

PART
Five

ART WORK

OF

Aroostook County

MAINE

FORT FAIRFIELD
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LUMBER MILL ON ST. JOHN RIVER, VAN BUREN.



BIRDS EYE VIEW OF FORT FAIRFIELD.



SCENE ON BANGOR & AROOSTOOK R. R. NEAR CARIBOU.



RESIDENCE OF T. H. PHAIR, PRESQUE ISLE



RESIDENCE OF A. R. GOULD, PRESQUE ISLE.



IN EVERGREEN CEMETERY, HOULTON.



MARKETING POTATOES AT STARCH FACTORIES, HOULTON,



ST. JOHN'S SCHOOL, PRESQUE ISLE.

meantime Captain Rines had advanced to the mouth of the Little Madawaska river. Here he met the armed trespassers returning, about 300 in number, and was himself captured with many of his men, and they were taken as prisoners and carried to Fredericton jail in New Brunswick.

The outlaws, receiving new courage, repossessed themselves of the territory, fortified themselves and bade defiance to the government of the United States. Sheriff Strickland, with a portion of his men, retired to Masardis, where they fortified themselves, while he set out for Augusta, the capital of the state, and laid the matter before the governor. In the meantime Governor Harvey of New Brunswick had issued a proclamation stating that English territory had been invaded and ordered out a thousand of the militia to repel the invaders. At the same time he sent a communication to the Governor of Maine demanding a recall of the American troops from Aroostook, and announcing that he would hold the disputed territory by military force. What was known as the "Aroostook war" then commenced in earnest. The legislature of Maine immediately passed a resolve for the protection of the public lands in the state and appropriated \$800,000 for that purpose. A draft was made for 10,343 men from the militia to be ready for immediate movement, and the next day troops began to move towards the center of action with General Bachelder in command. It was mid-winter in Maine and bitterly cold. The men were in regular uniforms, which were not adapted to camp life in winter in the wilds of Aroostook. On through drifting snows and freezing winds the men pressed their way, and before a week 10,000 troops were in Aroostook county. The National government now took a hand in the matter. Congress passed a bill authorizing the President of the United States, should the Governor of New Brunswick persist in holding the disputed territory, to raise 50,000 troops for the support of Maine and appropriated \$10,000,000 to meet the expenses. The command was placed under General Scott who, on the 5th of March reached Augusta. On his arrival there General Scott entered into a correspondence with Governor Harvey of New Brunswick and Governor Fairfield of Maine. He endeavored to act the part of a peace-maker and after some correspondence it was agreed between the two powers that the troops on both sides should be withdrawn and the matter referred to arbitration.

The soldiers went back to their homes and this ended what was known as the "Bloodless Aroostook War."

In March following the Aroostook region which, previous to this time was connected with Washington and Penobscot counties, was formed into a new county bearing its original name. The matter in dispute was finally settled in 1842 by Lord Ashburton, the British Ambassador, and Daniel Webster, American Secretary of State, together with a commission appointed by Maine. The basis of the settlement was that Maine should surrender a considerable tract of land which England greatly needed so that there should be free communication between New Brunswick and Canada, and in compensation therefor the United States received territory of much greater value on the borders of Lakes Champlain and Superior. The Federal govern-

ment paid Maine \$150,000 for the surrender. Maine also received \$200,000 for the reimbursement she had incurred in defending American territory. The Senate of the United States ratified the Ashburton treaty on the 20th of August, 1842. The action of Maine during the whole affair has always been approved as being wise and patriotic.

In 1843 Aroostook county was further enlarged by additions from Penobscot on the southwest, and in 1844 by additions from Piscataquis and Somerset also on the southwest. This, together with the territory owned at that time, forms the present county of Aroostook.

The result of this excitement and agitation was to advertise Aroostook county, its wonderful resources and homes for emigrants. The state owning large quantities of land opened them up for actual settlers allowing the pioneer to pay for the same at the rate of 15 or 20 cents per acre by work upon the highways. This brought a large emigration to Aroostook county and yet this vast region was still a great wilderness calling for new settlers and new emigrants. It was rapidly peopled before the War of the Rebellion in which Aroostook took an active part and sent to the front many brave boys "who came not again." After the war the question, "How to populate Aroostook?" became of general interest. There was no finer farming land in the state and it offered great inducements to those who with small means wanted to make for themselves homes.

In view of this, the subject of colonizing portions of the lands of Aroostook was agitated, and Governor Washburn, in his message to the Legislature in 1861, brought forward the subject of forming Swedish settlements in Aroostook county. The matter was fully discussed before the Maine Legislature and three commissioners were appointed to report upon the practicability of peopling these unsettled townships by colonists from Sweden. In 1870 the commissioners reported that they had carefully explored Aroostook county and advised the establishment of a Swedish colony in Aroostook, and also advised the appointment of an agent to be sent to Sweden to collect about 25 families and bring them to Aroostook, to township number 15 in the third range, where, in a healthy climate with a fertile soil, abundant lumber and pure water, farms were to be given to them without cost. None were to be brought over except those who were able to pay the expenses of their voyage and were honest, industrious and of good habits. In 1871 Hon. W. W. Thomas, of Portland, was appointed Commissioner of Emigration and he sailed for Sweden in May, 1870. Here he met the people, talked over with them this new world, investigated and selected his company, made addresses to the people, and on June 25, 1870, after being forty days in Sweden, he returned to Maine with 22 men, 11 women and 18 children to establish a Swedish colony in Aroostook. They were mostly farmers and were accompanied by their pastor, also a civil engineer, blacksmith, two carpenters, basket maker, wheel-wright, baker, tailor and shoemaker. The women were all industrious and expert in the use of the wheel and the loom. All were healthy and perfect specimens of their race, and willing to work and establish homes for themselves. July 23, 1870, these emigrants arrived

