternoon of the thirteenth. On the afternoon of July 18th 1860 we passed through Presque Isle and about four o'clock we drove up to John L. Smith's house in the southern part of the township, a farm now owned by Libby and King."

This is a long and valuable extract from Mrs. Whittier's book — valuable because of the portrayal of the "land boom" in Caribou around 1860 by one of the participants herself — first hand testimony concerning the emigration of whole families from Oxford to Aroostook County. These were largely descendants of the Masshachusetts families who took

part in "the great trek" to western Maine which began after the Peace Treaty at the close of the French and Indian War in 1763. This "trek" was encouraged by the General Court of Massachusetts (their Legislature) from the beginning. During the Revolutionary War they offered the soldiers — and almost everybody who would accept — very liberal grants of land to reward them and incidentally to encourage settlement "on the eastern frontier" — which was Maine — and many took advantage of the offer. Oxford County, one of the first to be settled in this way, being practically the nearest, is in the foothills of the White Mountains and is beautiful, especially in summer, with its many hills, vales and streams, but the land was no more fertile than regions in the vicinity of mountains usually are. Hence the exodus by many of the descendants of these first settlers of Oxford County when they "began hearing in 1859 of the wonderful farming lands up in Aroostook."

Shorter extracts from Mrs. Whittier's story now follow, telling the way these settlers — Mr. and Mrs. Keech and their three daughters, Lizzie, Abbie and Ruth — had to go to reach their new home after arriving at the little village. She goes on to say:

"We turned down Water Street, up the hill, to our left, took down a pair of bars, went through and followed an old grubbed road (now Pleasant Street) leading to the present corner of Pleasant and High streets, then down a side hill grubbed between the road where it now runs and the river, going about where the B. & A. R. R. roundhouse now stands. When

we reached the home of David Collins we were told to alight as we could go no further with a team.

After unloading our stuff we managed to "tote" it home about a mile away — as the tote road ran at the time — we three girls, mother and father, each took a load of such things as we would need most and followed our leader across the bridge. A few rods further on we pitched into the woods and followed a "spotted line", occasionally stopping to take breath, unhitch our dresses (no slacks or pants for the girls then) from the clinging brush that impeded our travels or get a better hold of our loads.

Father had got the walls of a log house ready but no roof on it as he had been very busy almost night and day clearing land and caring for the crops. For five weeks we endured camp life then willingly moved into the log cabin that had been made comfortable and ready to receive us."

This is a picture of real pioneering in those days. Most of the women arriving in this new country from sections of the state older by sixty years or more, were more advanced in their way of life, their pioneering done. These women had seen their mothers dropping the old, primitive habits of living, washing and carding wool, spinning and dyeing yarn for the knitting of stockings and the weaving of rag carpets for the floors. They had adopted easier, time-saving ways in housekeeping, their homes had been comparatively warm and comfortable, the forests around their villages cleared, neighbors near. But these women of a younger generation arriving at this little pioneer



settlement now took up the old Colonial ways of house-keeping quickly and cheerfully, making soft soap, dipping tallow candles, and fashioning caps of coon-skins for their men-folks.

Not a complaint was heard among the women — only laughter over their experiences in adapting themselves to this “brave, new world” — like sawing a barrel of flour in two to share with a new-coming neighbor who had no flour. If they had tears to shed they did not shed them then. Of such stuff were these pioneer women made!

To go on with Mrs. Whittier’s story:

“In October, 1860 my brother, Milo Keech, who had returned to Bethel from a three-year stay in Minnesota arrived in Caribou accompanied by our cousin, George F. Ellingwood. They were soon engaged to work for W. A. Vaughan, both being carpenters and Vaughan being very anxious to get his new house (the original Vaughan House) into shape that his family might occupy it that winter.”

This is, perhaps, as fitting a time as any for the introduction of an essay written for a Grange meeting in Caribou in 1895 by Harriet (Mrs. Moses) Thomas, daughter of Robert Small, describing the “little hamlet” of Lyndon as she first saw it in 1860, the same year that Mrs. Whittier came to Aroostook; also written the same year as Mrs. Whittier’s “Reminiscences” were written. Mrs. Thomas’ essay describes

the village — as she was asked to do; Mrs. Whittier describes the actual coming of a pioneer family, two entirely different points of view of the same thing. These are as good word-pictures of the times as one could ask for, painted by actual pioneers — for may not the children accompanying their parents be called pioneers also?

### CARIBOU IN 1860

by

Mrs. Harriet Small Thomas

“Imagine if you can a little hamlet of not over a dozen houses situated on the bank of a stream with hills on either side, with a road that ran up and down the hills, which, with one or two exceptions, was the only one in the place, and you have Caribou as I saw it for the first time in 1860. Now come with me and we will go over this road for a little way.

We will start at Brother Hardison's (Jacob's) farm. The house where he lives replaces the one burned in the autumn of that year (1860). Going north, the first house was the one now owned by C. C. King, built by A. M. York; the next building was the old schoolhouse that stood in the yard of the present one; the next was the Blake Roberts house (built by Haskell Farnham) on the left; on the right was a part of what is now the Dr. Thomas house.

The next was a pretty little cottage known as the Sylvester Washburn house that stood on the top of the hills where the Caribou House was burned a number of years ago, and was a part of the same.



JUDAH D. TEAGUE





Here there was a road that turned to the right which led to the ferry across the river. Leaving that road we will keep on down the hill and here we come to the old Dr. Sawin house, which you all remember. It was then dignified by the name of tavern and was built by Mr. Bickford in 1857. The blacksmith shop of the place was in front of where the Universalist Church now stands.

Exactly where the road is now, stood the Adams store and the road wound out around on the bank to the east of it, and on down the hill. At the foot was the gristmill, the machine shop (built by Sylvester Washburn in 1859) and some other buildings down stream and the sawmill upstream.

On the place where the present Vaughan House stands was a house (Vaughan's) that was burned later. The store that is now occupied by Blethen, the jeweler, (the old Vaughan store) and the old Collin's store, with the little old vine-covered cottage on the right (Mrs. Henrietta Hall's) and Mr. Collins' residence on the left comprised the village of Caribou.

There were no more houses till you had gone up over the hill (North Main Street). Sweden Street was not known then. It was Vaughan's pasture. The school-house was the only church in town, and there a large quarterly meeting could be held where the people came from many miles around.

When you consider that scholars in the out-districts had but a few weeks school each year and some had to go three or four miles to get to it and no wagon to ride in, you need not wonder that we who were children then cannot write an essay now."

What person educated in the supposedly fine schools of the present day could bring a better picture of the past before the reader's eyes than this, No apologies are necessary for this "essay." It is priceless.

Both of these selections are very valuable as containing first-hand recollections of a bygone day.

In 1860 Nathan and Nathaniel Lufkin, cousins, came from Rumford. Nathaniel settled on the Woodland road and Nathan chose what was later known for a long time as the Palmer farm on the Fort Fairfield road, about one and one-half miles from the village proper.

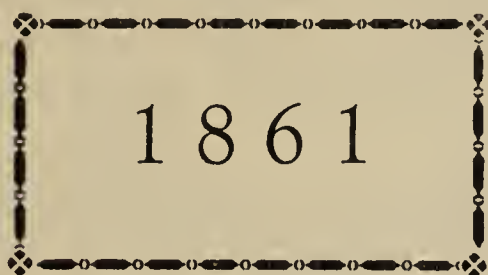
Nathan was a good surveyor and laid out many of the town lines of that time. He was made a Justice of the Peace and the lawyers who came later found Mr. Lufkin a capable and impartial judge. He was local Land Agent for the State for a period of ten years, receiving his first appointment from State Land Agent Chapman in 1863.

Nathan brought his wife and family with him when he came; the children's names were Horace, John, Charles, Sewall, Nancy and Alice. The children, as they grew up, moved away to the West. Before Mr. Lufkin's death, he had made his farm one of the finest in Aroostook. (The west half of the farm is now owned by Henry Haines, the east half by Harold C. Clark.)

In 1860 Luther Merrill came from Turner with his family. He bought of Aleck Cochran for \$100. the block of land on the east side of Main Street, running



from Water Street to the present High Street line and back as far as the L. E. Tuttle house. Mr. Merrill first built a cooper shop or tub and pail factory as it was then called—on the road leading to the Collins saw mill just where the first Collins & Vaughan camp was pitched. There were rooms upstairs to accommodate his family until he got his new house built on a little eminence exactly opposite the entrance of Sweden Street into Main, in after years.



In 1861, George Ross, father of Charles Ross—the well-known furniture dealer in later years—came from Hartland and settled on the Woodland road, but his companion, Charles Doe from Fairfield settled on the lot opposite George Sampson on the Presque Isle road, later called the Hitchings farm. Charles Doe had four children, Charles, George, Frank and Fannie.

Judah Dana Teague came from Turner in 1861 with his family. He first bought out Mr. Vaughan's stock, and continued business in the old store, also taking over the postoffice. In 1864 Mr. Teague and J. S. Arnold bought the Aleck Cochran holdings on the east side of what is now called North Main Street, comprising all the land running to the Caribou stream and the Aroostook River, except the Merrill and Barrett lots which had previously been sold.

Soon after this Mr. Teague built, near the top of the hill, a large house which has now been moved a short distance down hill then back on the present Park Street, now owned by George Harmon.

In 1865 Mr. Teague sold out his interest in the Vaughan store to the Dwinal brothers, sons of Captain Amos Dwinal (who kept the postoffice until 1873). Mr. Teague then moved into his new house, after which he gave more of his time to farming.

In 1860 the Legislature created the office of Trial Justice. Mr. Teague was appointed to this office in Lyndon soon after his arrival and he held it until the time of his death.

He was always one of the strong men of the community and held in much respect, having held the positions of Town Clerk, Treasurer, Selectman and Representative to the Legislature besides that of Trial Justice. He was married twice, his first wife, Evaline Morse was with him when he came to Caribou with five children: Milton, Eliza, Mary, Alletta and Clara. Two more children, Kate and Richard were born in Caribou. Their mother lived seven years after coming here, dying in 1868.

Mr. Teague's second wife was Ann E. Small who came from Fort Fairfield to teach in the village school. Incidentally it may be mentioned that she opened her heart and her dining room occasionally to teach young scholars after her marriage — though her domestic duties were heavy — so anxious was she to further the educational facilities of the little village. She had three children who lived to maturity, Dana, Electra and Donald, all of the latter children are married and living in California.

The Teague children: Milton, married Clara, eldest



MILTON D. TEAGUE





daughter of S. W. Collins; Eliza, married Arthur, eldest son of Joseph Goud; Mary, married Charles Smith of Bridgewater; Alletta, married John Wilson of Salina, Kansas; Clara, married R. A. Burch of Salina, Kansas; Kate, married Fuller Bradstreet of Bridgewater; Richard, married (1) Alice Long of Ellsworth, Kansas, (2) Hattie Lassen of Ventura, Cal.; Dana, married Pansy Brewster of Ventura, Cal. (who died recently); Donald, married Susie Lewis, daughter of Clayton Lewis of Caribou. Last three children living in California, the other seven deceased.

Mr. Teague was born in Turner in 1821, died in Caribou in 1896. Ann E. Teague, born in Livermore in 1842, died in 1926 at the home of her daughter, Electra, in Santa Paula, California.

If one likes genealogy they can find in the Caribou Library the genealogy of some of the early pioneers of Caribou in the book "Your Folks and Our Folks" compiled by Mrs. Clara Teague Gries and Mrs. Florence Collins Pooler, grand daughters of Ivory Hardison, daughters of Samuel W. Collins, and one of them a daughter-in-law of Judah Teague, thus having close connection with three pioneer families. This book gives much information and pleasure, being written in an interesting way.

Another man coming in 1861 was Nathaniel Bartlett from the good old town of Hartford which had already given to Caribou so many valuable citizens. Mr. Bartlett first purchased the farm on the Van Buren road, now called the Hewett farm.

Later, in 1863, his father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. Americus Bartlett came with another son, Osgood — half brother to Nathaniel — and leaving them in care of the farm, Nathaniel went to the village in 1864. He built a small store building—the third store in town—just below it, which enlarged, is standing to-day on the corner of Main and High streets; here he carried a general stock of goods.

In 1865, Nathaniel bought of S. W. Collins the house, so long known afterward as the Henrietta Hall house, and married Ruth Abigail, daughter of Winslow Hall. Mr. Bartlett was postmaster and express agent for many years, the postoffice being on the upper corner of the building facing Main Street.

Mrs. Bartlett was very well known in the community as she opened the first millinery store in town — a long step in advance — a boon to the settler ladies. Her first venture was in a small shop on the corner of Main and (the present) Sweden streets, facing Main Street. Mrs. Bartlett, later, moved to a store her husband had built on High Street, next to his first store on the corner. Mr. Bartlett carried on his express business for many years in this new building, which contained also his wife's millinery store. Overhead were spacious and comfortable living rooms where Mr. and Mrs. Bartlett made their home. They had one son, Roy, who only lived long enough to graduate from Bowdoin College — an untimely ending of a life of brilliant promise.

In 1861 John Colby Whittier, whose wife, Rebecca, was the sister of Alonzo Burgess, moved from Rock-



land to Aroostook and settled in the same region that Sidney Smiley and Alonzo Burgess had chosen, on the old Washburn road. This was no more than a logging road leading to the tiny settlement of Washburn, nine miles from Lyndon (first settled in 1829, fourteen years before Caribou).

Colby Whittier's son, Charles G., married Ruth Keech, — the author of "Reminiscences" — in 1864, and they bought, a little later, a farm next to her father's, the Keech farm — where they lived many years and had seven children, Milo, Mericos, Colon, Charles, Olive, Viora and Florence.

This year of 1861 was the first year of the Civil War which early began to decimate the little settlement as there were more than fifty young men who left for the front. The call of patriotism was strong even in this little community in "far-off northern Maine".

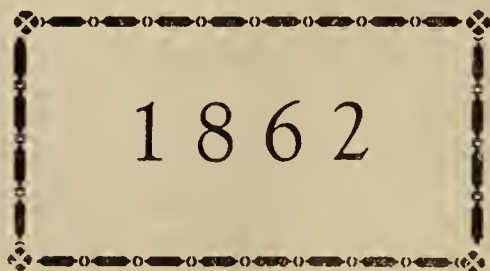
List of those who left Caribou to serve in the War of the Rebellion.

Ansel G. Taylor	William Langley
Americus Bartlett	Lawrence Kelley
Rufus Teague	Patrick Kelley
Milo Keech	Joseph Gulliver
Joseph Vance	Roscoe Morse
Robert Vance	Josiah Morse
Richard Vance	Joseph Field
Mark Ellis	Lemuel Field
George Ellis	John Gallagher
Lewis Sturdevant	Walter Kelley

Nicholas Somers	Albert J. Sharp
Elias Keech	Henry Sharp
Rodney Bickford	Artson K. Pratt
Howard P. Todd	Luther Parsons
Amos Kelley	B. P. Webb
Moses Langley	Edwin York
Weston Adams	A. S. Fields
Dana Brown	William Kelley
Daniel O. Todd	Oliver Bubar
Enoch Hall	George O. Field
John Gulliver	Frank Brown
Ezekiel Le Vasseur	Zadoc Forbes
Charles Small	William Bubar
Alva Small	Thomas Walton
Joseph Shaw	Pierce Thompson
Belanie Theriault	Horace Hall

The writer cannot vouch for the absolute correctness of this list and has no exact knowledge of how many of these returned.

Attention might be called to the number of Canadian families settled along the Aroostook River between Caribou and Fort Fairfield in the early days, who are represented by their young men in the foregoing list viz: the Langley, Kelley, Bubar, Gulliver Somers, Gallagher, Forbes, and Walton families.



Frank Records came from Readfield in 1862 and engaged in what was then the important business of hauling freight or "teaming" — as it was then called—

from Bangor to Lyndon. At that time it took four and six-horse teams to go to Bangor, a distance of one hundred and seventy five miles going and an equal number of miles coming back, the time taken depending upon the season of year, about twice as long in the spring as at any other season. Mr. Records married Clara, a daughter of Daniel Manson of Houlton, and they had one daughter, Winifred, who married Elmer Arnold, second son of John S. Arnold. The Records lived in the first dwelling house built on Sweden Street, a small yellow house almost covered with vines (moved away now to make room for the post office.)

In 1862 John S. Arnold came from Bangor with his family, a wife and one boy, Ernest. Two more boys Elmer and Guy were born after their coming to Caribou. Mr. Arnold first rented the Adams store, then newly built, and went into business: then in 1865 he built for himself what is known as the Holmes block (much enlarged however in later years) on the upper corner of Main and Sweden streets where he "kept store" — the fourth in town — and had a hall above for the "shows" and other gatherings of the community.

About 1870 Mr. Arnold took into partnership Warren S. Dwinal, a son of Captain Amos Dwinal, another Oxford County man, who had previously been keeping a furniture store in the building on the bridge first built for a tannery.

The firm of Arnold & Dwinal became an important one for that day, dealing in most of the commodi-

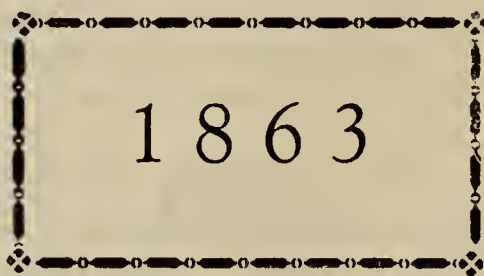


ties people really needed—the first time this could be said of a Caribou store. Living became easier in the community from then on. Better dress goods appeared on the shelves and the settler ladies had better dresses — as well as better hats.

Mr. Arnold bought the house opposite the Holmes block, originally built by Luther Merrill for himself. Luther, deciding later to buy a farm instead, he sold the house in 1872 to Rev. W. T. Sleeper who sold it in about two years (1874) to Mr. Arnold as hereinbefore mentioned.

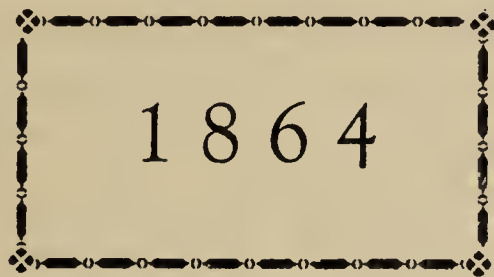
Mr. Arnold was elected to the State Senate in 1874 and was one of the leading men in politics and town affairs. In later years Mr. and Mrs. Arnold moved to Minneapolis to be near their eldest son, Ernest, and they died there.

Mr. Dwinal had built in 1860 on North Main Street, the house afterward occupied for many years by George H. Howe, step-son of Albe Holmes. The era of log cabins and even plain frame houses was now passing away and these houses just spoken of were really attractive in their architecture though not large.



In 1863, James Page of Harmony, a son-in-law of Elder James Withee, came to Lyndon with his family and built the house opposite Dr. Sincock's house on South Main Street; afterwards in 1867, selling it to Joseph Gary and moving to a farm on the New Sweden

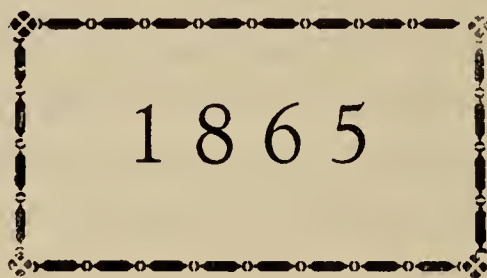
road, now owned by Samuel Wilcox. Later, he moved back to the village, building himself a home on Sweden Street now occupied by John Somers. The Pages had six children; Alice, Marion (who married Samuel Little), Schuyler, Ora, Vesta and Charles. All were married and all but two are deceased. Ora is living, in California, Charles in Caribou.



In 1864 John L. Smith exchanged his farm on the Presque Isle road for Sylvester Washburn's sash and blind factory in the village, and the next year, in 1865, Mr. Smith also bought of Mr. Washburn the house at the top of the hill, just above the Bickford house, that Mr. Washburn had built for himself in 1859.

Salmon Jones, wife and young son and his brother-in-law, Lloyd Briggs and wife came together from Turner in February 1864. They took up three lots of land on the Van Buren road, about three miles from the village, Mr. Jones taking the farm afterwards known as the Fred Roberts farm, now owned by John Bouchard; Mr. Briggs took the farm now owned by Scanlon Barrett. These farms were among the first in those early days to attain a high state of cultivation.

Mr. and Mrs. Jones had one son, Horace, who became very well known to the Caribou public because of his jewelry store on Sweden Street, which he carried on for twenty years or more, the store afterwards owned by Howard Spencer for many years. Horace married Eliza Gardner of Dennysville and their home was on High Street, (now occupied by Mrs. E. F. Shaw). Later, Mr. Briggs sold his farm and came down to the village to live, buying the house Abram Sawin built at the top of North Main Street hill, where Charles Bishop's new house stands today. Mr. Briggs had two daughters, Gertrude, the elder, marrying A. G. Danforth, a dentist, died not long after, leaving an infant daughter Gertrude; and Faustina, marrying Willis L. Oak, brother of Charles and Fred,



In 1865 Luke Smith moved to the village, building himself a home on York Street and buying the planing mill from his brother, John L. who had bought it only the year before of Sylvester Washburn by giving his farm in exchange for the mill. Luke had sons, Orlando, Will and Clinton to help him run the mill (which Orlando did for many years) while John had only girls, two of them, Inez and Sophia. Perhaps that made the difference.

John L. ran the Washburn house he had bought as a small hotel — the Caribou House — assisted for a time by his son-in-law, Joseph Gary. This lasted a



year or two, then Mr. Smith sold the little hotel to Harry Small, son of Cyrus, who, enlarging it somewhat, conducted it until it was burned in the late seventies.

In 1865 Captain Dwinal sold his farm and moved to the village, buying a house built the year before by John B. Hayes who had come with the idea of remaining, evidently, as he had bought a desirable building lot and built a nice looking house but had, just as evidently, decided not to stay, which was to the advantage of Captain Dwinal in securing a really desirable house, now for some time known as the Elmer Powers house. Captain Dwinal's son, Warren, had built in 1860 the house now occupied by Reginald Doyle. These two houses were built on adjoining lots, a pleasant arrangement doubtless for father and son. (The houses on these lots have been so modernized as to be unrecognizable as old landmarks.)

The county road — the Sweden Street and road of the present day — was located in 1865, running west from the main road which led to Van Buren. The county road was just "grubbed out," a rough corduroy road over a cedar swamp, which was Mr. Vaughan's pasture with bars protecting his cattle from the Main Street traffic!

We learn from a sketch of Caribou published in the "Loyal Sunrise" of Presque Isle in 1865, that the little "village comprised three stores, a sash and blind

factory, a tannery, a blacksmith shop, a gristmill, a tub and pail factory, one tavern and seventeen private dwellings", a true picture of the time. The Vaughan House built in 1860 was burned July, 1863 but was immediately rebuilt on a larger scale with a good hall in the second story of the ell. This was the "one tavern" alluded to.

The ending of the Civil War, which had drawn rather heavily upon the young men of this sparsely settled community brought in — as if in partial compensation — quite a number of newcomers, unsettled by the war, looking for new fields of endeavor, new opportunities, new homes.

Lauriston R. King, a native of Dixfield, the first lawyer to settle in Caribou, came that year (1865) with a general education gained at Bethel Academy and Lewiston Seminary (now Bates College). His legal education was acquired by study and later, partnership, with Judge William Wirt Virgin of Norway, a Supreme Court Justice of that period. Mr. King was one of those returning from two years service in the army who was fired with the idea of going to some new field, finally deciding upon Aroostook.

He, his wife and young son, Carl, four years old started from Dixfield, April 10, 1865, taking the Farmington branch train for Houlton. The first night they spent in Bangor, the second in Mattawamkeag, the third night they landed in Richmond, N. B., six

miles from Houlton, from whence "hacks" took passengers to Houlton where they spent the night at a hotel. The journey thus far had been taken by rail but the next morning the Kings took the stage, a vehicle on wheels, for Presque Isle where they spent the fourth night. The road, though it had been built by the State twenty-two years before, was nothing like the State roads of today. This one was in miserable condition at that time of year, mostly of corduroy (log) construction alternating with swamps, going "through hell and high water", the horses slumping at every step in the soft, deep snow. Resuming the stage journey the next morning the King family, finding much more snow than bare ground, left the stage at Maysville to hire a man with horse and "pung" — a cross between a sleigh and a sled — to take them the rest of the way to Caribou which they reached the night of April 14, 1865. This was the night of Abraham Lincoln's assassination in the Ford Theatre at Washington, as it happened, but the town of Lyndon did not get the news for a week or two. (Think of the radio flashes today that would carry the news of such importance as a President's assassination clear around the world from Washington to London, Berlin, Moscow, Chungking and to all the small towns between, in five minutes.)

This journey took five days by railroad, stagecoach and pung, but compared with the journeys of the first settlers with their families — taking from sixteen to thirty days according to the season, it was a great improvement — to speak mildly.



When Mr. King arrived in the little settlement of Letter H Plantation the population of the whole township could not have been more than 250 as the census of 1870 showed a population of 297. The tiny village had only seventeen dwelling houses and Mr. King was fortunate to find almost at once a house for sale. This was the house Mr. York had built in 1859 for his family on the lot now occupied by the Merrithew house, the old house having been moved back on the present Sincock Street. The Yorks were desirous of returning to Bethel on account of Mrs. York's continued ill health.

The next winter, to eke out the scanty income from his law practice, not large enough to support his family, though only three in number, Mr. King taught the village school in the little one-room school house next door. This had thirty or forty scholars of all ages, from four to twenty one, all of whom were Mr. King's firm friends through the succeeding years. (Teaching school pays — sometimes.)

In the summer of 1865 Corydon Powers of Hanover (near Bethel) came with his cousin, Edwin Brown, Mr. Powers having served with honor through the Civil War. He naturally looked up the Oxford County people, among the first being Hazen Keech on the Limestone road. Here he stayed awhile and before the year was out he had married Abigail, one of Mr. Keech's daughters. Mr. Powers after his marriage helped Mr. Keech in carrying on the farm, a farm of over four hundred acres but only a comparatively few that were cleared. Later, he took over the care of it

altogether as his father-in-law's health declined, until his twin sons, Elmer and Delmer were old enough to assume some, and later all, of the care. (The other members of the family who lived to mature years were: Leila who married George Washburn but who died not long after, leaving one daughter, Eva; Birdina who married Olof Pierson; and Bertha who married Atwood Spaulding now deceased, a son of W. C. Spaulding.

Elmer married Harriet Colburn of Orono, and Delmer married Ella Scott of Caribou. Later, they bought houses in town for winter residences; Elmer, the home of Capt. Dwinal, in later years occupied by Eugene Holmes and his family; Delmer bought the J. A. Clark house, a large and handsome home on High Street. Corydon Powers, himself, bought in 1908 a house on North Main Street — built by S. L. White— for an all-year-round home; since his decease, occupied by his daughter and her husband, Mr. and Mrs. Olaf Pierson. The sons are both deceased, the daughters are both living. The farm, now about eighty five years old, is still in the possession of the Powers family. Corydon Powers died in Caribou, June 18, 1911, Mrs. Powers, April 5, 1916.

Edwin Brown, the cousin who came with Corydon Powers, purchased a farm on the New Sweden road, next south of the farm of George F. Ellingwood, his brother-in-law. The Ellingwood farm — taken up five years before — is now owned by George Brown. Edwin's farm is still in the possession of the Brown family.

The Ellingwood men, had much skill in building, and after some years of farming, they decided to move into the village. This they did and the boys, Ferdinand and Warren, united with their father in establishing the firm of G. F. Ellingwood and Sons

They secured a very central location on the present site of the Hutchinson Steam Laundry. The first building they used was leased from Orlando Smith, supposably the one built by Sylvester Washburn in the very early days, then sold by him in 1864 to Luke Smith, Orlando's father. This building was used only two years and then was burned, to be rebuilt in 1868 by Ellingwood and Sons who used it as a planing mill to May 1910 when they sold the property to M. S. Hutchinson of Houlton, whose son, Lawrence, is now operating the laundry set up by his father.

George F. Ellingwood married in Bethel, Jane Bradbury, a daughter of John Bradbury who with his son-in-law, Joseph Goud, helped make up the group of seven men who came to Aroostook in 1859. The Ellingwoods had five sons and one daughter; Jane married Jefferson McIntyre of Woodland; Ferdinand, married Gertrude McIntyre of Woodland. Warren married Fannie Doe, daughter of Charles Doe. They had three daughters, all married. Warrena Waalewyn, Edith McNeal and Mildred Bradford; the first two still living, Mrs. Waalewyn in Houlton, Mrs. McNeal in Caribou. William S., George H. and Eugene are the Ellingwood sons not surviving.

Another returned soldier coming in 1865 was Joseph Gary of Bradford, brother of Mrs. John Arnold.



He soon found a bride in the person of Inez, elder daughter of John L. Smith; assisted his father-in-law for a time in the management of the cottage hotel called the Caribou House but bought in 1867 the house opposite the Dr. Sincock house and occupied it with his family for some years. In company with John Arnold and Warren Dwinal, he bought a mill on the Madawaska stream, Mr. Gary afterwards acquiring full possession and operating it for a time alone until it burned. For many years, Mr. Gary was postmaster in Caribou village, which made him very well known to old and young. In those days the postmasters of the towns required little help so the face of the postmaster himself was almost always the one seen in the delivery window.

Levi Gary, younger brother of Joseph, and of Mrs. Arnold, did not come until several years later. He married Sophia, younger daughter of John L. Smith; he had two daughters, Lillian, who married Eugene Holmes, and Lestina, unmarried. Later in life, Levi Gary was Sheriff of Aroostook County becoming well known throughout the county. (He died in 1929 at Pomona, California where he and his family had been living for some time previously. His wife and both daughters survive him.)

Another man coming in 1865 was Abram Sawin from Livermore, whose wife Nancy, was a half-sister of S. W. Collins. In July 1869 Abram bought the house

built by Bickford in 1847, and lived there until he sold to his brother, Lysander in December 1874. Mr. Sawin went in business with Milton D. Teague, eldest son of J. D. Teague, in the new store just built by W. A. Vaughan on the corner just below his old store, both store lots being occupied by the Bouchard block of to-day. The new store of Sawin and Teague carried a large general stock and they had a good business.

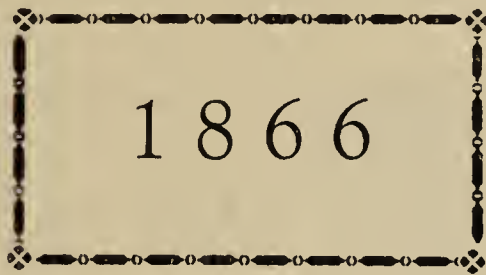
In the second story of the new building occupied by Sawin and Teague there was a very good hall for those times. All the entertainments and dances were held here for the next ten years, a dining room being located under the roof — which might be called the third story — where beautiful (canned) oyster stews were provided at the intermissions of the dances or adult spelling-bees. (A community must have amusements!) Just before this the hall had been over John Arnold's store (Holmes block) a little farther up the street.

When Abram Sawin sold the Bickford house to Lysander in 1874 he built himself a new house on North Main Street; Around 1880 he decided to go away and sold his house to Lloyd Briggs who, with his family lived in it many years thereafter.

Another brother of Abram Sawin was Charles, who came to Aroostook to visit Abraham and later married Ellen Dwinal, only daughter of Capt. Amos and Sally (Small) Dwinal; had one daughter, Sherbie. This family moved away with Abram's family to the middle West.

Alden Green came from Houlton in 1865 and clerk-

ed in Adams' store. The next year, 1866, he "married the boss' daughter" — Mr. Adams' eldest daughter, Maria — and in 1870 Mr. Green built the house — now standing behind the Cary Hospital — where he resided a few years, then sold to Dr. Jefferson Cary, as he, Mr. Green, was leaving town.

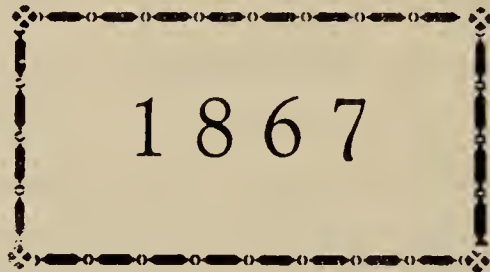


A. M. York who had returned to Bethel in 1865 stayed there only one year. He then came back and built himself another house on the next lot south of his first house sold to L. R. King and brought his family back. His second house is the one now known as the Universalist Parsonage. Mr. York lived here many years with his wife and children, Frank, Fred, Lilla and Nellie, all now deceased, the last only recently. Nellie married George O. Smith who came to Caribou from Bethel about 1879. Lilla, married Frank Roberts, (son of Elder J. P. Roberts) who became a lawyer; Fred married Letitia Gallagher of Presque Isle; Frank married Leontine Cayouette of Caribou.

The first brass band was organized about this time by Salmon Jones and led by Lloyd Briggs, true lovers of music. The other members were Charles Harmon, Warren Dwinal, John Brown, George F. Ellingwood, Nathaniel Brown, Frank Smiley, Sylvester Washburn,



Abram Sawin, Alden Green, Luke Smith, Frank Goud and Watson Starbird, nearly the whole male population of the town at that time, it would seem. This group just named furnished a nucleus for a band for some years; at times increasing in number and at times decreasing as members came and went, older ones going out and younger ones coming in as the years went by:



In 1867 Frank Records built for himself a little house where the present Postoffice stands on Sweden Street. This house was the only dwelling house between Main Street and Haskell Farnham's farm at Farnham Brook — named for him — nearly a mile from the village proper. (Not until 1879 was another house, the James Page house, built between the Records house and Farnham Brook. The Page house is now occupied by John Somers and was the beginning of the building up of Sweden Street as a residential section.)

In the summer of 1867 the first church edifice was erected. Up to this time the religious meetings had been held in barns in different portions of the township and in the little one-room schoolhouse for those who lived in the small village or on the more centrally located farms, all denominations uniting. But the people



Universalist Church as first built in 1867





had felt for some time that they ought to have a real church dedicated to the worship of God, exclusively, so that summer the Union Meeting House was built.

Sylvester Washburn and George F. Ellingwood built this church, and the money to build it was raised in large part by the sale of pews at prices varying from \$50. to \$100. each. On July 20, 1867 occurred the Meeting House Raising, which meant in olden times, a gathering of all the able-bodied men in a community to raise the frame of a barn or any large building. The dedication of this church took place the next winter.

It is told that the large Bible presented to the church by Charles H. Doe at its dedication, cost \$16.— a goodly sum for those days. The different denominations continued to worship together for a time, being supplied with preaching by missionaries sent by the Maine Baptist Society for any denomination. One of the best remembered of the early preachers in this church is Rev. Charles W. Porter, a Congregational minister who came in 1872 and who married Florence, second daughter of S. W. Collins.

This realistic description is taken from a booklet entitled "History of the First Universalist Church of Caribou", written in 1935 by Mrs. Lora King Sincock.

"The church had a raised platform at the back for the choir and when they sang, the audience turned around back to the minister facing the singers, turning again when the hymn had been sung. The way the church was heated was by having holes cut in the floor of each pew about four by eight inches, covered by a piece of tin. This tin was held down by a piece of wood nailed across it so the occupants could regulate the heat by turning the tin around as much or as

little as was necessary to let the heat come up. The furnace was a large box stove located in a hole dug under the church, there being no real cellar."

Mrs. Sincock goes on to say:

"It is impossible to get the exact date but it must have been about 1875 that a Universalist Parish was organized as there is an old, yellowed paper signed by L. R. King, Secretary, which records the organization of a Universalist Parish with the following officers: President, Benjamin L. Briggs; Vice Presidents, Joel Ireland and E. D. Stiles; Trustees, Benjamin Briggs, Theodocius Merrill, Jacob Hardison, Jackson Philbrick, Mrs. S. W. Collins, Mrs. Luther Merrill, Mrs. Jacob Hardison; Treasurer, Jacob Hardison. In 1885 the Methodists had withdrawn, leaving the Congregationalists and Universalists undisputed possessor of the Union Meeting House pulpit.

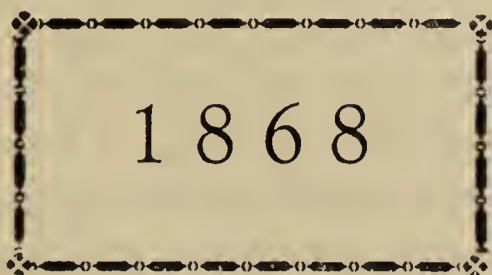
Here is a stray record of a meeting held January 21, 1895 when the following officers were elected: Arthur V. Goud, moderator; Mrs. J. D. Teague, treasurer; Trustees, W. C. Spaulding, Haines Hardison, Horace E. Jones, Florence C. Porter and William McLellan.

The Baptists were the first to withdraw from this Union Meeting House under the leadership of Rev. I. E. Bill, holding their meetings in Vaughan's hall (over Sawin and Teague's store) at first, later building themselves the church on High Street about 1878, but which they did not complete until 1880."

(In passing, it may be mentioned that this was

the first building on High Street which up to this time was but little more than a path through the woods connecting Main Street with the road running from Water Street up over the hill by the E. J. Fenderson house (built by John Arnold) to the David Collins, Hazen Keech and Charles Whittier farms. Samuel Taylor's house at the end of High Street, built in 1879 was the first dwelling house on the street.)

The selectmen of the town of Lyndon in 1865 were: Cephas Sampson, Sylvester Washburn, Charles Doe. In the four following years they were: 1866—Nathaniel Bartlett, Cephas Sampson, J. D. Teague. 1867—S. W. Collins, J. B. Hayes, L. R. King. 1868—Nathaniel Bartlett, John Arnold, Grinfill Hall. 1869—J. D. Teague, Nathan Lufkin, Salmon Jones. Warren Dwinal was Town Clerk most of the time from 1861 to 1876. All "good men and true".



In 1868 Lysander W. Sawin, brother of Abram, both from Livermore, came to Lyndon and having had two years of study at Harvard Medical School, he practiced medicine quite extensively for a time. He had also taken a course in dentistry and for years served the country round about as the only dentist, and only druggist as well. It would seem almost as if he had specially prepared himself for usefulness in a pioneer



community though he had no degree in anything as demanded at the present day. When he opened a drug store with a knowledge of medicine and a dental chair it seemed that there was nothing more needed in the town which, hitherto, had been somewhat lacking in professional services.

In 1870 Dr. Sawin — as he was always called — married Martha, younger daughter of David Adams. In December, 1874 he bought of his brother, Abram for a home, the house built by Joseph Bickford in 1847, the second house built in Caribou village. It was a landmark in the village for more than sixty years as a relic of old times and for this reason seems to rate a little historical sketch even if no longer standing on the old corner lot.

Though it always had been called the Bickford house (or tavern) it was owned by W. A. Vaughan but occupied by Mr. Bickford, Vaughan's father-in-law, who, most of the time, ran it for Mr. Vaughan as a tavern, and also operated the grist mill belonging to Mr. Vaughan, just below his house. In 1869 Mr. Vaughan — possibly at Mr. Bickford's death — sold the house to Abram Sawin who in turn sold it to his brother, Lysander, in 1874 - as before mentioned.

In 1880 Dr. Sawin built himself a house on the upper corner of the lot by the side of the Caribou House which was on the site now occupied by the Ford Motor Company. The house that Sawin had built was sold in 1888 to Billy Theriault who sold it two days later to Mitchell Trusty. The Trustys lived there the rest of their lives and the house is now occupied by George Trusty, their adopted son. In 1890 Dr. Sawin sold the old house on the corner, together with one he

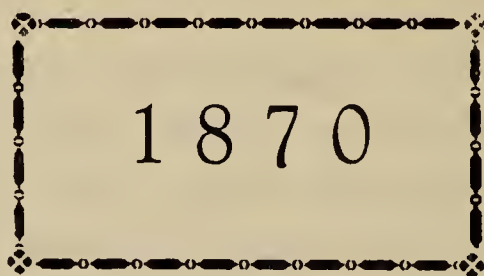
had started to build between that and the Trusty house to Mrs. Otis Gardner, the sale including the strip of land along Grove Street. Mrs. Gardner finished the building of the house that Dr. Sawin had begun, afterwards selling in 1909 the whole property to O. A. Atherton who lives in the house next to the Trusty house

In 1910 Mr. Atherton sold the old corner house to Frank Hughes who tore it down and moved it to his farm on the Madawaska road. Mr. Atherton then built a new house on the site of the old Sawin house — as it was then called — and Mrs. Martha Maher now lives there. Thus endeth the story of the old Bickford (or Sawin) house.

To leave the “old house”: after building the Trusty house, Dr. Sawin built a little shop just above his house where he opened the first drug store in Caribou. This was soon burned but he immediately rebuilt on the opposite side of the street and a little farther down — the “old laundry building” — which he occupied as a drug store for a while, then, thinking it a better location, he built another store building on the Caribou stream — where Ritchie’s drug store stands today — and continued the drug business until 1887 when he sold the business and building to S. L. White of St. John, N. B. and Houlton. In addition to dispensing both drugs and medical advice over the counter, Dr. Sawin had a dental chair and billiard table in the back part of his store where he also kept wall-paper. So his business was not lacking in variety.

The upper story of the building was occupied by the Masons, the first Masonic hall in town, and Dr. Sawin was one of the charter members of Lyndon Lodge No. 170, organized in 1873.

(As his health was failing, Dr. Sawin moved to Lewiston in 1900 to be near his daughter Josephine, a trained nurse, but the next year removed to Cundy's Harbor, Harpswell, Maine, where he died in June, 1901 at the age of 73.)



The coming of the Swedish colony in 1870 gave increasing impetus to the growth of the town. A supper and lodging for the night was furnished to the colonists — some seventy in number — in the hall over Arnold's store by the citizens of Caribou on the night of their arrival July 30, 1870. The colonists came to St. John, N. B. by steam vessel from old Sweden, then took a smaller steam boat up the St. John River to Andover from whence they were conveyed to their destination by teams driven down by Caribou citizens, Jacob Hardison in charge, to meet them.

The members of the little colony were brought over by William Widgery Thomas of Portland, Maine, (American Consul to Sweden, first, afterwards made United States Commissioner of Immigration) to carry out his plan for a Swedish colony in northern Maine.

They were set down in the wilderness — a township adjoining Caribou, where a road had been "swamped out" from Caribou, some clearings had been made, and twenty five log cabins had been built by the State, supervised by Jacob Hardison. By act



of Legislature the previous winter, the State had granted this land to a Swedish colony, in response to an appeal by Mr. Thomas, as being advantageous to the state.

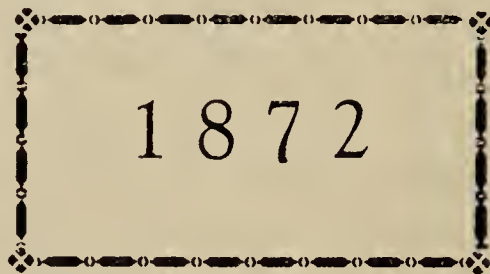
Commissioner Thomas stayed with them for a year or two until his charges had learned some English and could "fend for themselves". The Swedes were obliged to come to Caribou, eight or nine miles, for nearly all the necessities of life except what they could raise. At first they walked to town beside an ox-team, some times with ox and horse harnessed together, to get supplies. As Swedes are the most industrious and thrifty people in the world, the colony grew steadily, though slowly, and thrived, and their trade helped the Caribou stores — even then only six in number — those of S. W. Collins, D. F. Adams, Ly-sander Sawin, Dwinal Bros. (in the old Vaughan store) John S. Arnold and N. Bartlett. The stores and the colonists were of mutual assistance and equal advantage to each other. (The most cordial relations have always existed between the Caribou townspeople and their Swedish-American neighbors, living side by side for nearly three quarters of a century.)

(Not many years after their coming the Swedish people began sending their children to the Caribou High School and have continued doing so until now there some forty scholars coming from the Swedish settlements every year and many of these go on to the Maine colleges gaining high rank in many instances.)

By 1870 the town valuation was \$127,279.; the population was 1410, nearly five times as large as that

of 1860 when it was only 297. The town of Lyndon had really begun to grow in this decade from 1860 to 1870. Probably the addition of three adjoining plantations, Letter I, Sheridan and Eaton Grant in 1869 had something to do with this rapid increase of population. Lyndon was now a double township, twelve miles in length and six miles in width.

The town expenses, however, were comparatively small. The annual salary paid to the first selectman was only \$48., or \$4. a month; to the second selectman \$17.50 annually, or 35 cents a week. The Superintendent of the School Committee received the compensation of \$22.74 for a years work — driving long distances to visit the district schools — and the Town Treasurer received \$25. annually, probably just his expenses. These fine citizens practically gave their services.



Albe Holmes first came to Caribou in 1872 from Boston with the idea of establishing a starch factory, being interested in two or three such factories in New Hampshire, his native state. He was pleased with the country and at once decided to build a starch factory in Caribou — the first in the state — purchasing the old, abandoned Aleck Cochran mill property for this purpose. The town built a bridge across the stream at this point, for him. Contracts were made with the farmers for planting a large acreage of potatoes, and in many instances money was advanced for this pur-

pose. This was the beginning of the great starch and potato industry in Aroostook County, the industry that was to make the county famous in future years.

The factory first built by Mr. Holmes was enlarged until it became one of the largest in the country, and factories were also built by him in Van Buren and Grand Isle. The industry developed a cash market that was greatly needed and farming as an occupation took on a more encouraging aspect even though there was no railroad. It may be said that Mr. Holmes did more than any other one man for the wonderful development of the potato industry.

(He remained in Caribou until his death in April, 1900, leaving a step-son, George H. Howe, (now deceased) a daughter, Nellie of Medford, Mass. and a son, Eugene, lawyer in California, first in Los Angeles, now residing in Pomona.)

Until now this narrative has been "the short and simple annals of the poor" but the starch industry brought real money into northern Aroostook instead of barter and exchange and much more opulence became visible ever thereafter.

In August of 1872, the second young lawyer came to town — C. B. Roberts, son of Elder J. P. Roberts. Blake, as he was familiarly known, had left his home on Green Ridge at eighteen yeers of age to obtain an education. Part of the time was spent in Farmington Normal School, from which he graduated, and in



territory that had to be covered by horse and buggy or sleigh. No automobiles then, not a hospital or trained nurse in the county, and he drove night and day for the alleviation of suffering. How much harder was the life of a country doctor then than now!

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas had four children, Bertha, Louise, Edna and Charles, the last of whom is following his father's profession in Caribou today. Louise and Edna are living in Florida where the family went to live in their later years, and where the doctor, his wife, and Bertha died and are buried.

Just thirty years have now elapsed since the coming of the first American settlers. The foregoing pages show something of what growth had taken place in that time. The next twenty years will show a much more rapid gain.

John Sincock, an expert miller, came from Heston, Cornwall, England in 1859 to America to view the country with the idea of bringing his family here to live. He came first to Houlton, having relatives there, then to northern Aroostook where he decided to stay and, within a year, sent for his wife to come to Houlton where he would meet her. She came at once with two small children, on a sailing vessel from Southampton — steam navigation being only in its infancy in 1860 — the journey taking some six weeks from Southampton to Quebec, then from Quebec to Houlton by rail and stage, another two or three days. They went

first to Fort Fairfield to live, then to Presque Isle, but Mr. Sincock decided finally to locate in Caribou and they went there the fall of 1873. He bought of Theodocius Merrill, brother of Luther, the grist mill built by Collins and Vaughan in 1844.

The following spring, April 1874, Mr. Sincock bought a house next to the Blake Roberts house on South Main Street. This house was built in 1868 by Weston Adams who lived in it but a short time before selling it to Mrs. Eliza Pratt, widow of Artson K. Pratt, who died in the south in 1864, a victim of the Civil War. (They were the parents of two daughters, Josephine, the wife of Ai Hardison; Mentora, the wife of Henry Shaw; and three sons, David, Elbridge and Henry B. Pratt). Mrs. Pratt, after making a living in this house as a tailoress for five years, sold it to Mr. Sincock who lived there with his family the rest of his life. The house is now occupied in an enlarged and modernized form by his son, Dr. W. E. Sincock whose office has been in this house more than fifty years.

Mr. and Mrs. Sincock lost the two children who came from England with their mother, but had three children born in this country, Edgar, (the doctor) Louise and Albena. Louise married Warren Runnel's but did not live long afterwards, Albena died unmarried, in young womanhood.

John Sincock died in 1890, his wife in 1908.

Dr. Sincock married Sept. 4, 1902, Lora, daughter of Clarence V. King of Fort Fairfield. They have one daughter, Elizabeth, who married Arthur Kirkpatrick; they have one son, Hugh.

The full history of the Sincock grist mill as an old landmark, only in recent years destroyed by fire,

might be found interesting right here. The mill, it will be remembered, was built by Collins & Vaughan in 1844, the first activity they entered into. At the time of the division of property in 1857. Mr. Vaughan, it may also be remembered, took the grist mill and Mr. Collins the saw mill. Haskell Farnham ran the grist for Mr. Vaughan, until, in 1861, Mr. Collins bought the grist mill from Mr. Vaughan, and operated it until he sold to Theodocius Merrill, brother of Luther, in 1871. Mr. Merrill sold the property in November, 1873 to John Sincock who operated it until July, 1887 when he sold it to Charles A. Collins, Jr. of Yarmouth (no relation to the S. W. Collins family.) Charles Collins, Jr. kept the mill not quite two years, selling it in 1889 to Charles A. Collins of Caribou who sold in 1890 to to the Edwards brothers of Bethel. In 1895 D. W. Edwards sold his interest to his brother, H. A. Edwards and removed to Fort Fairfield where he bought a grist mill and there made his home. H. A. Edwards stayed in Caribou until 1905 when he sold out and went to California to live.

(“To keep the record straight” the mill was sold to George T. Cox in 1912 and at that time was rebuilt with the latest machinery installed. The old mill, the oldest landmark in the village, was destroyed by fire in 1940 but was again rebuilt on a smaller scale because modern mill machinery is more compact. It still goes by the name of the George T. Cox mill though his son James now operates it.

The fall of 1873 W. C. Spaulding of Buckfield came with his wife and two young sons from Fort







WILLIAM C. SPAULDING





MRS. W. C. SPAULDING



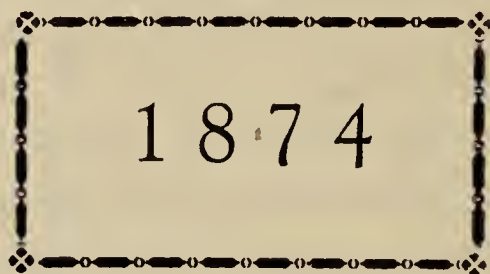


Fairfield, to which town he had first gone, and where he had found his wife, Lavina Sterling. Mr. Spaulding opened a store devoted strictly to hardware — hitherto the stores had been what were called “general stores” — in the N. Bartlett building on the corner of Main and High streets, the first winter. In the spring of 1874, finding there not enough room for a cumbersome stock like hardware, he moved to a store built by Lowell Hardison, a son of Jacob, on Main Street about half way between Sweden Street and Vaughan Avenue. (This store was later moved around facing Sweden Street, next to the Hackett block of the present day. It is now occupied by Ansel Anderson, dealer in men’s clothing.) Mr. Spaulding’s business increased so rapidly owing to the demands of the farms as to require still more room, so in a short time, he rented the building just across the street built by W. A. Vaughan (so long occupied by Olof Pierson as a men’s clothing store). He moved his family into the upstairs rent, and his store, of course, to the street floor. He next moved his stock of hardware to the new three-story King block built in 1879 on the corner of Main and Water streets. In the same year Mr. Spaulding built a handsome house on South Main Street hill — now occupied by Ansel Anderson. Some ten years later he joined with S. W. Collins in building a block containing two stores on Sweden Street, to which each removed his respective business and where they stayed the remainder of their days.

Mr. Spaulding was a keen business man and amassed a handsome fortune, for those times. The elder son, John, who entered his father’s business as soon as he left school, married Louise Burpee of Fort Fair-

field. Atwood, the younger son, who also entered his father's business, married Bertha, youngest daughter of Corydon Powers. He lived only to middle age, John died in early manhood.

Mrs. Spaulding was born in 1848, died April, 1904; Mr. Spaulding born in 1841, died in 1915.



In 1874 the little old black school-house on South Main Street was replaced by what seemed at the time a grand, new two-story school-house painted a glistening white, with a belfry. This permitted two grades — “downstairs” and “upstairs” — the little ones downstairs, the large scholars up-stairs, the Third Reader being the dividing line between the two grades. This school-house was a long step forward in educational progress, much needed, as by this time there were some seventy or more scholars in the village district; varying with the seasons. There were now a large number of scholars in the thirteen school districts into which the seventy two square miles of territory had been divided.

The new school-house had a man teacher upstairs for the winter term when the larger boys attended school. In the summer the school was attended mostly by girls, the boys being obliged to help their fathers with the farm work — no agricultural machinery in those days except the primitive plough, shovel and



hoe. Miss Vesta Page, daughter of James Page taught very acceptably the first term in the upstairs grade of the new school-house the fall of 1874.

(Should there be any curiosity as to what became of this building when the new school building of brick took its place in 1917, it should be told that the I. O. O. F. bought it and moved it across the Caribou stream mill-pond on the ice to its present location on the north side of Herschel Street, west of Aroostook Motors.)

From the first the people of Caribou were very desirous of having as good schools as their means would permit. It must be remembered, always, that no one who came to Caribou in these years had any money to speak of, nothing but hope and ambition, and faith in the future of Aroostook, but they were a fine class of people who took much interest in the education of their children. They did valiant work for good schools in those early days, first as teachers, many of them, afterwards as school supervisors—as they were called then—and in the succeeding years there were many who arose to fill their places as workers for decent educational advantages in the town.

The little village of Caribou was now getting ahead a little but what it really needed was a railroad, toward the getting of which the public-spirited citizens of the town had been bending all their energies for some years. The only rails in the whole county were those on the branch from Debec Junction, N. B. to Houlton, only two and half miles of which were on

Maine soil. And it was a long distance between Caribou and Houlton, too—fifty four miles over terrible roads. How the towns of northern Aroostook grew at all is almost incomprehensible to people of the present day. No wonder the settlers spoke of “going outside” when speaking of going to other portions of the state, so shut in were they from the outer world.

Charters had been obtained at different times for a railroad and efforts had been made to induce capitalists to invest, but without success.

The building of the New Brunswick railroad in the early 70's from McAdam Junction on the European and North American R. R. to Edmunston on the upper St. John gave Lyndon new hopes of getting a road. The N. B. R. R. crossed the St. John River at Perth, N. B. which was less than twenty miles from the village of Caribou. The people of that town saw an opportunity to secure railroad connection with Bangor by building a short road from Caribou village connecting with the New Brunswick railroad at a point near Fort Fairfield. It was a very roundabout route, going through Fort Fairfield to Aroostook Junction—where the Aroostook River R.R. would meet the N. B. R. R.—then changing cars for Woodstock, Debec Junction, McAdam Junction—all in New Brunswick—thence going westerly to Vanceboro, Maine, just across the boundary line between New Brunswick and Maine. At Vanceboro the N. B. R. R. joined the European and North American R. R. on its way from St. John, N. B. to Bangor, going through Danforth, Mattawamkeag, Old Town and Orono, certainly a long and circuitous route.

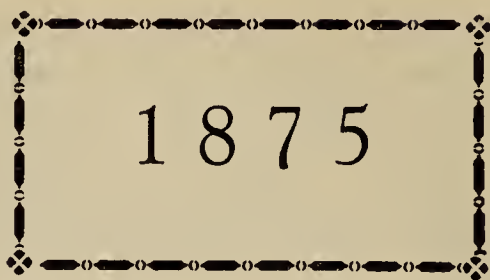


Though a long way around, it was within the means of the Lyndon people more than the building of something like one hundred and seventy five miles of "direct-line" to Bangor which was what they really wanted. It was much better than no railroad at all so they went to work.

A charter for a railroad had been secured in the Legislature the winter of 1873 by L. R. King who was a member that year, as well as the next. (Maine had annual sessions of the Legislature then instead of the biennial sessions of the present day). In the summer of 1873 a preliminary survey had been made and a route laid out. The story of the struggle for a railroad told in the "Souvenir Edition", hereinbefore mentioned, is repeated here.

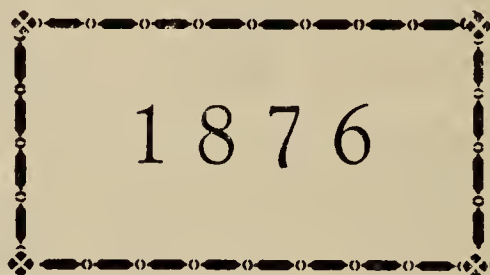
"In 1874 a stock company was formed with the following officers W. T. Sleeper (first editor of the North Star) President, L. R. King, Vice President, and a Board of Directors, (the majority of whom lived in Lyndon) was elected and work was commenced at once. Of course the first requirement was money and a town meeting was called which was holden on August 15th 1874, when it was voted that the town of Lyndon loan its credit for a railroad to connect with the New Brunswick R. R. near Fort Fairfield to the amount of 5% of its valuation if required. Mr. Sleeper soon resigned, as he was about to move away, and at a regular meeting of the directors, L. R. King was elected President, so remaining until the road passed into other hands, Mr. King took an active part with many others in the building of the road and pushing it through to completion, being aided by the people of Lyndon in every way.





“At the regular town meeting on March 22nd 1875 it was voted to loan the credit of the town to the extent of 5% of the taxable property of said town and the selectmen were authorized to issue bonds bearing interest at 8% for twenty years.

“On November 20th of the same year it was voted to further loan the credit of the town to the extent of 2% of the valuation of 1870, the bonds bearing interest at 8% for twenty years.



“At the March meeting of 1876 it was voted to still further aid in the construction of the Aroostook River R. R. by an additional issue of bonds to the extent of 2½% of the valuation of 1870, said bonds to run twenty years at 6% interest.

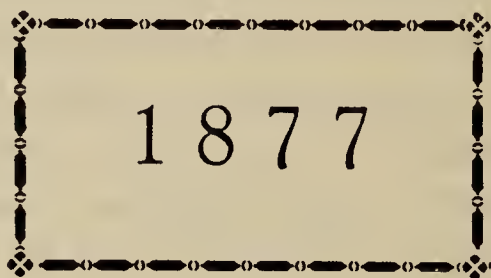
“In the meantime working surveys had been made, rights of way secured, and the work of grading, bridging, etc. was pushed as fast as possible, and with such success, that the road was completed in the fall of 1876. The station was built on the east side of the river, opposite the village, (to eliminate the expense of building a railway bridge across the river). It was

then leased to the N. B. R. R. (now the Canadian Pacific R. R.) for a term of ninety years. In the construction of the road from Fort Fairfield to Caribou no man put in more personal effort than Mr. King and but for his strong determination and perseverance it never would have been built."

When one reads the history of these town-meetings held in a little town of only fifteen or sixteen hundred inhabitants voting steadily for loans and bonds to build a railroad one is filled with admiration of their courage. But their courage was repaid when "the iron horse steamed into town one glad day, December 12th, 1876"—as a newspaper of that time said when describing the event. It was amply rewarded when the next census (1880) was reported showing that the population had increased from 1410 in 1870 to 2856 in 1880—doubling the population of the previous decade—or it might better be said, in the previous five years. The town, at long last, had a railroad.

In the meantime the business section of the village had been building up. About 1875 L. R. King put up a building just south of the present Powers filling station on Main Street. The ground floor was occupied for many years by the Sherwood store, with its general variety stock, forerunner of the modern chain stores like Woolworth's or Newberry's, with offices on the second floor; was destroyed by the fire of 1918.

C. B. Roberts built a small one-story building to serve as an office for himself a little farther down on Main Street. Also a little one-story shop occupied by Mrs. Bartlett as a millinery store had been built across the street, beside Lowell Hardison's little building which he occupied as a book store, incidentally containing the first (circulating) library in town, as all first things are being mentioned. By this time the blackened stumps, left from "clearings", which had long disfigured the landscape outside of the village had disappeared gradually, and their places had been taken by "green fields and pastures new." And board sidewalks were now appearing on Main Street.



In 1877 the name of the town of Lyndon which had been officially given to Plantation H in 1870 was officially changed to Caribou by the Legislature, which stopped the annoying distinction between the town of Lyndon and the village of Caribou which the residents insisted upon giving, and which created so much confusion. The town forged ahead more rapidly now and a very valuable class of citizens were coming into the village, most of them with the idea of going into business, the most desirable farms now having been taken.

Another doctor came this year (1877) Dr. Jefferson Cary of Houlton, accompanied by his wife and





Main Street, looking toward Vaughan House on hill

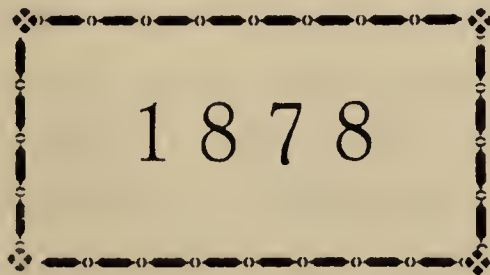




little daughter. He was highly educated both as a man and physician, and he was much needed in the community as Dr. Thomas, the only graduate physician up to this date was sadly overworked. Dr. Cary at once bought the house built by Alden Green in 1870, now standing at the rear of the Cary Memorial Hospital, an adjunct to it.

Dr. Cary will be and should be forever remembered by Caribou people for bequeathing to the town a sum of money which enabled it to build a fine hospital, as he requested, on the site of his former home, both his daughter and her mother having passed on before him. Dr. Cary was born in 1840 and died in 1912. A long and useful life. The good that he has done lives after him in the hospital erected to his memory in 1924.

Others among the good people now coming were the Clarks and Oaks of Garland in Penobscot County and George I. Trickey of Bangor, the fourth lawyer to come to Caribou. Joseph A. Clark opened the first store devoted exclusively to boots and shoes, in the Bartlett block (corner of Main and High streets) which had by this time been much enlarged from the original size to that of the present day.



Mrs. Clark's brothers, Charles, Will and Fred Oak came the following year: Charles, a graduate of the



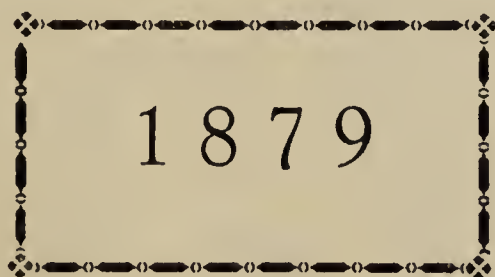
University of Maine, teaching the village school upstairs, at first, while establishing himself as surveyor and draughtsman. He later married Edith, S. W. Collins youngest daughter. Their home while in Caribou was the house now occupied by Dr. Gregory on High Street. They moved from Caribou to Augusta where Mr. Oak served in several State offices, then the family moved to Bangor where Mr. Oak passed away in later years, and his wife is now living in Orono with her daughter Zelma. The Oak children were Zelma, Gertrude, Edson and Donald, all married, the three last mentioned are scattered from Massachusetts to Oklahoma.

Will Oak was always connected with the firm of S. W. Collins & Son and remained in Caribou until his death. His first wife was Margaret Nelson of Presque Isle; his second was Faustina Briggs, (daughter of Lloyd Briggs) who survives him.

Fred, the youngest of these three Oak brothers, clerked for Mr. Clark some sixteen years, then in 1894 when Mr. Clark gave up the shoe business for "dry goods" Fred opened a shoe store for himself on Sweden Street, in the Jones and Lowney Building (now occupied by the Sears Roebuck Company). Here he remained many years, until within a very few years of his death. He married Elizabeth, the daughter of Augustus Allen of Maysville and built a house on High

Street corner of Glenn Street, where they lived and died; they had two sons, Malcolm and Allen, who left Caribou as soon as they left school. All of the Oak brothers who came to Aroostook married daughters of early pioneers of the region, showing excellent taste in their selection.

Mr. and Mrs. Noah Johnson of Garland built themselves a house just west of Samuel Taylor, who lived at the end of High Street. Mr. Johnson kept a general store in the Bartlett block for several years then retired from business, being no longer young. Samuel Taylor, coming from Burlington, Penobscot County about this time went into business in the Vaughan store on the corner now occupied by the Bouchard block. He continued in this business quite a few years, then retired. Just at this period the majority of newcomers seemed to be coming from Penobscot County rather than from Oxford County as at first.



In 1879, Freeland Jones and Eben W. Lowney coming from Bangor, bought the store on Sweden Street, which they afterwards sold to Fred Oak when he went into business for himself. This building originally had been built by Fremont Small and used as a carriage shop. It was set up on cedar posts five or six

feet above the ground, which was a cedar swamp, and reached by a long flight of steps at each end of the platform running across the front of the building.

Messrs. Jones and Lowney built this building over, filling in a large part of the swamp in front of the store, greatly reducing the number of stairs required to reach it, and opened a "general store"—the first on Sweden Street. At that time there were only three houses between their store and Farnham Brook (where Haskell Farnham had taken up a farm on the edge of the clearing); Mrs. Ellis' (later called the Upham house, now moved to Prospect Street); Frank Record's; and the James Page house, then just built.

Freeland Jones married Mabel, Mr. Vaughan's second daughter, bought the Ellis house on Sweden St. for a home and there their three sons, Vaughan, Lawrence and Austin were born. In 1891 Mr. Jones sold his house and went back to Bangor to settle the estate of his father, Peleg Jones, and remained there. Eben Lowney married Nell Mosher of Presque Isle; they had three children Harold, Waldo and Helen. Mr. Lowney went back to Bangor in later years but two of his children, Waldo and Helen Ricker have remained in Caribou, Harold has lived in Woodstock, N. B. for many years. Their father built the house on High St. now occupied by Mrs. Charles Stetson.

In 1879 L. R. King built another business building on the lot where the Mitton block now stands. This block at that time was considered a large and imposing building three stories in height, containing two stores on first floor, offices on second floor, and an I. O. O. F. hall on the third floor. Orman Oak (a cousin





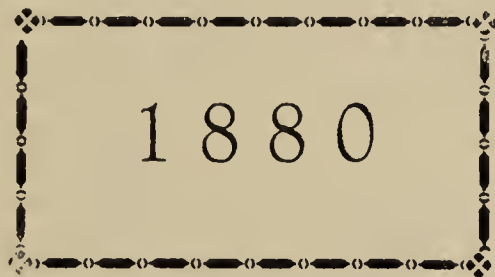
KING BLOCK — 1880





of Charles, Will and Fred Oak), who had just come from Garland, took the upper store in which he opened a harness shop, the first in town, and W. C. Spaulding took the lower or corner store for his hardware business.

This block was badly damaged by fire several times during the intervening years and replaced the last time, after the disastrous fire of 1918, by a handsome brick block built by Henry S. Mitton. Mr. Mitton was connected first with the firm of Shaw and Mitton (Gorham Shaw and Henry Mitton) established in 1895; later, with the firm of Mitton, Poland and Bishop, the last two named being younger men, both of which firms occupied the Water Street store for many years, also engaging in many other lines of business).



In 1880 the first permanent newspaper was started by Samuel W. Mathews, a lawyer from Hampden who had come to Caribou the fall of 1879 to look about. Being impressed with the indications of future growth he decided to remove his family, wife and two daughters, May and Harriet, from Hampden to Caribou to make their home and for the practice of his profession. After he came, however, he decided to establish a newspaper, which the town needed much more, and entered immediately upon the work, naming the paper "The A1 ostook Republican".



One of the clippings taken from the first issue of the Aroostook Republican, dated January 14, 1880, giving the shipments from Caribou over the New Brunswick R. R. (now the Canadian Pacific) for the months of October, November and December, 1879, just preceding—three years after the arrival of the N. B. R. R.—is very interesting to us of the present day. It runs thus: “Shipments over the N. B. R. R. were 1380 M shingles, 18,391 bushels of potatoes, 1192 casks of potato starch, and 12 tons of general merchandise”. When one takes paper, pencil and the figures of 650 bushels to the average car load, he finds that 18,391 bushels makes only about 28 carloads of potatoes going out in those three months or slightly more than two carloads a week.

Official figures giving the number of carloads of potatoes sent out from Caribou in October, November and December, 1944, as 1764 cars from the three railroads running out fo the town, the Bangor and Aroostook, Canadian Pacific and Aroostook Valley. This approximates 1, 140,000 bushels, which shows by comparison the immense growth of the potato industry in Caribou.

In 1887 Mr. Matthews was appointed the first Labor Commissioner of Maine, so, although he had been successful in getting the “Republican” well started, he sold the paper to his son-in-law, Alfred Winslow Hall, (grandson of the first Winslow) who had married Mr. Matthews’ elder daughter, May. Mr. Matthews



Old Grist Mill on bridge with Vaughan House behind

1881

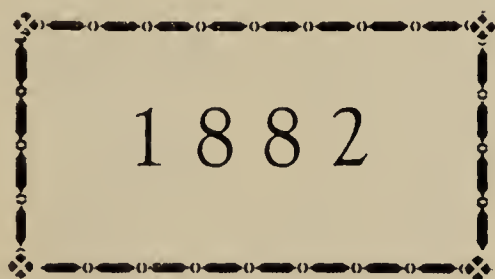






removed to Augusta, much to the regret of the many friends his genial personality had made for him.

Mr. Hall, always called Win, was a man of much experience in the newspaper business both in New England and the West, and during the fifteen years of his ownership of the Aroostook Republican he made it a vital force in the growth of the town. In fact, the residents of that period considered the Aroostook Republican was the best country newspaper in Maine, if not in the United States. To the "Souvenir Edition" of the paper issued in 1894—with the assistance of Francis Wiggin, a veteran newspaper man—and to various clippings from the Republican concerning the life of the town found in old scrapbooks, these annals are indebted for many of its facts and dates. It was the most authentic source available, being nearer the ground—the time and place—than any other to be found.



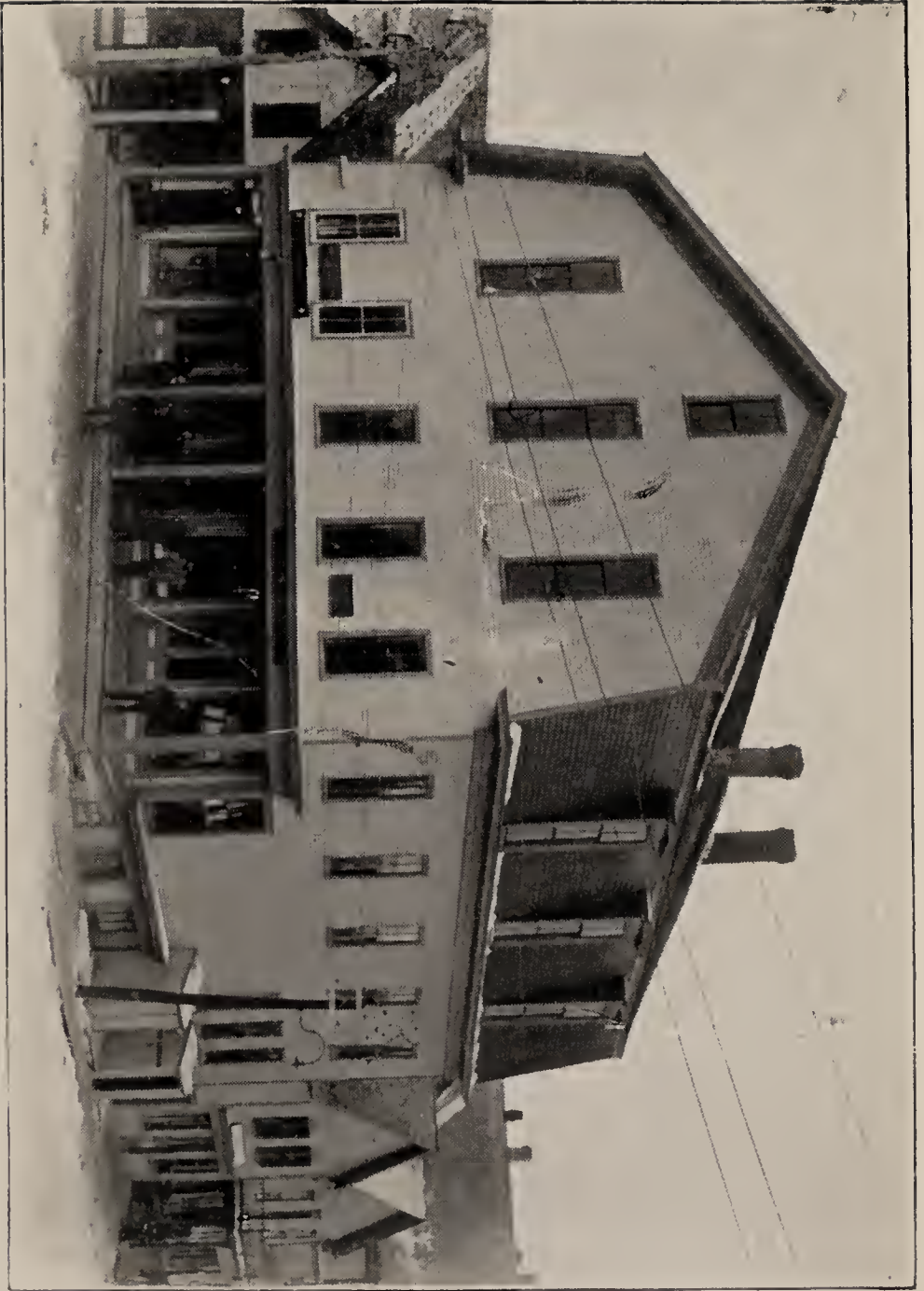
To go back to 1882, J. A. Clark bought, that year, the lot now occupied by the Hackett Block on the corner of Main and Sweden streets, moving off the Lowell Hardison store and the Bartlett millinery shop to make room for a building larger than both together. On this lot Mr. Clark erected a three-story wooden block which made a great improvement in the appear-

ance of the corner and which stood until destroyed by fire in 1916. On the street floor, facing Main Street were two stores, one occupied by Mr. Clark himself and the other by Eugene Pushor, a druggist who had come from Pittsfield to establish the second drug store in town. On the second floor were law offices, occupied at first by George I. Trickey, William P. Allen who came from Lincoln in 1880 and Louis C. Stearns of Bethel, coming in 1882; later, by the lawyers as they came to town.

The third floor was made into a hall where for many years all the entertainments, dances and dancing schools—gatherings of all kinds—were held, even including the Town meetings and the first sessions of the Superior Court. It would probably be called the Recreation Center if existing in these days.

It seems a pity—in this connection and at this time—not to mention H. Price Webber and his company of players who came annually for twelve or fifteen years from the middle of the 70s nearly through the 80s and played for a week such thrilling dramas as East Lynne and Uncle Tom's Cabin to delighted audiences of young and old.

In 1882, G. W. P. Jerrard came to Caribou and founded the G. W. P. Jerrard Seed Company, issuing attractive catalogues, something new then in Aroostook County. He contracted for many potatoes, doing business on a large scale, and raised many potatoes himself to be sure of the outstanding quality of his seed. The varieties most popular at this time were Early Rose,



CLARK BLOCK — 1882  
Corner of Main and Sweden Streets





Bliss Triumphs and Cobblers for early seed stock in the South; Green Mountains were the standard all-year-round table stock for the northern markets.

Mr. Jerrard worked up a large seed business and as he was then in affluent circumstances he decided to retire, and sold his business in 1893 to John Jerrard, his nephew, and Harry Smith, both from Bangor, and returned to his home in Penobscot County.

John Jerrard married in 1896 Mabel, daughter of Joseph A. Clark. (They lived in Caribou until 1909 when they, with the Clarks, for reasons of ill health in both families, moved to Santa Paula, Cal., where there was already a little Caribou colony of Hardisons and Teagues drawn there years before by the possibilities in fruit growing. John Jerrard died in 1923, Mrs. Jerrard is living in Pomona, Cal., drawn by old Caribou friends; Mrs. Lottie Pattee, daughter of George Sampson; Mrs. Sophia Gary, daughter of John L. Smith; and Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Holmes, the former a son of Albe Holmes, the latter a daughter of Levi Gary. The Jerrards had one daughter, Ruth, who is married and living in Massachusetts.)

Harry Smith went back to Bangor, both partners selling out their stock in the Jerrard Seed Company. Haines Hardison and his son-in-law, Edgar Russ, bought the stock and remained partners until Mr. Hardison decided to move to California where so many of his relatives were living, and sold his stock to Carl C. King in 1911. Mr. King and Mr. Russ continued the business of G. W. P. Jerrard Seed Company under the same name until Mr. King's death in 1919, since which time Mr. Russ has been owner and manager of the business.

A. B. Fisher came in 1882 with his wife and three children, a son and two daughters, and made his home in Caribou ever thereafter. He was an expert electrician, having gained much experience in his native Nova Scotia and in the West, and was exactly what the community needed as electricity was soon to be introduced. The daughters are Mrs. (Tirza) Parker L. Hardison and Mrs. (Evelyn) M. L. Bonney, both widowed, and living in Caribou until very recently, now in Augusta; the son, William H. is a lawyer living in Augusta, an active-retired Justice of the Superior Court of Maine.

Otis Gardner, brother of Mrs. Horace E. Jones, came from Dennysville in the middle eighties and entered into business. He brought with him his wife and three children; Margaret, who married Dr. A. J. Taylor, son of Samuel Taylor, merchant; Richard, married Louise B., widow of John S. Spaulding; and Hope, who married a Portland man and lived there a few years, dying in early womanhood.

Michael A. Barrett came from St. Stephen, N. B. in the early eighties and soon established a Singer Sewing Machine agency—the first in town—in the small stores between the Taylor and the Lowell Hardison stores on Main Street. By the introduction of this wonderful labor-saving invention, Mr. Barrett lighten-

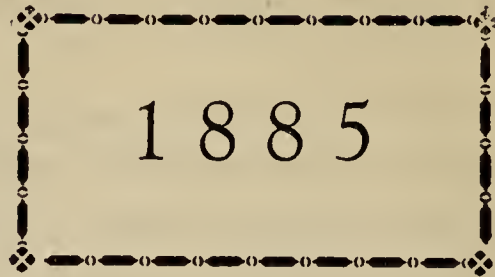


ed the burden of many mothers who had large families to clothe.

After the Civil War the concerns that had been making uniforms for the soldiers turned their plants and energies into the ready-to-wear clothing field, but their products were slow in reaching Aroostook and most of the clothing worn by men was made by hand, either at home or in the village by tailors of both sexes, who had the aid of a tailor's goose, giving the "tailored look". Most of the clothes of women and children were made by hand at home with perhaps some help from seamstresses who "went out by the day". The arrival of the sewing machine sped up all this work.

In later years Mr. Barrett abandoned this business and took up the manufacture of shingles by machine, also starch. In 1908 he bought the beautiful farm of George M. Briggs who was leaving for California with his family to make their home.

Mr. Barrett died in 1919; his wife Marie Cayouette, died in 1938. Their children are Corinne, Charles, Antoinette, and Scanlon, now living; two, John and Francoise, deceased.



From Maine Register of 1885

### CARIBOU

Fifty four miles N. W. of Houlton by stage route via Presque Isle. Terminus of stage lines to Van Buren, New Sweden, Houlton and Perham. On New Brunswick Railway. Population, 1880, 2756; Polls 527; valuation \$337,338.

Postmaster — Joseph Gary; Lyndon, Grinfill Hall; North Lyndon, Ezekiel LeVasseur; East Lyndon, James Doyle.

Selectmen—E. D. Stiles, E. W. Lowney, A. L. Ireland.  
Town Clerk — W. C. Spaulding

Town Treasurer—Herschel D. Collins

School Supervisor — Rev. C. E. Young

Clergymen—C. E. Young, Bap.; W. H. Crawford, Meth.

Lawyers — King & King, C. B. Roberts, George I. Trickey, W. P. Allen, L. C. Stearns, F. M. York.

Physicians — Jefferson Cary, Chas. F. Thomas

Merchants— Lufkin & Holmes, Joseph Gary, Samuel Taylor, S. W. Collins & Son, George H. Howe, Noah W. Johnson; general stores.

E. P. Files, dry goods.

J. E. Morrill, W. E. Leonard, Crandall & Co., meats and groceries.

L. W. Sawin, E. H. Pushor, apothecaries.

C. P. Hussey, fruit and confectionery.

O. Iverson & Co., dining saloon

R. A. Bartlett, millinery.

W. C. Spaulding, hardware

J. A. Clark, boots and shoes.

Little field & Co., gents clothing.

George Henry, jewelry

T. W. Willis, furniture

E. P. Grimes, shingles;

Singer Mfg. Co., Agt. M. A. Barrett.

E. J. Fenderson, ice.

Manufacturers — S. W. Collins & Son, J. W. Gary, lumber and shingles; Warren Runnels, Jas. Calkins, Albe Holmes, shingles.

Jacob Hardison, cheese.

A. Martin, Walter Russ, A. M. Garland; masons.

Moody & Prescott, W. H. Dunbar, (carriage), W.

V. Dunbar, George H. Robinson (house); painters.

J. H. Lafferty; carriage trimmers.

G. F. Ellingwood; millwright.

John Anderson; boots and shoes.

Albe Holmes; Caribou Starch Factory, starch.

Oak & Knight, E. G. Farrell; harnesses.

Gerald & Smith, Lucien Small; smiths.

John Sincock, J. H. Gould, J. W. Gary; gristmills.

T. T. Crockett; woolens.

Moody & Prescott, carriages.

Hobbs & Adams, blacksmiths and carriage work.

T. W. Willis, G. B. Cain, J. A. Page, G. F. Ellingwood, Job K. Pike, Herbert Cates, A. M. York, Samuel Little, Ralph Churchill; carpenters.

A. Winberg, tailor.



Photographer — Edward W. Hall

Land Surveyor — Freeland Jones

Barber — Charles P. Hussey.

Livery Stable — Levi H. Gary & Co.

Hotel — Vaughan House, J. E. Morrill, Prop'r.

This will present a picture of Caribou in a new way, giving names of the men carrying on the business of the town sixty years ago.



REV. I. E. BILL  
Pastor of Baptist Church from 1874 to 1880





## CHURCHES

A short history of the Universalist Church of Caribou has been given in the period of 1867 when the first church edifice was built. It is now time to speak of the other churches as they withdrew gradually from the Union Church, as it was first called.

## BAPTIST CHURCH

The first to withdraw was the Baptist Church, the oldest church organization in town. The first meeting relating to organization was held in June, 1863 in the schoolhouse at what was then known as Lyndon Center. In August of the same year the church was recognized by a Council representing Baptist churches, having at that time, fifteen members. The church was supplied with preaching by missionaries of the Maine Baptist State Convention. Meetings were held at first in the Center schoolhouse, at dwelling houses in different parts of the town, and later, at the Union Church for about three years.

In December, 1870, the organization called their first pastor, Rev. David Lancaster and held their first meetings in Vaughan's hall. Mr. Lancaster remained two years and the next pastor was Rev. J. S. Dore, who remained only one year on account of ill health. In 1874 the Rev. Ingraham E. Bill, an Englishman, was called and remained until 1880. During his pastorate, in 1875, the present site of the Baptist Church came into the possession of the church organization, and under the leadership of Mr. Bill the present church edifice on High Street was erected, but not finished before 1880. (It has been much enlarged since then.) In 1881 Rev. C. E. Young, a young graduate of Colby

College, became pastor and remained eleven years, until 1892. He married, not long after his coming, Miss Lucy Small, daughter of Cyrus Small, a teacher and devoted church worker who made him an admirable helpmeet in his work. During his pastorate the parsonage beside the church was built. In June, 1895, Rev. Daniel Jenks assumed the pastorate. At that time the church membership was given as 140.

The list of clergymen who came to the pulpit of this church, through the years since then, is too long to enumerate here. Suffice it to say that they were all fine men, devoted to their work, who brought a very large membership to his church.

#### METHODIST CHURCH

The Methodist Episcopal church began as a separate organization in 1883. Leaving the Union Church, the meetings were first held in the Grange Hall with the Rev. J. H. Irving as pastor. Mr. Irving remained three years and his successor was Rev. C. H. Leverton.

During the year of the latter's ministry, 1887, a church edifice on the south side of Sweden Street was built and dedicated. The next pastor was the Rev. M. W. Newbert and in his second year, 1888, the parsonage, later the home of Cyrus F. Small, the lawyer, was built. Mr. Newbert remained three years, that being as long as a Methodist minister was allowed to remain in one place, at that time. The next pastor was Rev. C. H. McElhiny and during his stay the church membership increased in numbers greatly. (Later, as business buildings began to encroach upon the church buildings, the present lot and parsonage were bought



in 1913 and the church of today was built across the street in the corner of Prospect and Sweden streets, where it has continued to prosper.)

### FREE BAPTIST CHURCH

The Free Baptist Society was organized Sept. 24, 1887, beginning its existence with twenty-seven members. The first deacons appointed were John Lewis and Jesse Tooker. In March, 1888, Rev. L. E. Hall of New Hampshire was installed as pastor and remained with the church nearly two years. For about a year after Mr. Hall's resignation the Society was without a settled pastor but during that year a church edifice was erected and was dedicated October 29, 1890 free of debt. Its cost was about \$1600. The next pastor was Rev. C. W. Foster who remained two and one half years during which time thirty-one persons were added to the church membership. Rev. A. C. Thompson followed Mr. Foster and began his work in October, 1893. He remained several years and left the church in a flourishing condition.

(In 1919 the Free Baptist Society united with the Baptist Society selling their church edifice to the Episcopal Society which still worships there.)

### St. Luke's Church

Rev. Hudson Sawyer, resident pastor of Fort Fairfield, was the first to hold Episcopalian services in Caribou, in 1880.

Work on the foundation and frame of St. Luke's Episcopal Church was begun September 4th, 1888, the land having been the gift of two parishioners, and after many interruptions due to scanty means—small membership—service was first held Sunday afternoon



September 14, 1890 with Bishop Neely present and conducting the service. The church had a seating capacity for about two hundred and fifty people and the cost of the building was about \$3000.

On Easter Monday, April 17th, 1922 old St. Luke's was de-consecrated, and the property sold to the Cary Hospital. On this day all movable pictures were transferred to the new St. Lukes Church which had been purchased from the Free Christian Baptists. Here service was held April 23, 1922.

The building was new and commodious, and possessed a Parish House. The edifice was consecrated by the Right Reverend Bishop Brewster, on July 2, 1922.

Regular services were held in St. Lukes until November 9, 1930, when extensive repairs and improvements were undertaken. After being re-modeled, renovated and re-decorated—with sanctuary and chancel added—the interior presents a very handsome and pleasing appearance. Services, which during the progress of the work had been held in the Parish House, were resumed in the Church on February 8, 1931.

The Rev. Hazen Rigby has occupied the pulpit since 1924.

### HOLY ROSARY CHURCH

During the early days the Catholic population of Caribou had to drive six miles to North Lyndon to worship. The first mass to be celebrated in Caribou village was at the home of Dr. LaFleche, May 26, 1884. In 1884 the Rev. Ferdinand Pineau, at that time pastor at North Lyndon was petitioned by the Catholics of Caribou for a chapel to be built in the village

of Caribou. Through the efforts of Father Pineau, land was purchased of Mr. Freeland Jones, son-in-law of Washington A. Vaughan, (the original owner of the land) and in 1885 a church was erected, known as the Holy Rosary Church. In 1886 Father Pineau was succeeded in the pastorate of North Lyndon and Caribou by Rev. Charles A. Gingras. Father Gingras carried the work on the new church to completion and in December 1886 mass was held in the new church for the first time. It is to Father Gingras' credit that the work on this church was completed and furnished with the various necessities that were needed. From 1886 until November, 1896 the Holy Rosary Church was a mission of the North Lyndon parish. In July, 1893 Father Gingras was replaced by Rev. C. G. Marsan. In 1894 Father Marsan built a school near the church, and for a time the school building was also used as a hall for parish meetings. The Caribou church was detached from the one in North Lyndon in November, 1896 and Father Eugene Gauthier of Bangor was named as first resident pastor of the Holy Rosary Church in Caribou. During his pastorate a parochial residence was provided, and furnished, and the original parish debt was nearly paid off. In 1902 Rev. Henry J. McGill replaced Father Gauthier and remained until 1910. Rev. John F. Hogan of Millinocket came to the Caribou church in 1910 and remained for five years. In 1915 Rev. Alfred Pelletier, now deceased, replaced Father Hogan, remaining for only one year. Rev. Dennis Martin then came to Caribou for the next two years. In 1918 Rev. John Chatagnon was appointed to replace Father Martin. In 1919 the next pastor, Lud-

ger D. Ouillette was appointed. He began the present school building in July, 1920 but owing to hard years and poor potato crops among his parishioners, he was obliged to stop construction for two years. Several years later, after the building had been completed, the Caribou High School was destroyed by fire and the town officials secured permission from Father Ouillette to use the newly completed building as a Town High School for four years.

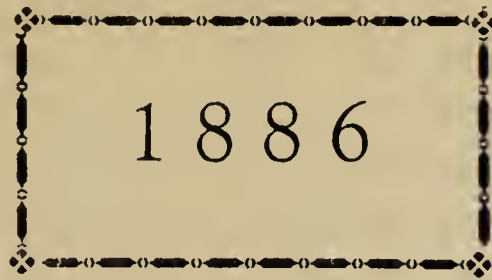
(In the fall of 1928 the parochial school was opened under the direction of the Ursuline Sisters. The school and convent attached are today valued at approximately \$65,000.

In July, 1934 the Holy Rosary Church was destroyed by fire but it was soon replaced by a fine new building on a new location on Vaughan Street directly across from the Convent and Parochial School.)

#### UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

The Universalist Church should be taken up again for a brief word concerning its progress since it was left in the earlier pages of this history. The church edifice has been enlarged and entirely remodeled since then so there is little trace of its old meeting-house days—modern, within and without—but it must not be forgotten that it was the first church built in the town.





## HIGH SCHOOL

The first High School in town was started with eighty pupils the fall of 1886 in what was called "the old Grange building", a small two-story building quite well out on Sweden Street — it seemed then. The street floor had been occupied by the Grange store, and in one part of the room where molasses had been sold, the floor was still sticky. In another corner of the room there still remained the distinct odor of kerosene. But neither pupils nor teacher seemed to mind, so engrossed were they in the pursuit of knowledge.

The school was fortunate in having for its first principal, W. S. Knowlton, an educator of long experience, one who loved his work and his scholars. The first graduating class had only two members, W. E. Sincock and Newman Doyle, class of 1887. The next year, 1888, three boys graduated, Allen C. Hardison, Roy F. Bartlett and Winfield S. Webb. The third year had a graduation class of thirteen with a fair share of girls, and a good-sized class graduated each year thereafter.

In 1891 the town erected on High Street their first High School building, now in use as a grade building. Prof. Knowlton remained until 1895 when he went to Monson Academy.

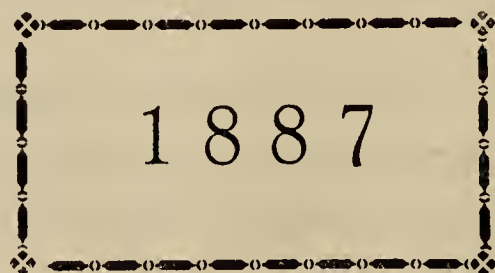
H. L. Wilbur, W. C. Hall and Bernard Owen were the three principals following Prof. Knowlton, then

Willard P. Hamilton, a Bates College graduate, was secured as principal in 1899. He served for seven years, during which time he brought the school to a high standard of excellence. It was easier to do this with a new, modern building, built for High school requirements but Mr. Hamilton resigned in 1906 to take up the study of law.

Before his coming to Caribou he had married Cordelia, daughter of Clarence V. King of Fort Fairfield. They had five children, Marjorie, Philip, Edgar, Martha and Lora, all of whom are living; Mrs. Hamilton died just a few years ago.

The next five principals who followed Mr. Hamilton were Harry Wheeler, C. C. Tuttle, Llewellyn Felch, A. W. Boston, and Ralph Hunt, later a principal of Hebron Academy for many years. A longer list would be tedious.

To Rev. C. E. Young and Mrs. Florence Collins Porter, each of whom served as supervisor of schools for some time, should be given high praise for their faithful and efficient work in the 80s and early 90s. During this period the schools really began to be graded and a modern system to be installed.



In 1887 the first Electric Light Company was organized, Frank York, lawyer in town, son of A. M.

York, being the leading spirit. A stock company was formed, composed of a few of the business men who wanted electric lights in their stores; and enough capital was raised to start a little steam plant on the bank of the Caribou stream near the basement of the "Billy Theriault" livery stable on the Mill hill. This plant was very small and lacking in power, with a steam engine of only 60 h. p. and a dynamo capable only of running three hundred lights. It was dependent wholly upon wood or mill-waste from the saw mill near by to furnish steam—totally inadequate—but those who had electric lights, mostly storekeepers, welcomed them heartily as being the dawn of a new day.

In this decade of 1880-1890 the town was growing very rapidly. Many young men were coming from other parts of the state and even from other states to seek their fortunes. Among these the following may be mentioned.

E. P. Grimes came from Lowell, Mass. early in the 80's, a very young man interested in the manufacture of lumber, particularly shingles. He built the mill that gave his name to the B. & A. R. R. station between Caribou and Limestone, and which, once, did a big business in shingles. Mr. Grimes built a three-story wooden block, (burned in 1903) on the corner of Sweden Street and Vaughan Avenue, where is now a brick block in which the Aroostook Trust Co. is located. The street floor of the Grimes block was occupied by three



stores, the second and third floors by his family. Not long after 1900 they moved to Washington County, where Mr. Grimes had bought large tracts of blueberry land where he engaged in the business of canning the berries for a time. Then they moved to Florida to make their home and there Mr. Grimes and his daughter, Natalie, (married), are still living. Mrs. Grimes died several years ago.

James H. Glenn, too, came early in this decade from Hampden and made a start in business with a blacksmith shop. In a few years he left this work and went into the hardware business on Sweden Street where he remained for many years. He married Mary Maley of Van Buren and they had two sons (both still living)). When Louis C. Stearns who had built a handsome residence on High Street decided to move to Bangor in later years, he sold his attractive home to Mr. Glenn. Mrs. Glenn died in 1909 and Mr. Glenn, eventually, sold the house and went to live with one of his sons at Glen Falls, N. Y. (He has recently passed away.)

Another man who entered into business on Sweden Street in the early 80's was Henry Nickerson who had a men's clothing store where is now the Havey Pharmacy. A robbery took place here in 1884 which seemed to cripple Mr. Nickerson financially, and the J. T. Lewis Co. of Portland, the chief creditor, took over the stock and sold it to Charles G. Littlefield of Portland, who, however, could not come himself at the time—in fact, not until four years later, 1888. A. A.

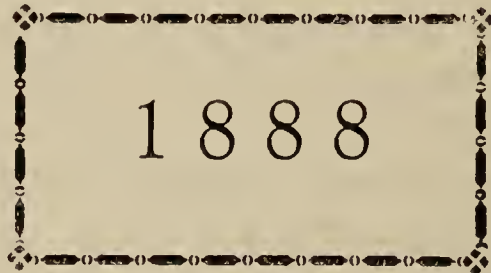
Garden, who had come, a lad of fifteen, with his parents, one brother, John and a sister, Crissie; had clerked for Nickerson and continued clerking there through all its changes. When Mr. Littlefield bought the stock in 1884, he sent Perley McNelly of Waterville (who had been with the J. T. Lewis Company for five years) to take charge of the store, A. A. Garden still remaining as clerk. In 1899 Mr. Garden bought the stock and took over the management of his own business, in the same Littlefield store, until 1910 when he retired from that business and entered the insurance business.

Mr. Garden was appointed Town Clerk in 1930 and held the office until March 1945, a most obliging and agreeable official. He married Adelaide Libby of Easton and has one son, Arthur, who is in the insurance business in New York City.)

Perley McNelly, previously mentioned, brought a bride, Emily Hamilton of Portland, to Caribou in 1886 and there their three children were born. Their daughters, Minnie and Gladys are living now in New York City; their son, Philip in Bridgeport, Conn. Perley remained in Caribou until his death in 1939. His wife died many years ago.

Among other young men coming to Caribou in this decade with the intention of going into business for themselves, was Simeon L. White of St. John, N. B. (more recently of Houlton) who came in 1887 and bought the drug business and store building of Lysander Sawin, removing, however, the billiard table, dental chair, and wall-paper rack as soon as he took over.

To show the growth of the town in the late eighties the following clipping, taken from the Aroostook Republican about this time, is given. "Caribou has now besides the stores, three insurance companies, a brokers office and a real estate office, also has six lawyers, the same number of physicians, one dentist, and a Village Library Association, besides two hotels, two billiard rooms and a skating rink." A succinct report of progress.



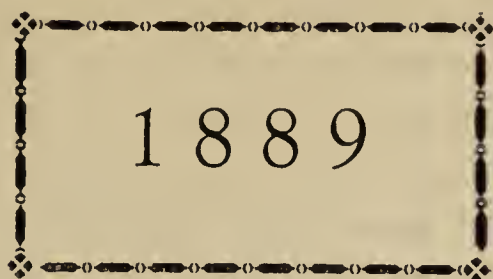
In 1888 William B. McLellan, the son of a former mayor of Portland, who had worked with Mr. McNelly at the J. T. Lewis Company store in Portland came to Caribou and entered into partnership with McNelly. They started a gentlemen's clothing store in the building later occupied by the jewelry store of H. O. Spencer, another one of the young business men spoken of who came in this decade. Mr. McLellan went away in 1890 and returned with a bride, Kate Burrill of Skowhegan. In 1895 when the Bangor and Aroostook R. R. arrived, Mr. McLellan went into their office in Caribou and remained there until his retirement age was reached when he and his wife returned to Portland where they lived until their decease, Mr. McLellan going first.





VAUGHAN HOUSE -- 1888





The most important event in the March of Time since the coming of the first railroad was the building of the dam across the Aroostook River in 1889, bringing water, light and power, and all that those things mean to a town.

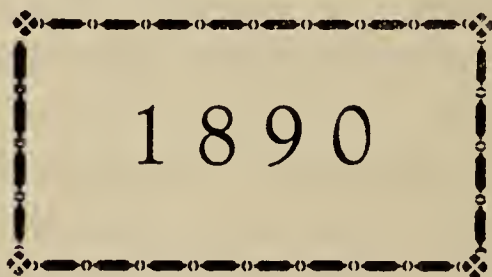
It was understood that the dam and water works would cost the town about \$100,000, the dam was to cost \$30,000 and the water works \$70,000 and it would be necessary for the town to vote \$2,000 a year for twenty years, before the contract for the work could be made. The money was to be furnished by outside capitalists. Herbert Heath, an Augusta lawyer was their representative and business man. When a town meeting was called to consider the vote of \$2,000 annually for twenty years the whole business was carefully explained by Mr. Heath and an affirmative vote was practically unanimous, so long had the citizens desired the privileges thus to be obtained.

The dam, when built was five hundred feet long, from bank to bank of the river, fourteen feet high, forty-eight feet wide at base and had six gates, three at each end of the dam on each side of the river. The same company that built the dam constructed the water-works and a stand-pipe was erected on a hill just north of the village, about three-fourths of a mile from the pumping station at the dam. This stand-pipe, thirty feet in diameter and twenty nine feet high, had a capacity of one hundred and fifty thousand gallons.



The top of the stand-pipe was two hundred and sixty feet above the pumping station giving force enough to throw this volume of water one hundred and fifty feet high, affording the town ample fire protection, something it had never had before. One great advantage perceptible very soon was the decided drop in the insurance rates, to say nothing of the added feeling of security in the minds of all property owners.

With the building of the dam, thereby securing a water system, Caribou had for the first time hot and cold running water in the homes. The rain barrel, the old oaken bucket, and the pump in the well now gradually disappeared from view. Bathtubs became quite numerous though they were made of tin or zinc, not of the gleaming porcelain of the present. A new day had dawned. "Time makes ancient good uncouth"



To pick up every event of importance in telling the story of the progress being made at this time, the chartering of the first bank, the Aroostook Trust Company, in 1889, with George I. Trickey as its first president, must be mentioned, as a great help to the Caribou business men who had felt the crying need of a bank for some time, there being none nearer than Houlton.

The Aroostook Trust Company opened its doors



GEORGE I. TRICKEY





for business January 1, 1890 in a small, wooden building on Sweden Street next to the Glenn Hardware store, both buildings on the site of the present Newberry store. (In 1912 the wooden building was moved back and a brick building erected in its place. In 1939 the Aroostook Trust Co. moved into the Caribou National Bank building and at that time the brick bank building and the Glenn store were built over into one big room for the Newberry Company store.)

Mr. Trickey held the presidency for fifteen years until 1905 when, desiring to make New York City his home, he sold his entire interest in the bank to Carl C. King (son of L.R. King ) who was elected to take Mr. Trickey's place as president, this office he held until the time of his death, 1919.

Charles Margesson of Bangor, an experienced accountant was secured by Mr. Trickey as the first cashier. He remained some fifteen years when he resigned and Richard Gardner, who had been assistant cashier took his place, remaining in this position until Mr. King's death. Mr. Gardner then succeeded to the office of president which he held until a few years ago when he resigned the office which is now held by Samuel Wilson Collins, son of Herschel Collins, grandson and namesake of the old pioneer.

In 1890 Samuel E. Briggs came from Bloomfield, N. B. with his wife and eight children, all of school age. Fred, Helen, Blanche, Lydia, Stella, Murray, Judson and Ezra.

Mr. Briggs bought a fine farm on the Van Buren road, also went into the hardware business in town,

specializing in the modern, agricultural machinery, later buying a home in town opposite the Sincock school. As time went on most of the children went West, only Judson and Ezra remaining in Caribou to carry on the extensive business that their father and they, themselves, had established. Judson married a Bates College classmate, Maude Parkin of Lisbon Falls and Ezra married Sarah, daughter of Ernest and Emily (Goud) Washburn.

By the census of 1890 the population of Caribou was found to be 4087 with a valuation of \$780,489., more than double the valuation of 1880, and the population increased by almost fifty per cent in the same time.

With a population of over four thousand people, it is no longer possible to mention newcomers by name. Only important events can be chronicled now.



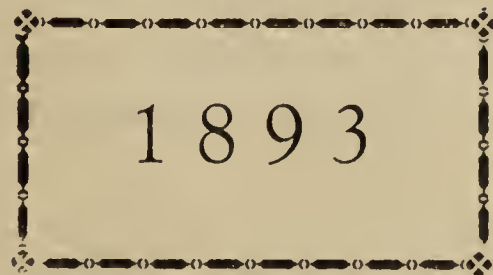
In the fall of 1891 fire destroyed the wooden bridge across the Aroostook River, the fourth wooden bridge to be burned, and the County Commissioners decided to put up a more permanent structure. This they did the following year, building a substantial, three-span structure with steel cylinder piers, which are there today.



In 1892 Albe Holmes, who before this had had no interest in the dam or water works, bought out the original Caribou Water, Light and Power Company which at that time had nothing but the water. He purchased the wires and fixtures of the little electric light plant in the village and took over its list of subscribers. He ran a line to Fort Fairfield and for a time supplied that village with electric lights but before long that end of the business was sold to the town of Fort Fairfield.

Mr. Holmes installed in 1894 a much stronger water wheel of 200 h. p., also a 900 light power dynamo as well as other improvements after which time the town had very satisfactory lights. A. B. Fisher, the very efficient superintendent of the waterworks was installed as superintendent of the electric light plant also.

The tallow candles and even the kerosene lamps were now superseded by the electric lights in every home, and good street lights turned the darkness of night into day.



One of the outstanding events in the annals of the town was the coming of the telephone system in



1893. The White Mountain Telephone Company commenced operations in Aroostook County early in January 1893 by building an exchange in Presque Isle. The exchange in Caribou was next established, Fort Fairfield coming third; each town having a central office with switch board and the same number of subscribers, twenty each. The company then went to Houlton and established an exchange with thirty five subscribers, afterwards building a metallic circuit from Houlton to Monticello, Bridgewater, Mars Hill and Presque Isle, thus connecting all the principal towns of the county with each other and with the rest of the world.

Many of the first exchanges in the county were placed in the drug stores, as they kept the longest hours, from 7 A. M. to 11 P. M. so the first exchange in Caribou was put in the drug store of S. L. White, opposite the Vaughan House. Mr. White, with one clerk, attended the switch board with little trouble as only a few business places had availed themselves of this convenience. It was some time before the telephone was installed in the homes to any extent, the people feeling at first, that it was a foolish extravagance. Next, a real exchange was opened, with H. L. Cates as superintendent, where the Jerrard Seed Company is now located, and where the operators had nothing to do but answer calls, a real advance. In a few years every one had the telephone in their homes which added another convenience to their lives. "All this and Heaven too."

Before this time allusion was often made in the newspapers to the fact, substantiated by statistics,

that farmers' wives were the largest group in the insane hospitals of this country and the reason for this was set down as loneliness. The farmers of Caribou had telephones in their houses almost as soon as the townspeople, so they could get the day's price for potatoes every morning before starting for town with a load. (No auto trucks then.) The rest of the day the farmers' wives could use the telephone to talk to their friends, so there was no more loneliness and nothing more was ever heard about farmers' wives going insane.

In the winter of 1893 a few young men met and formed the Caribou Cornet Band so the old chronicles say. It might be interesting to review the personnel of that Band to see how many familiar names can be found, either as residents or sons of old residents.

On June 10th 1894 the band became an incorporated body, the following being the elected officers of the association: Wallace R. Lumbert, lawyer, president; Willis B. Hall (grandson of Winslow Hall) secretary; A. A. Garden, treasurer; Charles M. Runnels, leader; Charles A. O. Smith (son of Benj. Smith landlord of the Vaughan House at that time) sergeant.

The next year the citizens generously subscribed enough money to buy uniforms for the band and a handsome outfit was received July 2nd, 1895, just in time for the 4th of July celebration.

The playing members were as follows:: C. A. O. Smith, B. F. Higgins, cornets; Charles S. Taylor, clarinet; Willis B. Hall, Dana L. Teague, Walter L.

Sealander, altos; Percy Runnels, George Washburn, P. L. McNelly, C. M. Runnels, drums; A. A. Garden, tenors; George Briggs, baritone; C. A. Fuller, tuba; drum major.

A sewerage company was organized in 1893 with E. E. Haynes as president, John P. Donworth, treasurer, and George W. Irving as clerk. During that summer a thorough survey was made, working plans were drafted for a complete sewerage system for the whole village—with due consideration of its future growth—and considerable work was accomplished that season. All these public utilities, as they are now called, were introduced in the village of Caribou within five years, from the early spring of 1889 to the late fall of 1893.

This year, 1893, was the fiftieth year since the arrival of the first American family which sets the date of first settlement in American towns according to professional historians. Though the end of the first half century of Caribou's existence has now arrived there are two more things, which though worked on for some time before, were not fully brought to completion until 1895. These should be included in this story of progress before it is closed; the Court House and the Bangor and Aroostook Railroad.



## CARIBOU COURT HOUSE

The Aroostook County Superior Court had been established by law in 1885 and its sessions had been held at Caribou in Clark's Hall with Judge Robinson, formerly of Houlton, then Presque Isle, presiding.

In 1893 the Legislature abolished the Superior Court which had been holding sessions at Caribou, transferring jurisdiction theretofore held by that Court to the Supreme Judicial Court.

There was a further provision that the "County of Aroostook should furnish proper and convenient rooms and accommodations in the Town of Caribou for the use of the Supreme Judicial Court."

The law further provided for holding sessions of the S. J. Court on the fourth Tuesday of April and the third Tuesday of September at Houlton for civil and criminal business, and at Caribou the first Tuesday in December for civil business alone.

The May, 1893 term of the Superior Court held at Caribou was the last term of that court held there; and the December 1893 term of Supreme Judicial Court was the first term of that court held in Caribou. The December, 1894, term was held in Caribou before the building of the Court House. These sessions were all held in Clarks Hall as nothing else was available.

The law authorizing the Court House was passed in Legislature of 1895 directing the County Commissioners of Aroostook "to construct of brick and furnish a suitable Court House in Caribou, in which to hold such terms of the Supreme Judicial, probate and insolvent courts as might, by law, be held in Caribou at a total expense of twenty thousand dollars. Provided, however, that there should be first tendered

to the Commissioners a good and sufficient deed of land in Caribou village, running to the county, free of charge, upon which to build the Court House.”

It is remembered by some of the older residents of the town that there was considerable difficulty in finding a lot that suited everyone, but the deadlock was broken when Lyman Stevens offered to give to the town the lot on which the Court House now stands. The gift was accepted though many felt then, that it was much too far from the business section and some still feel so.

The Court House was built that summer of 1895—a fine, brick building on Sweden Street and it was ready for the December term of Court. The legal business of a very large county was now more equally divided between the northern and southern frontiers of Aroostook. The travelling expenses of litigants in northern Aroostook had been so great that there had even been talk of making two counties out of one, Northern Aroostook and Southern Aroostook. But that idea never became popular and the establishment of another court in northern Aroostook in 1885 helped the situation much in equalizing the expenses between the two sections that there was nothing more said concerning the division of the county.

## THE BANGOR AND AROOSTOOK RAILROAD

Doubtless it will always be said that the event of most far-reaching importance in Caribou's history, which contributed most to its growth and prosperity, was the building of the Bangor and Aroostook Railroad which ran its first regular train into Caribou, January 1, 1895. Although this occurred nearly two years after the closing of the half century, the railroad was well begun, the spade work had been accomplished, by 1893, so it rightfully belongs to the credit of the first half century of Caribou's existence.

Although the Aroostook branch of the New Brunswick Railroad was a life-saver for the towns of Northern Aroostook at the time it had its disadvantages. For many years, if not for the whole of the nineteen years of dependency upon that railroad, Caribou people had to take the train at four o'clock in the morning in order to connect with other trains going south or west that day. Or leaving Bangor at four o'clock in the afternoon on the return journey, they had to sit up all night to change cars at the various junctions, reaching Caribou about noon the next day. All the heat in the passenger car in cold weather was provided by a small iron, wood, or coal burning stove at each end. Lamps filled with oil swung overhead.

There were sleeping cars on the European and North American trains between Bangor and St. John, but not on the New Brunswick branch. There were too many junctions, so sitting up or lying down on the hard wooden benches in the junction stations, waiting for trains, was the accepted mode of travel in that



day. Caribou people were certainly inured to hardships for the first forty or fifty years of pioneer life which probably made them what they are—a hardy race, sturdy and progressive

Southern Aroostook was not much more enviably situated than northern Aroostook in regard to railroad facilities and had gained nothing since 1870 when the New Brunswick Railroad came into Houlton having built a branch road from Debec Junction, just a small portion of it being in Maine. Only two and one-half miles of railroad in all Aroostook at that date! Southern Aroostook chafed as much as did northern Aroostook at the roundabout way they had to travel.

After years of endeavor and disappointments during the 80's in trying to get a Direct Line into Aroostook another project was suggested in 1890, another way out, by Albert A. Burleigh of Houlton, son of Parker P. Burleigh, an old time State Land Agent and a born surveyor. The Burleigh plan was to ask the Legislature for a charter for a road to start from Van Buren and extend straight south through Houlton to some point on the Maine Central R. R. with branches to Fort Fairfield and Ashland; also to ask the Legislature to enable the County to issue bonds to the extent of 5% of its valuation, amounting to \$500,000. to be taken in stock. After this, it was proposed to issue \$400,000. more stock, giving the people of Aroostook the preference as subscribers thereto, and then to issue first mortgage bonds to complete the construction of the road.

The first meeting to consider the plan was held by the Pomona Grange at Caribou in December 1890 where Mr. Bureigh presented and explained his plan,

which was very favorably received. It was then voted by that body to petition the Legislature for a charter for the new road, also it was voted to ask the State Grange to take action in favor of the charter and of the State granting an enabling act. Edward Wiggin of Maysville who was present was instructed to bring the matter before the State Grange meeting the next week. The ball was really set in motion by this action of the Pomona Grange at Caribou, and was kept rolling by all the Aroostook granges, toward an earnest support of the Burleigh railway project.

This route, wholly within the boundaries of Maine, had not been considered in any previous plan that had been proposed, all others having been tied up with Canadian railways and financed largely by Canadian capital. Neither had anyone thought of soliciting County aid before.

All Aroostook became deeply interested in the new plan at once, and no part of it more than Caribou. Mass meetings in every town, petitions and articles in every newspaper published in Aroostook booming the Burleigh movement, followed. No paper boomed it more strongly than the Caribou paper, the Aroostook Republican, whose editor "wielded a trenchant pen".

Franklin W. Cram who had been manager of the New Brunswick Rail Road until the Canadian Pacific Rail Road took over the road—calling it the Atlantic Division—espoused the cause of an all-Maine line for Aroostook. Mr. Cram resigned from the Canadian Pacific, though urged to remain, to fight for the new road, firmly believing in the boundless possibilities of Aroostook.

In March 1891 a charter was granted and an en-



abling act, so-called, was passed by the Legislature, by which the people of Aroostook County were authorized to pledge their credit in aid of the Bangor and Aroostook Railroad to the extent of half a million dollars. (How small this amount looks in these billion dollar days! But it was a lot of money fifty odd years ago.)

Following this, a strenuous canvass of the county began, much of the work done by Mr. Burleigh himself, making journeys often covering long distances by team. Aroostook County subscriptions were supplemented by subscriptions from the city of Bangor, from business firms in Portland and Boston, from the American Express Company (\$200,000) and other wealthy corporations—these latter in a great measure raised by the personal solicitations of Mr. Cram—until the million mark was reached—and more. These two men, Hon. A. A. Burleigh and Franklin W. Cram, ably assisted by all the newspapers of the whole county, to be sure, carried the great work through, Mr. Burleigh pledging his personal fortune to the limit towards the end of the campaign, which carried the day and to these men, all Aroostook, both northern and southern, is everlastingly indebted.

To make a long story short, the first regular train of the Bangor and Aroostook railroad steamed into Houlton from Bangor the last week of December 1893 and the first regular train arrived in Caribou one year later, January 1, 1895, a day of great rejoicing in the town. At last after all these years, Caribou had a direct line of railroad, an outlet to the outside world. At last its citizens had reached the consummation of all their hopes and desires. Needless to speak here of the



great success of the road through all the after years, and the satisfaction it has always given.

A new era was now rapidly approaching as the long wished for outlet for their freight meant a more rapid movement of their crops. At once there was a great increase in the call for their agricultural products, the chief of which being potatoes, then as now. Elbert Hubbard said once long ago in the "Philistine", a little magazine that he published, after a lecturing tour of Aroostook County, "Would you know the secret of Aroostook's prosperity? Pertaters, child, jest pertaters". This is a true word regarding Caribou with its bountiful crops from the splendid farms opened up by the pioneers who have appeared upon these pages, who have "made the wilderness to blossom as the rose".

Just before the arrival of the new railroad, another innovation came into existence which was destined to have a long life, the first woman's club, organized September 14, 1894 under the name of the "Aurora Literary Club". This was changed after three years to the more sensible name of "Woman's Literary Club" which has been its name ever since.

The first president was Mrs. May Frances Stetson (granddaughter of the pioneer, Winslow Hall); the first Vice-President was Mrs. E. P. Grimes; the first Secretary, Mrs. Charles Oak; and first Treasurer, Mrs. John S. Spaulding. These offices were unchanged the second year, and during the third and fourth years the officers were: President, Mrs. Florence Collins Porter;

Vice-President, Mrs. Horace Jones; Secretary, Mrs. W. F. Records; and Treasurer, Mrs. George H. Howe.

In the early years the club members made a comprehensive study of both American and English history and literature, later taking up other countries, besides the current events of the day as time went by. All of these topics showed real desire for study, self-improvement. There were no guest speakers in those days and the members wrote carefully prepared papers for the programs. The social side of club life was not neglected however, and they had, then as now, numerous pleasurable affairs.

The first list of members appears in the 1897-98 calendar as follows—a representative group of Caribou women of that day.

Mrs. Camilla Harrington Grimes, Mrs. Margaret Nelson Oak, Mrs. Edith Collins Oak, Mrs. Sophia Smith Gary, Mrs. May Frances Stetson, Mrs. Anna Maxwell Smith, Mrs. Louise Burpee Spaulding, Mrs. Kate Burrell McLellan, Mrs. Estelle F. Hall, Mrs. Maria Oak Clark, Mrs. Belle Cary Howe, Mrs. Leontine Cayouette York, Mrs. Lavina Sterling Spaulding, Mrs. Mary A. Oak, Mrs. Clara Manson Records, Mrs. Stella King White, Mrs. Eliza Gardner Jones, Mrs. Florence Collins Porter, Mrs. Ethel Rackliff King, Mrs. Freda Files Collins, Mrs. Maud Heywood Rackliff, Mrs. Ada M. Shaw, Mrs. Emma L. Shaw, Mrs. Ann Small Teague, Mrs. Mabel Clark Jerrard, Mrs. Sarah L. King, Mrs. Marie Cayouette Barrett, Mrs. Ida Roberts Thomas, Mrs. Aagot Iverson, Mrs. Clara Furbush Getchell, Mrs. Lizzie M. Purinton, Miss Ozello Bartlett.

Young Womans' Club (Auxiliary)

Mrs. Elva Roberts Ross, Mrs. Adelaide Libby Garden

Miss Helen Porter, Miss Crissie Garden, Miss Marian Littlefield, Miss Helen Briggs, Miss Lillian Runnels, Miss Eva Ross.

### SELECTMEN OF THE TOWN OF CARIBOU

from 1870 to 1895

1870—Nathan S. Lufkin, Cyrus Small, Alonzo W.

Boynton

1871—N. S. Lufkin, A. W. Boynton, Alden A. Green

1872—J. D. Teague, E. D. Stiles, Alden A. Green

1873—E. D. Stiles, Jacob Hardison, C. Blake Roberts

1874—75—76—E. D. Stiles, C. B. Roberts, Corydon

Powers

1877—E. D. Stiles, C. B. Roberts, Joseph D. Emery

From Mar. 4, 1878 to Mar. 18, 1878—Joseph A. Clark

From Mar. 18, 1878 to March, 1879—James Doyle, J.

D. Emery, L. R. King

1880—James Doyle, J. D. Emery, David Collins

1881—J. W. Gary, Grinfill Hall, Ezekiel LeVasseur

1882—Samuel Taylor, G. C. Hall, E. LeVasseur

1883—Samuel Taylor, G. C. Hall, Corydon Powers

1884—Samuel Taylor, E. LeVasseur, Philander Goud

1885—Enoch D. Stiles, E. W. Lowney, A. L. Ireland

1886—H. H. Lufkin, Corydon Powers, E. LeVasseur

1887-88—H. H. Lufkin, J. D. Emery, E. LeVasseur

1889-90-91—J. D. Emery, J. D. Teague, E. LeVasseur

1892—Parker L. Hardison, A. E. Goodwin, Thomas

Marshall

1893—A. E. Goodwin, P. L. Hardison, Thomas

Marshall

1894-95—J. D. Emery, J. W. Gary, Lewis Violette



## CARIBOU PUBLIC LIBRARY

One more story must be told before closing, that of the Public Library built in 1911, a date way beyond that set down as the limit of time this book would cover. But it surely must be included as the book was written at the urgent request of Mrs. Hale, then the Public Librarian, and never would have been undertaken but for her. So, indirectly, the Library is responsible for these annals.

Mrs. Hale wrote the following sketch which required considerable research work through nearly sixty years.

The Caribou Public Library was first organized by the W. C. T. U., February 18, 1887, but no appropriation was made by the town for its upkeep until the year 1903 when the amount of \$100 was raised for this purpose. Ten dollars was given by the State this same year.

In 1906 the Public Library had acquired 1640 books and had 962 names enrolled as borrowers, with Mrs. Mary E. Luce as Librarian. (It may be interesting, just here, to learn that the Library now contains over 17000 volumes.) At this time the books were housed in the rear of the store occupied by Mrs. Luce at the corner of Main Street and Vaughan Avenue.

As the town grew in population, its inhabitants felt the need of a building to be used permanently as a Library. In 1911 a fine lot on High Street was given





CARIBOU PUBLIC LIBRARY





to the town by the Nathaniel Bartlett estate to be used for a Public Library lot, funds amounting to \$10,000 having been given by Andrew Carnegie for the erection of such a building in Caribou. An additional amount of \$1,276,50 was raised through subscriptions and contributions. A building committee consisting of Willis B. Hall, Albert Donworth, Eugene Theriault and Herschel Collins was appointed by the town at their annual meeting.

The corner stone was laid Friday afternoon, August 25, 1911. A fine brick building was erected and completed that same year. Sarah Roberts, daughter of Calvin Blake Roberts, (who has been mentioned before as one of the early settlers) was appointed as first librarian in the new building in 1911 and held the office until her death in 1917.

The first board of Library trustees were Willis B. Hall, Fred S. Doyle and Fern Gammon Irvine who served faithfully and well for several years.

At the death of Miss Roberts, Miss Marion Lawson acted as Librarian for the remainder of the year 1917 and a part of 1918 when Mrs. Ada Brittain was appointed Librarian and held this office until September 1942, twenty four years of faithful and intelligent service. During this time the number of books was largely increased, especially the reference works.

(September 1, 1942, Mrs. Lettie F. Hale was appointed to take Mrs. Britton's place. She served most acceptably for almost two years when her health began to fail, obliging her to leave her work, and she soon passed away (deeply mourned by all who knew her).

History in ancient times was personified by sculptors as a woman with flowing draperies clasping a scroll to her breast with crossed hands. The scroll of the early history of Caribou is now unrolled giving glimpses of the early settlers in the first half century of the town's existence, as they come and go, coming slowly at first then faster as the years go by. As it unrolls there is seen less of grinding toil and privations, and more of the comforts and conveniences of modern life.

What a long, long look backward it seems, from the Bangor and Aroostook trains of 1895 taking only a day—or a night in a sleeping car—to travel the distance to Boston, back to the pioneer ox-sled of 1845, closed in, with a stovepipe protruding from the roof—taking from four to six weeks to cross the state. Only fifty years from ox-sled to Pullman car; such a vast difference in the “way of life”.

A review of the next fifty years—from 1895 to 1945 would show much greater progress than the fifty years preceding. Think of the luxurious trains of today, the automobile, the airplanes, airports, radios, dial telephones, motion pictures and, let us not forget, good roads, all of which came to us in this era, revolutionizing our lives.

The annals of these busy years should be added by some younger scribe, a lifetime resident of Caribou, then the long story of a century of progress would be complete.

Caribou, like all Aroostook, has a great future before it, with the fertility of its soil and the energy of its inhabitants; founded by such people as those who came in the early years, intelligent, ambitious, full of courage and readiness to bear hardships such as those spoken of in the foregoing pages.

The growth of Aroostook in the last hundred years has been wonderful. The progress of the next hundred years will be still more wonderful. Firm foundations have been laid by our pioneers—fine, God-fearing men and women. Beyond doubt, the future generations will carry on even more successfully than the past.

“Long may our land be bright  
With freedom’s holy light.”

The End











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**TO**

**WHITE'S EARLY HISTORY**  
**of CARIBOU, MAINE**

**By Beatrice LeVasseur Stuart**



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