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PRESQUE ISLE REGISTER

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EARLY SETTLEMENT.

From a pamphlet giving the account of an excursion taken by the "Editors of Maine" in 1858 we find the appearance of Presque Isle village at that time described as follows: "It is a smart little village, this Presque Isle. It has a new, spruce, go-ahead look, and evidently don't intend to be lost in the woods. It is going to imerge from the wilderness and become a thriving and populous place. * * * Situated on the Presque Isle stream, about one mile from its junction with the Aroostook, the village lies at the base of a high slope of land, snugly nestling in its little valley. From the summit of this elevated ridge, up which one of the village streets extends, a fine view is obtained of the surrounding forest, which hems the village in upon all sides. The place contains one hotel, five or six stores, a very neat schoolhouse, and forty or fifty dwelling houses. Population two or three hundred. The Presque Isle stream affords water power, which is improved by saw, shingle, clapboard and grist mills. * * * The surrounding country is fine farming land, much of which has been taken up and improved, but

enough still remains. Lots can be obtained within a few miles of the village."

Twenty years later, when on a similar excursion they wrote, "The place had quite outgrown our memory. The little hamlet in the woods, of twenty years ago, is now a large and flourishing village. Now the view from the summit of the elevated ridge is one of a cultivated country, the forest driven back, and clothing the far distant hills."

Could these men visit Presque Isle of today they would find even greater developments of her home industries and possessions than marked the period which elapsed between these two visits to this newly developed town.

We find the first settlement was made in this town in the year 1820, when three men came from New Brunswick up the Aroostook River, and made a clearing a short distance below the mouth of the Presque Isle stream.

According to a historical sketch written by Mrs. Sidney Graves, these men were Lewis and Charles Johnson and Mr. McCree. Theirs was then the only campfire in all the vast region of wilderness round about, but soon they were joined by other settlers. In 1825 there were seven families living in their log cabins on the river banks. All their supplies were brought from New Brunswick by way of the river which was the only thoroughfare. Who these other first settlers were we are unable to say, nor shall we attempt to give the settlers in the order of their arrival.

It was probably in 1826 that the first mill was built here. This was erected and run by Peter Bull on what is now the Walter Stevens farm.

In 1828, Mr. Dennis Fairbanks came here from Troy, Maine, and made a clearing on the bank of the Presque Isle stream about where the Aroostook Lumber Co.'s mill now stands. Later he obtained from the state a grant of a mile square of land, on condition that he should erect and maintain a saw and grist mill. The material for the mill was loaded upon two batteaux at Old Town, and poled up the Penobscot to its headwaters, hauled across the portage to the Aroostook river and boated down to the mouth of the Presque Isle stream, then up the stream to the mill site. Robert McCann, an adopted son of Mr. Fairbanks, poled one of the boats, and soon after made a clearing on what is now the Charles Phair farm. Mr. Veranus Chandler, who came in 1834, and Silas Blodgett, afterwards occupied the log house which Mr. McCann erected. It is probable that, but for the superior business ability of Mr. Fairbanks, the village would have sprung up around Mr. Bull's mill.

There soon sprang up a little settlement about Mr. Fairbank's mill, which for some years was known as "Fairbanks."

Mrs. Sumner Whitney's father, Nathaniel Bradstreet, came to this town about the year 1830 from Bridgewater, where he had located the previous year. Mr. Bradstreet and Gen. Wellington, who settled Monticello, at about the same time, were among the first men to settle north of Houlton, and were each granted large tracts of land. Soon after the settlement in Presque Isle was begun others took up land in the surrounding territory. Several families from the provinces came into the locality, settling along the Aroostook

river.

John Allen was one of the first to settle in what afterwards became Maysville. He attempted to have the village established at the mouth of the Presque Isle stream, on the Aroostook, but the mill at Fairbanks was then the most important feature in the place, the extensive forest tracts were the chief source of income and industry, hence, the chief attraction. Gowen and Sarah Wilson came to Presque Isle in the early thirties, at a time when there were but two houses standing where is now located the village. Jonathan True, who settled just beyond Mr. Rackliff's, on the Gardiner road, enlisted in the Aroostook war, but did not arrive here until after the close of those exciting times.

Among the settlers on the river road in Maysville were Benjamin Weeks, Mr. McDougald, John Benjamin, Andrew Scott, Philo and Joel Bean, Reuben Bean, Cyrus Pomroy, John Raymond, Joseph Blake, Mr. Hobart, Mr. Armstrong, William and Geo. Towle, Mr. Currier, John Beckwith, Peter Bull, William Pyle, Lewis Johnson, and Messrs. Churchill and Southerland. Henry Rolfe was the first man to settle in Maysville back from the river.

On the Houlton road south of the village the farms were settled: by Mr. Wilson on the hill, under the hill a Mr. Reed, then Mr. Rose, Mr. Doe and Mr. Wade. Mr. Doe married the daughter of Mr. Wade. He was killed by falling from his barn. The next south was Mr. Whitten whose son now lives in Spragueville.

The trading was done for many years at Woodstock which was reached by traveling on horseback by spotted

line through the forest and by the use of dugout canoes on the river.

Silas Ireland came in the spring of 1843 or 44. There was then a road to Houlton made by cutting the trees even with the surface of the ground. The road was "bushed" in 1849, and corduroy roads laid through the swamps.

Thomas Whitaker came from Fort Fairfield in 1848, settling where Isaac Whitaker now lives. He built a log house which was occupied by Mr. Benjamin, who settled here before the Aroostook War. James Jackson lived on the Houlton road, just at the end, and had his clearing at the corner. J. S. Cronkhite came in July, 1855, and located on the Stevenson farm on the Houlton road. He was probably the earliest regular mail carrier, going to Houlton twice a week on horseback. Mr. Henderson, who came in 1849, was another useful man in the early town. Dr. Dibble came at an early date. The first hotel was kept by Mr. Packard, near the site of the present one.

Mr. Fairbanks lost much of his money, and, about 1845, sold the mill and the privilege to Mr. Whitney. Mr. Whitney sold many lots at a low rate for the purpose of offering inducements to settlers. He hired a school teacher, who held her school in a room over the grist mill. From this time the growth of the town became more rapid. Mr. Whitney operated the hotel which stood on the site of the present new hotel, and which was greatly frequented by lumbermen and hunters. He was one of the chief promoters of the interests of Presque Isle.

When James R. Cleaves arrived in town, from Boston,

in 1857, there were 19 buildings standing in the village, including the old academy building, which stood near C. P. Allen's house. Sumner Whitney run a saw mill, using an up-and-down saw. Joseph Hines and David Dudley run general stores. Mr. Brackett and Joseph Hall were traders, and Dr. Freeman and Zebulon Row were grocers.

The only turnpike road in Presque Isle was that extending up the hill on the cross road from Perry's on the Center line to the Houlton road.

At that time Moses Allen lived on the farm now occupied by J. C. Seeley; Lewis Wight where Mr. Gilman now lives on the cross road, he was killed in the Civil War; Mr. Whitaker's family and O. P. Smith lived just below. Jacob Dockendoff lived in the one log house this side of the swamp, at Sprague's Mills. It was said that a man could go to the village from Sprague's Mills only by night, the roads were so bad. Beniah Pratt lived on the Center Line road near the brook, beyond the poor farm. A short distance from his house, toward Presque Isle village, stood the little red schoolhouse in which the first town meeting was held. John Goss at that time lived on what is now the town farm. Freeman Hayden came about ten years earlier than Mr. Cleaves. Others living in town in 1857 were Marcellus Foster, Nelson Turney, John M. Trueworthy, Silas Ireland, S. Ireland, Jr., Geo. Ireland, Judge James Cloudman, David Foster, Col. Rackliff, Alanson Rackliff, Isaac Bartlett, Gowen Wilson, Dea. Ephraim Clark, Samuel Lawson, John E. Clark, Alfred Annas, Amasa Dow, Michael Ghallager, Jesse Tarbell, Capt. Moses Row, Geo. F. Whidden and others. Mr. Cleaves'

father, Robert, came in 1859 and settled the Harris Erskine place.

We have been unable to take up the settlements made in this town in their proper order, nor to give a full account of those who were the pioneers in this thriving town. The length of our sketch is necessarily confined to a few pages, hence we leave the full account of the settlements made here to a more comprehensive work.

Presque Isle met with her first fire disaster in 1860, the year after the town became incorporated as such. The loss sustained at this time was estimated at \$25,000, twenty-one buildings being destroyed, and a large part of the town burned over. This loss, though a great set-back to the community, did not prevent immediate erection of newer and better structures.



INCORPORATION

The present township of Presque Isle is included in Range 2, the southern half being originally known as Letter F, and the northern half Letter G. On April 4, 1859, both townships were incorporated, separately, as townships, the northern, under the name of Maysville, remaining a separate town until February, 4, 1883, when the two towns united taking the name of the southern town and of the village

which now lies near the middle of the united territory. The present township is six miles wide and twelve miles long, thus containing 72 square miles. Most of this land is as good as can be found in Maine for agricultural purposes, that formerly included in the town of Maysville lying in the fertile valley of the Aroostook River which takes a winding course of about eleven miles through the town. In the southern part of Presque Isle is Green Mountain, having four peaks which lie in a true north-and-south line. East of the mountain and at its base lies Quaggy Joe Lake, a mile in length. This is the only sheet of water included in the town.

The population of Presque Isle in 1860—one year after its incorporation, was 732; ten years later it was but 970, while in 1880 it had reached 1305. At this time Maysville had a population of about 1141. In 1890, after the towns had been united, the population of Presque Isle was 3046; and in 1900, 3804, with a valuation of \$1,413,668.

The township is bounded on the north by Caribou, on the east by Fort Fairfield and Easton, on the south by Westfield Plantation, and on the west by Chapman, Mapleton, and Washburn.

TOWN OFFICIALS

The following is a list of the clerks, treasurers, and selectmen of Presque Isle since the date of uniting with Maysville, 1883, to the present time. Also those who served the town of Maysville until that town was annexed to Presque Isle. The Records of Presque Isle from 1860 to 1872 were destroyed at the time of the fire of 1884.

CLERKS.

MAYSVILLE.

- 1859—John A. Allen.
- 1860-61—Joel Bean.
- 1862—James F. Barto.
- 1863—E. E. Parkhurst.
- 1864—Joel Bean.
- 1865-72—Geo. A. Parsons.
- 1873—John A. Allen.
- 1874-79—Samuel Daggett.
- 1880-82, D. B. Jewett.

PRESQUE ISLE.

- 1859—John N. Trueworthy.
- 1883-91—L. S. Judd.
- 1892-93—John H. Judd.
- 1894-1904—H. B. Thayer.

HISTORICAL.
TREASURERS.

MAYSVILLE.

- 1859—Reuben O. Bean.
1860—Hiram Church.
1861-64—W. P. Pratt.
1865—O. W. Harlow.
1866-67—T. M. Richardson.
1868—B. F. Allen.
1869-70—Veranus Chandler.
1871—Columbus Hayford.
1872-73—O. B. Bean.
1874-76—Veranus Chandler.
1877—O. B. Bean.
1878-79—C. P. Ferguson.
1880-82—E. E. Parkhurst.

PRESQUE ISLE.

- 1859—John T. Goss.
1883-89—Chas. P. Allen.
1890-99—Aubrey M. Smith.
1900-04—Walter M. Seeley.

SELECTMEN.

MAYSVILLE.

- 1859—Joel Bean, W. P. Pratt, James Nichols.
1860—Joel Bean, Joseph Blake, Henry Rolf.
1861—Joel Bean, Henry Rolf, Elisha E. Parkhurst.
1862—Joel Bean, W. P. Pratt, T. M. Richardson.
1863—T. M. Richardson, L. R. Smith, H. B. Ham.

- 1864—T. M. Richardson, Joel Bean, Henry Rolf.
1865-66—Joel Bean, Veranes Chandler, Geo. A. Parsons.
1867—Joel Bean, C. P. Ferguson, T. M. Richardson.
1868-69—Joel Bean, C. P. Ferguson, J. F. Barto.
1870—Joel Bean, C. P. Ferguson, C. G. Chandler.
1871—Joel Bean, T. M. Richardson, C. P. Ferguson.
1872—Joel Bean, C. P. Ferguson, C. Hayford.
1873—C. P. Ferguson, C. Hayford, J. Currier.
1874-76—C. P. Ferguson, C. Hayford, S. Daggett.
1877-79—C. Hayford, S. Daggett, A. M. Smith.
1880-81—S. Daggett, A. M. Smith, C. P. Ferguson.
1882—C. P. Ferguson, Joel Bean, T. M. Richardson.

PRESQUE ISLE.

- 1859—A. Doe, Moses Rose, Francis M. Rackliff.
1883-86—L. S. Judd, C. P. Ferguson, S. D. Butterfield.
1887-89—L. S. Judd, C. P. Ferguson, R. J. Smith.
1890-91—L. S. Judd, R. J. Smith, A. E. Irving.
1892-94—R. J. Smith, A. E. Irving, S. W. Duff.
1895-98—A. E. Irving, S. C. Greenlow, C. H. Richardson.
1899—A. E. Irving, Lewis Scott, C. H. Richardson.
1900—A. E. Irving, S. C. Greenlow, J. H. Judd.
1901—A. E. Irving, S. C. Greenlow, M. S. Huson.
1902—A. E. Irving, C. H. Richardson, M. S. Huson.
1903—A. E. Irving, D. W. Gilman, M. S. Huson.
1904—C. H. Richardson, M. S. Huson, C. C. Rolfe.

INDUSTRIAL ACCOUNT

As we have already seen, the first mills erected on the Aroostook river were those constructed by Mr. Bull, and soon after, Mr. Fairbanks. As was the case in all unsettled towns, the first requisite was to clear the land, and at the same time secure lumber for house construction. The logs for the first houses were not sawed but were laid as closely together as they could be, and the holes chinked up. The houses constructed after the first mills were in operation, with their up-and-down saws, took hardly less timber than those built with the unsawed logs, for the frames put up at the "raisings" were built for service and durability. The village met with its first fire disaster in 1860, when almost the whole of the northern part of the town was burned over, causing quite a set-back to the pioneer families; but, soon they had built up the burned portion, and the place was again in a prosperous condition. In the winter of 1863 the Fairbanks Mills were burned. Before this, however, they had been sold to John Allen. The next year Mr. Sidney Cook bought the mill privilege, and rebuilt the mills a little farther up stream, at a cost of \$20,000.

The manufacture of starch has had great influence on the development of the town's resources. The rich, fertile soil, as soon as cleared, was found to be very productive, especially in the valley of the Aroostook, in what was later

Maysville. The seasons were found to be too short for ripening a corn crop, but there were yet many vegetables which could be raised. Soon potato growing became quite extensive, the land being found to be especially adapted to their cultivation, but there were poor shipping facilities. In 1874 Mr. Wheeler, of New Hampshire, built the first starch factory in town. This was located near the grist mill. The year following, the Aroostook Starch Co., a stock company, at the head of which was the firm of Johnson and Phair, built the factory near the Aroostook bridge. The starch business has continued to increase, until now, Hon. T. H. Phair alone owns and operates 13 factories in this and adjoining towns.

The people of Presque Isle began to feel the need of better commercial facilities. Mr. Hall, editor of the Herald, worked long and earnestly for a direct line to connect with the European and North American R. R. at Mattawamkeag. Later, all united to secure an extension of the New Brunswick R. R. from Fort Fairfield, and on the first day of December, 1881, the first train steamed into this town. This was a narrow gauge, but was relaid and widened a few years after. The New Brunswick R. R. was sold to the Canadian Pacific R. R. Co. The first telegraph line to this place was completed in 1882.

On the morning of the first day of May, 1884, occurred the destructive fire which left nearly the whole business portion of the town in ruins. Starting in the third story of the Johnson & Phair store on the corner, where the new Perry Building stands today, the fire swept both sides of the street

to A. M. Smith's store. Then the people realized their need of an organized fire department and the present Fire Company was organized that year. Before many months had passed after the fire the village was again rebuilt. The years 1887 and 1888 were marked ones in the progress of the town. During the summer of 1887, the water works were constructed at a cost of \$30,000. The Presque Isle Electric Light Co. was also established the same year, and the lights first turned on during the following December. The First National Bank opened its doors for business Jan. 2, 1888, with a capital of \$50,000. In 1892, the Merchants' Trust and Banking Co. was organized. The following year telephone connection was completed with the outside world, and the next year the Bangor and Aroostook R. R. was completed to Houlton, thus giving Presque Isle a direct connection with the southern part of the state, and with the markets which handle large quantities of her produce.

Maysville, at the time of annexation with Presque Isle, contained a large starch factory besides several saw mills; but this is exclusively an agricultural section. The capacity of the starch factory at that time was 727 tons, consuming 140,000 bushels of potatoes annually. In the spring of 1880, nearly 500 trees, mostly rock maple, were set out along the highways by members of the Maysville Grange. Much pride is taken in the excellent roads throughout the town. The introduction of the use of potato machinery, which was about ten years ago, has greatly increased the acreage of that standard crop.

The village has again been visited by fire. During the

summer of 1903 there was a fire back of the railroad station on Main street, Mrs. Graves' house, Robinson's storehouses, some potato houses and other buildings; and again, during the spring of 1904 the saw mill and a livery stable were burned. Apparently few towns in the state have suffered more by fire during the same length of time than has Presque Isle, yet the encouraging result is seen today in the modern business blocks and dwellings which now rest upon the burned districts of 1884 and other times. This is the commercial center of the surrounding country for a long distance, and is now a principal shipping point.

The Presque Isle Water Co. previously mentioned, was formed in 1887 with Geo. H. Freeman, M. D, as president and superintendent. Competent engineering advice was at once sought, and a comprehensive and efficient plan decided upon. The village now has a water supply, taken from Kennedy Brook, which, both in quantity and quality is one of the most satisfactory. The brook is fed by copious springs of pure, clear water, and also drains an area of about 28 square miles. The reservoir has a capacity of 35,000,000 gallons and is located 100 feet above Main street, producing a pressure of about forty pounds. Sidney Graves is the present superintendent.

Manufacturing industries covering a wide field have been carried on in town since Mr. Fairbanks built his saw and grist mill on the Presque Isle River in 1828. The list includes the manufacture of long and short lumber, starch, wood work of various kinds, such as doors, sash, mouldings, etc., cabinet work, brick, carriages, harness, coffins and cas-

kets, meal and feed, machine work, marble work, axes, hides and leather, tin work, general blacksmith work, and many others. The saw mills, located at Sprague's Mills were early established, and have been an important factor in that section of the town. This mill, at the present time, employs 8 men.

Thus has this enterprising people developed the unlimited natural resources of their chosen town. But the place is now hardly half a century old. What appearance the place will present at the centennial, 1959, we cannot say, yet everything points toward the greater and immediate development of Aroostook, and her vast regions of uncounted wealth.

CHURCH ACCOUNT

METHODIST CHURCH

In 1839 Rev. J. G. Pingree was appointed by the Maine Annual Conference to "Aroostook Mission," a new field, part of which had just come under the jurisdiction of the state. He traveled on horseback to Patten, which was then the upper end of the State Road. From there he traveled on foot to No. 10, on Presque Isle River. He wrote: "Aug. 19 I went by water to Fort Eairfield." "From thence I crossed

to Presque Isle where I found an extensive settlement but mostly from the Province." He remained about ten days and formed the first Methodist class. He organized a class of four members in "No. 11." He wrote "the settlement consisted of a good class of people. Presque Isle class numbered 24 members, and a class five miles below, called the "Reach Settlement" consisted of ten members.

Rev. Mr. Pingree had charge of the work for two years, preaching in Houlton, Patten, Masardis, Ashland, Presque Isle, and Fort Fairfield, traveling from one place to the next on foot, and preaching also in lumber camps and small settlements.

Thus was formed the first church in Presque Isle, which was the foundation of the present prosperous Methodist Episcopal Church. We have not been furnished an account of the church since its formation.

FREE BAPTIST CHURCH.

The earliest record of any movement by the Free Baptists of Presque Isle to establish a church dates back to the October session of the Springfield Quarterly Meeting, when a council of ministers was chosen consisting of Rev. Moses Stevens, Rev. Thomas Kinney and Rev. Lincoln Given, who met in the old Academy building, Nov. 5, 1859, according to a notice published in the Aroostook Pioneer of Nov. 1st.

The council organized by choosing Rev. Moses Stevens moderator and Rev. Lincoln Given, clerk.

The following persons presented letters and constituted the first membership by adopting the covenant and articles

of faith of the Free Baptist denomination.

Sylvanus Hatch, Ruth Hall, Elizabeth Pratt from the Lyndon church; Grace Getchell, Mrs. Harriet Getchell from the Fort Fairfield church; Nathaniel Gammon, Edee D. Gammon from the church at Phillips; Thomas K Dow, Mrs. Paulena Dow from the church at Vienna.

Nathaniel Gammon was elected clerk, and the monthly conference established on the Saturday preceding the first Sabbath in each month, which has been continued to the present time.

Since the time of the organization the church has received to its membership 260. During this time the church has had for pastors Revs. Colomore Purington, who served the church for over ten years; J. W. Carr, for six years; G. M. Park, L. E. Hull, C. W. Foster, B. Minard, for a few months; J. E. Gosline, now of Barrington, Nova Scotia; Rev. A. F. Schermerhorn, now of Limerick; David Boyd, E. Trevor Cook; and George M. Park, who has been its pastor for the past three years.

Its present membership is 71. Resident membership 54. Non-resident membership 17.

January 1st, 1880, Rev. Geo. M. Park, who had accepted a call from the Fort Fairfield and Presque Isle churches entered upon the pastorate. At that time the church was worshipping in the old academy building. This was upon one side of the village and but few of the village people attended. The services were soon transferred to Johnson's Hall on Main street, where the congregation worshipped until Dec. 1880, when the vestry of the present Free Baptist

church was opened with a public service.

Up to this time there had not been a Free Baptist church edifice owned by the Free Baptists exclusively north of Houlton. There was a house of worship in Bridgewater known as the Smith meeting house, but this belonged to the Free Baptist Conference of New Brunswick. This was the first house of worship built and owned by Free Baptists in northern Aroostook. It had its birth in the home of Deacon Thatcher Smith. The need of a house of worship was there discussed and some offers made. Daniel Stickney being a correspondent of certain local and state papers wrote a local that the Free Baptists were to build a church.

The summer following the present lot was bought of John Allen, at the high price of \$400, (he contributing \$100), and the work was begun. F. B. and A. M. Smith were employed to do the work.

A town clock, the first in the county, was presented by John Allen, the liberal pioneer of Maysville, and the bell of 1000 pounds was bought by subscription. The church was dedicated by Rev. C. W. Foster. The church has recently undergone extensive repairs, and is now one of the most convenient, pleasant and tasty churches to be found in the state. It is in a prosperous condition, and is doing good work.

BAPTIST CHURCH.

The Presque Isle Baptist church has had a varied history. It was organized in March, 1843, in a log school house in what was then called the "Moses Rose district,"

about three miles south of the present village on what is now the Houlton road; Rev. J. P. Roberts was the first pastor, Deacon Rose, clerk. There were then neither village nor roads. The country was new and the settlers poor. There was no church of any kind in North Aroostook before this church was organized.

On December 13, 1862, Rev. S. Besse became pastor, remaining until August 11, 1866. Since his arrival complete records have been preserved. From the time of Rev. Mr. Besse's resignation, until July, 1869, the church was without a regular pastor. On the latter date Rev. E. Nugent began his pastorate. The first meeting house was erected in the year 1872. On May 7, 1875, Rev. Mr. Nugent resigned. He was followed during the next seven years by Reverends G. S. Sargent, J. F. Norris, Geo. Seeley, Mr. Preston, J. H. Parshley, Herbert Tilden, and J. M. Follett, the latter serving three years. From Nov., 1882, to April, 1886, was a period of decline, during which time the meeting house was closed, and later sold. Beginning in April, 1886, Rev. C. E. Young of Caribou preached once in two weeks, and continued until Rev. H. L. Caulkins became pastor, Sept. 12, 1887. After the renewal of church services they were held for one year in the Free-Will Baptist vestry, and two years in the Congregational meeting house. At the expiration of that time the present meeting house was completed, and dedicated June 27, 1890.

In August, 1898, Rev. H. L. Caulkins resigned as pastor to accept a call to the Baptist church in Yarmouth, Maine, having served the church faithfully for eleven years, during

which time the church more than doubled its membership.

Rev. Cecil Deane became pastor of the church, December 4th, 1898, and closed his labors with the church November, 1901.

From November until the middle of May the church was pastorless. During this critical period great service was rendered to the church by the visits of Rev. C. E. Young and Rev. Nathan Hunt, State missionaries.

Much credit is due to the Christian Endeavor society for sustaining services during this period.

May 18, 1902, Rev. A. W. Lorimer became pastor. 26 have since been added to the membership of the church and six have been granted letters of dismissal.

Present membership, (Oct. 1904), one hundred and two. The church has been weakened by many removals from town, but has sent out a large number of young people who are doing efficient service in other fields, many of whom have spoken in the warmest terms of their obligation to the home church.—*Furnished by Rev. A. W. Lorimer.*

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH (PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL)

The first service of the Episcopal Church, in Presque Isle, was conducted by Rev. W. H. Washburn, on Sunday, Jan. 31st, 1869, after which date the same clergyman held services regularly—at first monthly, and then weekly. The mission was organized in 1875 and the church building was consecrated in 1876. After Mr. Washburn, Rev. Rodney M. Edwards was in charge for ten months. Rev. Hudson Sawyer followed and did much for the development of the church

in Presque Isle. It was he, who founded and built St. John's School, which exerted for many years a marked influence on the town, setting a standard of scholarship to which it would be hard for the ordinary schools of even larger towns to attain.

After Mr. Sawyer left, the parish was in charge of the successive principals of St. John's School, until Rev. Wm. G. Elmer took charge in 1886. Mr. Elmer was succeeded in 1892 by Rev. Arthur N. Wrixon, who was in turn followed in 1894 by Rev. Charles F. Sweet. During Mr. Sweet's incumbency the school was closed, and since then the clergy in charge have been able to devote their whole time to the parish.

Rev. Harry Hudson was in charge from 1898 to 1901 and Rev. W. A. Sparks from Feb. 1901 to Dec. 1904.

The church property comprises a comfortable and well furnished church building, a convenient rectory, situated on a desirable corner, and a building which will in time be fitted up as a parish house.—*Account furnished by Rev. W. A. Sparks.*

CATHOLIC CHURCH

The first Catholic church, with all its records, was destroyed by fire in 1899, rendering a detailed account of its early proceedings impossible to obtain. The first resident Priest was Father Dennis Marchaud, who came during the 80's. Father LaRivier came here to take charge of the church affairs soon after the burning of the church, and by his earnest efforts, and the able assistance of the people, they now have one of the finest churches in the county, built at a cost of around \$10,000.

SCHOOL ITEMS

We learn from Mrs. Graves' article written on the early history of the town, that a private school was taught by Miss Susan M. Hooper, later Mrs. Daniel Duff, in the log house belonging to Story Hooper, on the Parsons intervale. This was the first school taught in town. The first school taught in the village was in a room over the grist mill. The date of the building of the first schoolhouse is not known, but it was situated on the Rackliff farm, on the Center Line road, and was called the "red school house."

The next school house was built in Maysville, in 1844, where the burying ground now is. The next was built in 1857, where the Cottage Hotel now stands. Mrs. Lewis Scott, then Miss Bean, was one of the early teachers in the town.

We learn that the first Academy building, situated near the lot now occupied by the residence of C. P. Allen, was burned in 1860. A new building, containing schoolrooms and a town hall was erected during the summer on the site of the present high school building. This new Academy building was opened Sept. 11, 1860, in charge of George Curtis, Jr. and E. P. Hines as principals. In this building was placed the first bell in town. This was rung regularly for many years at the hours of 6 A. M., 12 M. and 9 P. M.

The St. John school opened in September, 1884, but we understand that regular sessions were not held until 1887.

From this date until 1893 this was attended by the high school students as a free high school provided by the town. In the latter year the present high school building was erected and opened. This is a fine building, located upon the site of the old Academy, and in point of beauty and adaptability of purpose is the equal of any building in the state. This school offers three courses of study, English, English Classical, and College Preparatory. The school is fitted with a good laboratory and a fair amount of apparatus. Three teachers are employed in this school. The first principal was Charles N. Perkins, Colby, '93. He remained until 1898. He was succeeded by J. E. Roberts, Bates, from 1898--1902, and Noah Vernon Barker, 1902--1904. Present principal, Sam Lorenzo Merriman, Bowdoin.

The school system of the town of Presque Isle now embraces twenty-two rural, or suburban schools, eleven schools in the village containing nine grades from the primary to the grammar, and the high school. During the school year, 1903--'04, there were registered in these schools a total of 874 pupils. The same course of study is used in the rural schools as in the village, thus making it possible to transfer students from one school to another without losing time as they can enter the same grade. In regard to its school buildings, Presque Isle compares favorably with other towns of the state; her buildings are of ample size, well adapted to the purpose, and are either new or in good repair.

In the newly established State Normal School here the people have the realization of a long-felt desire for a more

convenient and accessible institution for preparing for normal work. With a thoroughly efficient and graded school system, a successful and prosperous fitting school, and a state normal training school, the education of the coming generation seems to be well assured.

AROOSTOOK STATE NORMAL SCHOOL.

The Aroostook State Normal was authorized by act of Legislature, March 20, 1903, and received its first entering class Sept. 15, 1903. The home of the Normal School at present is in the buildings formerly occupied by the St. John's School. These buildings have been thoroughly repaired and fitted for use at an expense of between \$10,000 and \$15,000 and are for the time being well adapted to the needs of the new school.

The first class consisted of seventeen of the young men and women of the county who determined to better prepare themselves for the work of teaching. In the winter this number was increased to twenty-seven. The increase has been steady each term since and now has between seventy and eighty registered students and over fifty in actual attendance this winter term. The attendance indicates a wholesome growth, and the high scholarship maintained and the high grade of teachers employed in all departments insures a thorough preparation of those attending the school.

In the spring of 1904 a teacher of drawing and music was added to the corps of instructors, making four in all. In the winter of 1904 the training school was opened, hav-

ing the first six grades represented, with Miss Florence M. Hale, a Massachusetts teacher, as principal. This school is located in the lower rooms of the Normal building and has about sixty pupils in its classes. These serve as models which the Normal students observe and as training classes where they may apply the principles learned earlier in the course.

The laboratories are now well equipped for work in physics, biology and chemistry. A large amount of apparatus has just been purchased, making the laboratories among the best of their class in the state.

In short, the conditions as a whole are indicative of prosperity. The great need of such an institution in this growing county, the growing demand for Normal teachers all over the country and the uniform practice of the state of generously providing those things which are manifestly to the interest of her citizens, insure to the school a prosperous future and a wide field of usefulness.

INSTRUCTORS.

Irving O. Bragg, A. B., Principal, Pedagogy and Sciences.

Alonzo J. Knowlton, Vice-Principal, Sciences.

Ardelle M. Tozier, Assistant, English.

Mary F. Kauffman, Assistant, Drawing and Music.

Teacher to be elected, Mathematics and History.

Florence M. Hale, Assistant, Methods and Elementary Psychology.

TRAINING SCHOOL.

Florence M. Hale, Principal.

Assistant Teacher to be elected.

MILITARY MATTERS

THE AROOSTOOK WAR

The question of the northeast boundary of the United States, the northern and eastern boundaries of the State of Maine, was one early claiming considerable attention, beginning almost as soon as the Treaty of Peace was concluded at Paris in 1783. By the terms of this treaty the northeastern boundary line was "From the northwest angle of Nova Scotia, to wit: that angle which is formed by a line drawn due north from the source of the St. Croix River to the highlands which divide those rivers which empty themselves into the St. Lawrence from those which fall into the Atlantic Ocean, to the northwesternmost head of Connecticut River. * * * East by a line to be drawn along the middle of the river St. Croix, from its mouth in the Bay of Fundy to its source, and from its source directly north to the aforesaid highlands." The map used by the commissioners was one made by one Mitchell, in 1764, which shows the St. Croix River to be the most eastern of the three which flow into the Passamaquoddy Bay. With these boundaries the District of Maine included a strip of territory now included in the Province of New Brunswick, about 100 miles wide and 300 miles long, besides other territory now under the Crown to the extent of about one half the present area of the state. It was England's purpose to acquire a direct route from

Halifax to Quebec, and although there was no question as to the true location of the boundary, the Crown gradually gained the control of the territory, by possession. Many attempts were made to adjust the settlement, and to establish the boundary while the District was a part of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, but it was an open question in 1820 when the State of Maine was admitted into the Union.

England primarily laid no legal claim to the territory, and in 1832, in secret session the state Legislature considered the matter of selling the eastern lands for cash or Michigan lands. This aroused the bitterest feeling throughout the state and startling head lines appeared in the newspapers. "Maine Sold Out." "Maine in the Market!" "Our Fellow Citizens Transferred to a Foreign Power for Cash or Land!" But for the patriotism and intense feeling of the people throughout the state this despicable "Selling Out" might have been consummated. Soon, however, this idea was abandoned and the question variously considered. Gov. Kent did all in his power to effect a settlement giving justice to the state. He was succeeded in 1839 by Gov. Fairfield. It was now reported, as had often occurred previous to this time, that large numbers of men from New Brunswick were trespassing on land belonging to the State of Maine. These facts were now communicated to the Legislature by the Governor, and with this event, we may say, commenced the "Aroostook War." Gov. Fairfield proposed to defend the interests of the state at all hazards, and in this he was loyally supported by the Legislature. The Land Agent, Hon.

Rufus McIntire, was empowered to employ a sufficient force to arrest, detain and imprison all persons found trespassing on the territory of the state. He repaired to the Aroostook River, with 200 men. There he met an armed posse of some 300 men from the Province arrayed for the purpose of resistance. On the approach of the Maine posse the Provincial force retired towards the line, and was followed by the Land Agent and his assistants, G. G. Cushman, and Thos. Bartlett, leaving their force behind. They went to the house of one Fitzherbert where they put up for the night. During the night the Land Agent and his assistants were taken prisoners by the "trespassers," and taken to Fredericton, where they were put in prison. Others were imprisoned. The Governor demanded their release and ordered out the state militia. Many volunteers also proceeded to the disputed territory. The fort at Fort Fairfield was erected and named for the Governor. The prisoners were soon released on parole, and the Lieut. Gov. of New Brunswick agreed, in response to a communication sent him by Gen. Winfield Scott, not to again station armed troops within the "disputed territory." Orders for the return of the troops were issued on the 25th of March, and by the last of May, the last of them were paid off and mustered out at Bangor. There was expended, probably, more than a million dollars in this bloodless war, which amount was made good to the state by the general government. The boundary dispute was not settled until 1842, when Lord Ashburton was appointed by Great Britain to negotiate and settle the different matters of difference. By this settlement, to which Maine was finally led to give

her consent, she was again the loser, her borders being reduced to the present limits. Eleven years earlier, when an offer was made for a part of her territory not so much land was sought, and a considerable sum offered in return, yet Maine did not descend to the act of selling a part of her soil and citizens as merchandise, but stood by her rights nobly and faithfully until finally induced to make an inglorious sacrifice for the national welfare.

The advent of the state militia and volunteer forces did much to develop the Aroostook lands, and from this time the growth and development, if not the settlement of many of her towns, date their prosperity.

CIVIL WAR.

The following is a list of the men who enlisted in the United States army from the towns of Presque Isle and Maysville as given in the reports of the State Adjutant General. To these men is due the devotion of all succeeding generations for their noble service and self-sacrifice that the Union be preserved, and her liberties and freedom be extended to all men.

PRESQUE ISLE SOLDIERS

Moses Ames, Wm. Allen, Warren S. Armstrong, Harvey Austin, William Appleby, John E. Bailey, Joseph G. Butler, Chas. F. Bryant, Wm. P. Barker, Solomon C. Boubier, Enos Bishop, Hezekiah L. Burns, Geo. W. Butterfield, Wm. H. Butterfield, Thos. Burke, Stephen Buswell, Cyrus Bishop, Col. John E. Buckingham, George H. Bagley, Hiram Baker,

Francis G. Brown, Chas. H. Church, L. G. Chamberlain, Henry H. Chamberlain, Hiram C. Church, Chas. Clark, Henry H. Cook, Winfield S. Cook, James Cormick, Wm. E. Clark, Wm. C. Condon, Allen Crowell, Alonzo D. Cushing, Robt. H. Clark, Solomon Chubbuck, William H. H. Cleaves, Joseph B. Condon, Jedediah S. Cronkhite, John Chambers, Samuel B. Cleaves, James R. Cleaves, John Cameron, Franklin M. Drew, James Donnelly, Jonas Dunn, Johnson H. Dudley, Alfred Day, Joshua Damon, F. M. Eveleth, Thos. Elliot, Henry M. Eaton, Fernando Eveleth, Jonas G. Fly, Horace H. Frost, Henry D. Fiske, Joseph F. Field, Wm. A. Gammon, Israel Getchell, Jeremiah Getchell, Darius Greenlow, Samuel Goodridge, Alex. Graves, Michael Galligher, Lewis E. Gilman, H. H. Gilman, Albert S. Griffin, Darling H. Getchell, George W. Greenlow, Aaron R. Greenlow, Henry F. Hill, Hugh P. Holmes, Wm. A. Hooper, Leonard Heath, Lorenzo B. Hill, Aaron S. Hill, Byron Hilt, Henry L. Hanson, John B. Hastings, Ira W. Hatch, Benj. J. Hughes, Joseph Hannaford, Orlando W. Harlow, John Hogan, Osgood M. Howland, Albion F. Hutchinson, John H. Hasty, Goodwin S. Ireland, John F. Ireland, Otis Ireland, Willis Jordan, Dudley H. Johnson, Jarvis P. Jackson, Bartholomew Jenkins, D. D. Kennedy, Wm. I. Knight, Cyrus E. Knight, Chas. T. Kennedy, Samuel B. Kneeland, W. S. Locke, Iredell Lamson, Emery R. Leathers, Stephen A. McNeil, George O. Mills, George W. Mills, Robert Munson, James Mulholland, Robt. R. Murphy, Geo. W. Martin, Ezra McLaughlin, Isaac McLaughlin, Josiah McLaughlin, Willis G. McLaughlin, John J. McIntire, John W. Moore, Isaac McGlauffin, Sanborn C.

Murphy, Neil McLoud, Garrett Moran, George Merrill, George W. Mosher, John W. Nichols, Simeon L. Norton, Edward B. Nickerson, Samuel C. Niles, Christopher O'Brien, Benj. F. Owen, Hezekiah S. Owen, Chas. Palin, James Phair, Wm. S. Plaisted, Warren C. Plummer, Dan'l M. Prescott, Collamore Purrington, Roderick Powers, Dennis M. Potter, Thos. Powers, Benj. R. Pike, Samuel H. Powers, Solomon Parent, Sherman Rackliff, S. C. Reed, Thos. B. Rose, Zebulon Rowe, James Roax, Andrew Rose, Moses Rose, S. O. Reynolds, Benjamin Rackliffe, Charles G. Reed, James Sypher, Edward B. Sanderson, Nicholas Summers, Wm. Smith, James Sweet-sir, John H. Sprague, Edward Sanborn, E. Crosby Smith, Chas. R. Scott, Thos. Smith, Chas. F. Soule, Oliver P. Smith, William H. Stewart, Stephen C. F. Smith, James M. Story, Charles H. Shaw, Enoch B. Turner, Francis N. Turner, Wm. Theriault, E. G. C. Thompson, John C. Thompson, Loring B. Wade, John White, B. F. Whitney, Owen Whitney, Samuel Wilson, Wm. H. Ward, Geo. W. Whitney, Geo. A. Wheeler, Jas. A. Wilson, Ai Waterhouse, Wm. L. Whitney, Andrew J. Wilson, Thos. H. Wilcox, Wm. L. Wight, Alexander Wilson, Orrin Whitney, Martin Wesley, Isaac Whittaker, George F. Whidden.

MAYSVILLE SOLDIERS

Alexander Alley, Warren S. Armstrong, George H. Akeley, Shepherd B. Bean, Chas. B. Bean, Silas H. Bean, Oscar F. Brann, John Brown, Chas. J. Bean, Chas. C. Bean, Augustus A. C. Bean, Joel Beckwith, Frank Bean, John Beloney, Seth C. Carpenter, George Moshier, Stephen A. Cham-

berlain, Stillman Cushing, Granville W. Davis, Geo. O. Field, Chas. P. Ferguson, Chas. A. Fields, Robert Grindle, Madison J. Grindle, Lorenzo D. Hatch, Michael Harris, Orlando W. Harlow, Benjamin F. Hines, John Kingdom, Nelson G. Libby, Allen Moran, Alexander Murray, Robert W. Manley, Wm. P. Morris, Chas. P. Pomroy, Geo. E. Pyle, Joseph E. Pelkey, Nelson Powers, Patrick Parker, Chas. Marshall, Solomon F. Pyle, Geo. Roy, James Rand, James C. Rofford, Manley Rann, James Rideout, Wm. H. Sutter, Ansel Smith, James O. Smith, Augustus G. Thomas, Ira D. Toothaker, Daniel O. Todd, Caleb F. Wade, Wm. F. Wade, Samuel B. Wing, Emmons A. Whitcomb, Osgood J. Yates.

List of volunteers who were enlisted and mustered into the United States service in the war with Spain: First Regiment, Charles W. Oak, Lyndon J. Oak; First Battalion, Heavy Artillery: Vtile Gray, Bert B. Hughes, Frank Hussey, James C. Staires, Geo. E. Tompkins, Freeman T. Tuttle.

ITEMS OF INTEREST

AGRICULTURAL FAIR

The annual Fair of the North Aroostook Agricultural and Horticultural Society is one of the most interesting events in the course of the year. This was established in 1850, since which time but one year has passed without the annual celebration and display. Three days' fair is held, consisting of horse trotting, cattle show and exhibit of farm produce of fruit, vegetables, poultry and other live stock, dairy and household products, floral productions, bees and honey, and any other displays that may be of interest or value. For the best productions and displays liberal premiums are given, thereby adding to the value of the display by creating a worthy spirit of competition. The officers of the Society for the year 1904 are: president, Frank P. Grant, Fort Fairfield; vice presidents, Cyrus Chase, Westfield; J. R. Hopkins, Fort Fairfield; Lewis Scott, Jr., Presque Isle; secretary, E. T. McGlauffin, Presque Isle; treasurer, Chas. H. Richardson, Presque Isle; marshal, Ralph H. Sprague, Presque Isle.