

Part
Three

ART WORK

OF

Aroostook County

MAINE

FORT FAIRFIELD
PUBLIC LIBRARY

PUBLISHED IN NINE PARTS

THE W. H. PARISH PUBLISHING CO.

R-9741 P



ON AROOSTOOK RIVER NEAR CARIBOU.



ST. MARY'S COLLEGE, VAN BUREN.



MAIN STREET, FORT FAIRFIELD.



NICKERSON LAKE, NEAR HOULTON.



FREE BAPTIST CHURCH, HOULTON.



UNITARIAN CHURCH, HOULTON.



B. & A. R. R. BRIDGE ON MEDUXNEKEAG RIVER, HOULTON.



MAIN STREET, CARIBOU.



SWEDEN STREET, CARIBOU.

potatoes. Having no market at this time their food consisted of what they raised themselves upon their little farms. Land was cheap and they had their choice of all before them. Their homes were log cabins and their lives that of pioneers in the wilderness. The only roads they had were paths through the thick forest upon which they could ride on horseback, but over which no wagon could be driven, as the forests of Aroostook county grow so thick and close that a man on horseback cannot ride through them unless a path is first cleared. The wheat and corn were ground at the mills sometimes many miles away.

The grist was carried there and brought home on horseback.

For many years their life was one of toil and struggle to make for themselves homes in this far-away land. Emigrants were constantly arriving, however, and new plantations were being formed and the fertile fields rescued from the wilds.

Houlton, the shire town, was incorporated March 8th, 1831, and had by this time been permanently established. New settlements had been made all over the eastern border of the county, and its fertile lands had been opened up to settlers.

But very little of this great county except the eastern border was then known to the people, not even its boundaries had been explored. Back towards the west and north stretched a country as unknown almost as that which greeted the eyes of Columbus.

In 1826 the quiet peaceful settlers of Aroostook became greatly excited over a dispute between the United States and England in regard to the northwestern boundary which was the boundary between Maine and the British possessions. Up to 1812 there had been no dispute or controversy between these two nations about the boundary, the river Saint Croix being agreed upon as the proper division, but beyond the monument that marked the head of this river all was undetermined and undecided. To settle this boundary a commission of English and American engineers was appointed to run a line and establish the boundary. The agreement and understanding was that the line was to run due north to the highlands from which the waters flow toward the Atlantic and toward the Saint Lawrence. Everything was mutual until they reached Mars Hill, a small mountain about 40 miles north of the head of the Saint Croix, and 30 miles north of Houlton and about 5 miles west of the Saint John river. Here the English engineers claimed that they had reached the highlands contemplated in the agreement. The American engineers would not agree to this and thereupon the commission returned to report to their respective governments. When this was known, the United States, to provide for any trouble that might arise on account of this dispute, ordered a body of troops to Houlton to establish fortifications there. These troops arrived in October, 1826, and immediately proceeded to fortify the town. Barracks and officers' quarters were erected on what is known as "Garrison Hill," a high eminence overlooking the town and only a short distance from the border. Here for nearly 16 years the soldiers remained in camp life until the final settlement of

the question in 1842, when the troops were withdrawn. During all this time they had never been called into a single engagement.

Shortly after the troops had been quartered at Houlton it became apparent to the Federal government that the only way to reach this territory in Aroostook was through the British possessions, unless a march was attempted through the great wilderness of 120 miles from Bangor, Maine. All the supplies for Aroostook county had to be brought up the Saint John river and to Houlton through this foreign country. So, in 1828 Congress authorized the building of a public military road from Bangor to Houlton. It was an immense undertaking, 120 miles through the wilderness, and under the direction of the Federal government was over two years in process of construction. It was completed in 1830, and for many years it was thronged like the Appian Way to Rome, and did much to open up to settlers this wonderful country. Over this highway came many other pioneers to establish for themselves homes in this even then undiscovered country.

By the treaty of 1783, after the close of the Revolutionary War, one-half of the Saint John river belonged to Maine, but at the close of the war of 1812 Great Britain claimed the whole of the river including both its banks. At this time on the northeastern side of the river, the portion claimed as a part of Aroostook county, there was an American settlement consisting of rude log cabins scattered along the river for a distance of over 20 miles. The inhabitants were chiefly French and of French descent, emigrants from Acadia. The settlement had been incorporated as the town of Madawaska and had sent a representative to the Maine legislature. This action incurred the displeasure of the British authorities in the vicinity, and they proceeded with armed force to break up public and political meetings held by the Americans. This feeling between the two nations increased to such an extent as to almost precipitate war. In the month of June, 1837, Congress sent an officer to Madawaska to take the census of the people and at the same time he was authorized to distribute among the people certain money due them from the United States treasury as assistance on the part of the Federal government. While engaged in his work this agent was arrested by a British constable and carried by him to the nearest English shire town. The sheriff there learning what had been done, became alarmed and refused to become a party to the arrest and would not receive the prisoner. The agent was accordingly released by the constable and returned to Madawaska to carry out his mission. The trouble did not end here.

Governor Harvey, of New Brunswick, learning that money was being distributed among the people by the United States government and considering it a bribe to hold their allegiance to the United States, recklessly ordered the agent to be re-arrested which was accordingly done and he was taken to Fredericton jail. Matters now assumed a serious aspect and great excitement prevailed throughout Maine and in Aroostook county in particular. Robert P. Dunlap was then Governor of Maine and he at once issued a general order announcing that the soil

