

CHAPTER III

THE SECOND QUARTER CENTURY

1841 - 1866

Descriptive sketch of Aroostook: Pioneers:
Northern Maine Fair Society organized in 1850;
first paper in the county established in 1857;
first mail and post office: David Suber, first
mail carrier; first Maine Press Excursion in
1858; disastrous fire in 1860; first soldier
to enlist in the Civil War; Presque Isle's
patriotism in the Civil War.

I wish to add before writing of the second quarter century of Presque Isle a valuable description of Aroostook in 1840 or a little before 1845, written by an unknown author. This view was from the old Park's Farm located on the highest elevation in Houlton:

"Towards the North Country exhibit the appearance of one vast unbroken plain extending to the utmost limits of the visible horizon. In the midst of this, and at a distance of some thirty miles, Mars Hill alone breaks the monotonous wilderness prospect and from its isolated position assumes to the eyes an importance to which its altitude of less than 1800 feet would not otherwise entitle it.

"No other eminences are to be seen in this direction except around a peak bearing a few degrees west of north and some distant ridge about an equal distance to the east.

"The fist of these has been ascertained by the survey of Major Graham to be an isolated hill near the peak known as 'Quaquajo'."

This gives us an idea of Aroostook's scenery in 1841, a dense expanse of forest partially unmarked by signs of human habitation. The wilderness was then supreme, unsubdued, and almost untouched by the ax of the pioneer settler north of Houlton.

The description gives a realistic glimpse of Aroostook antedating even the days of the pioneers and incidentally teaches us the correct spelling of a familiar little mountain - Quaquajo, not Quoggy Joe as we are often wont to spell it.

The British surveyors who formed a decided attachment to Mars Hill, which came very handy to them as the Northwest angle, and starting point of the British boundary line west-ward have left a brief description of the country as they viewed it from that eminence.

"The character of the country may well be discerned and understood from this insulated hill.

"It presents to the eye one mass of dark and gloomy forest to

the utmost limit of sight, covering by this umbrageous mantle the principal rivers, minor streams, and the very scanty vestiges of the habitation of men."

Following the exploration and survey of 1841-42 the vexatious boundary line dispute was settled by a commission consisting of Lord Ashburton on the part of Great Britain and Secretary of State Daniel Webster of the United States. Let me repeat, and by the terms of the treaty, the line was so traced as to give the largest part of the disputed territory to Maine, which was then vindicated in her long and persistent contention to maintain her rights.

From what has been given of this lengthy conflict between the two contending sides and forces over a little strip of territory... yet it was a matter and chapter of great importance to the State of Maine as it is seen in the light of present day history and events. It was also of marked importance in the making of the county and in giving Presque Isle its place on the map.

It is said, let me mention this in this connection, "That the period following 1830, when the north-eastern boundary dispute became active, until the final settlement in 1842, was the first chapter in the making of Aroostook."

It may not be out of place for us to ask here the question if the boundary line settlement had been the opposite of what it was, would Presque Isle of today, with its village, its homes, its places of business, its banks, its institutions, its churches, its railroads, its rich farms, its potato houses, and its wealth resulting therefrom, ever been?

It is also said, "During the next thirty or forty years after the settlement of this important question, the State made its greatest mistake of squandering her wealth of wild land possession for a phantom, a pretence, or promise of a railroad, never kept or fulfilled, or which never materialized. And had it not been for the great natural resources of Aroostook's wealth of soil, the backbone industry, the push and grit, with a wisdom, foresight for which her people have been and were noted, the Aroostook of today and Presque Isle would never have been."

In a way or in many ways Aroostook had been self-made: her towns are the out-growth of her own persistent public spirit, industrious habits and enterprise. As examples standing out conspicuously, we cite the pioneer fathers and mothers, its founders, Later George H. Freeman the promoter of the first Starch Factory; Hon. T. V. Phair, the Starch King who bought the first Starch Factory and at one time owned and ran thirty factories, and who revolutionized the industry in the skillful way of hauling, loading, unloading transportation of the product and made it a paying proposition to farmer and manufacturer, was a self-made man. The Hon. Albert P. Burleigh, a promoter and builder of the Bangor and Aroostook Railroad which has made Aroostook such a well-known and prosperous county, was an Aroostook boy who knew the county by

birth and by tramping over it with campers and chain until every hill and valley were familiar townships and spots; and so was Arthur R. Gould who hitched electricity to Aroostook Falls and lighted up the county with his persistent and skillful effort, and then gave to the county its first electric railroad.

We say this notwithstanding nor overlooking what the State did in the establishing of the Swedish Colony, the wisdom and foresight of which was never more clearly seen than at the present time in the aid the State extended to the Bangor and Aroostook Railroad, and in giving it certain other immunities calculated to encourage the investment of capital.

Then in its later, but not its least far searching work the establishment of the Aroostook State Normal School, which is doing such a great educational work in Eastern and Northern Maine.

It is not too much to write or say what is confirmed by many attestation events, that had it not been for the Starch Industry, the potato product and trade, the coming of the Bangor and Aroostook Railroad, Aroostook would not have been the county of magnificent farms and homes it is noted for, nor would its growth and wealth been the pride of the State.

THE NORTHERN MAINE FAIR .

The Northern Maine Fair was incorporated July 16, 1850. Its first meeting was held in Presque Isle on February 22, 1851, its membership was 91, its first president was J. Windgate Haines of Fort Fairfield, its vice-presidents were Beniah Pratt and Joel Bean of Presque Isle, secretary was Joseph B. Hall of Presque Isle. Its first exhibition was held in Presque Isle October 9, 1851.

Never up to the eighties did it have \$500 to distribute for premiums and expenses, with no land property, no buildings, no stalls and pens for horses and colts, cattle, sheep, swine, or poultry, no exhibition building and no officers' quarters.

But the advertising given by the papers of the State as a result of the Press Expedition of 1858, brought the knowledge of the rich soil and the wealth of the lumber lands to the people of the State thus influenced and brought many to Aroostook.

For years, every once in a while the question was agitated of purchasing the Presque Isle Trotting Association largely owned by Johnson and Phair who controlled eleven-twelfths of the land.

FIRST PAPER PUBLISHED

In the year 1857 came Aroostook's first paper published in the county. It was "THE AROOSTOOK PIONEER". It was edited by Joseph B. Hall and published by W. S. Gilman. From this time on Presque Isle and Aroostook has not been without the influence of a weekly paper.

This is also included as a result of the enterprise and foresight of the second half century, which has continued as one and often the leading exponent of the many public utilities which are the best assets of the county and town. As a result of the agitation through the columns of the Aroostook Pioneer for a railroad into the county, an invitation was extended to the Maine Press in the fall of 1858 by the North Aroostook Agricultural Society (the Northern Maine Fair Association) to attend its fair at Presque Isle, to view the county.

THE FIRST UNITED STATES MAIL

Taking the information of Mrs. Sidney Graves as authoritative, which all evidence I have been able to find confirms in her article of June 11, 1903 in the Star Herald, which was written after the most careful research and study for accuracy, she states, "In 1842 the first U. S. Mail came to Presque Isle, brought on horse-back by Lewis DeLaitte from the Houlton line store, Noah Chandler being Postmaster at Houlton." It is also claimed that Jediah Cronkite did carry the mail on horse-back for a time. While this does not agree with the Post Office records at Washington D. C., there is only a date difference of a year.

THE MAIL BEFORE THE AROOSTOOK WAR

The clearest information given about mail conditions before the Aroostook War is found in the history of W. T. Ashby. He says, "Before the war all mail that came to Aroostook territory came from New Brunswick; there was a post office at Tobique. When the soldiers came, communication with Tobique was cut off. After the military road was cut through from Houlton, David Bubar, the Aroostook Giant, was hired to carry the mail to Houlton and back...he made two trips per month. There was no road then through what is now the towns of Easton and Bear's Hill, and Mr. Bubar traveled via Presque Isle. He made the trips on foot. The mail before had come from Houlton via Woodstock N. B. In 1828 a mail route to Fort Kent came from Patten and was carried by the Aroostookians on horse-back once a week. At this time it cost 25¢ to send a letter.

DAVE BUBAR, THE AROOSTOOK GIANT FIRST MAIL CARRIER

David Bubar was a giant: he was over six feet tall; his feet were an awful size; his hands were not small. Along the banks of the Aroostook he'd hunt and fish all day, and eat a pile of onion cives as big as a cock of hay. As heavy as two common men he had the strength of four. He'd lug a load upon his back that weighed a ton or more. He ate raw clams and suckers, shore cives and white pine bark. Always as harmless as a baby and as hungry as a shark.

In the spring of 1833, three young people, two men and a woman came on foot over the old Portage Road from Tobique to the Aroostook River. One of them, a giant in stature, carried their worldly

goods in a big pack on his back, and it was noticed that he was barefooted. The pilgrims were Charles and David Eubar and their sister Lyda Ann. They were leaving their home on the St. John River and hoped to find a home and better their condition on the banks of the Aroostook. They settled and became permanent citizens. David was a peculiar character and a giant in size and strength. Among all the strong, brawny men that came to the new country, and the men of that day were big and strong, none could lift his load. He was remarkably good-natured and did not realize his strength, but if once aroused he was as dangerous as a mad bull.

His teeth were white, sound and perfect, and remained so while he lived; his beard was short and thin; no razor touched his face while he lived; his hair was seldom cut but allowed to grow Indian-fashion down his back. When it got too long his brother, Charles, would lead him out into the woods, make him sit down beside a log and would then cut off the flowing tresses with an axe.

His feet were the largest ever seen on a human body. In summer he went barefooted and in winter wore Indian moccasins or wrapped his feet in old coats. Once in his life he had a pair of boots. He carried the mails from Fort Fairfield, by Presque Isle, to Houlton on foot once a week or twice a month over the cut road ordered by Gen. Winfield Scott in 1840. Just before the troops were called away, Capt. Van Ness ordered the company shoemakers to measure his feet and make him a pair of boots. No last could be found large enough and an ox yoke was cut in two at the center and a boot was made on each end. Two whole calf skins were used and the greater part of a side of sole leather. The boots as numbers go were 20's, and were a present from the captain. David's hands were large and tough; he generally went barehanded in the winter, but sometimes he would draw meal bags over his hands when the weather was cold and he had to cut and carry the wood for the big open fire.

He was a great chopper but not very fond of work. He could not be hired with money, but sometimes would work all day for a trinket. Many of the time-makers wore rings and David wanted one badly, but none could be found big enough for his fingers. Finally a brass knob was taken from an ox's horn and by filing it out on the inside he got it on his little finger where it remained until he died, and it was buried with him. For this ring he cut down thirty big pine trees, and then cut down thirty more for a fishhook. While jewelry had great attractions for him, he was afraid of a watch or compass. The wiggle of the compass needle and the tick of the watch filled him with fear. He was afraid of a gun or peice of a gun, and an old gun flint pointed at him would cause him to quake with fear. Nevertheless he was a great hunter. He had a buckskin bag that held about a peck; this he would fill with smooth stones from the shore, and go forth and kill partridges and rabbits, and sometimes he would knock down a deer or caribou, cut its throat and carry it home in triumph. He could catch fish anytime, and has been known to catch big salmon with a bent nail tied to a chalk line with a strip of red flannel for bait.

In summer Mr. Bubar spent most of his time along the river. He would fell great trees in the river to hear them splash, and carry great boulders up a high bank and roll them into the river. One day a river driver found him playing with a big round stone: he would carry it to the top of the bank, roll it down into an eddy, dive in and get it, then carry it up the bank again. The lumbermen with difficulty got the rock into the wagon-boat, carried it to the falls and weighed it. It tipped the scales at 412 pounds.

One time a crew of men were at the falls to work on a big jam of timber when a faker came up the river with a tame bear. He offered to bet \$5.00 that the bear could throw any man in the crew. After the bear had disabled half a dozen husky lumbermen and got \$30 of their money the foreman ordered him to leave. This the faker refused to do. The boss then sent a man up river in a canoe after David Bubar. When he arrived five dollars was put up and the man told to bring on his bear. Bubar smashed the bear to the ground, fell onto it and held it down. This maddened the bear and it bit Dave's arm. David then caught the bear by the side of the neck and one paw and after thrashing it on the rocks a while, threw it over the ledges into the river. Meanwhile the faker had been slashing David over the head with a heavy bear whip. David caught him and threw him far out into the water and began to hurl big stones at the man and bear struggling in the water. The crew coaxed David away while the crew fished the two out of the river...they limped off. David was given \$5.00 which he had earned and five minutes later he traded it with a river driver for a jews harp.

Mr. Bubar was a glutton; he would go from camp to camp and from house to house begging for food; and after one of these trips he would be sick for a week. He did not use tobacco, could not be hired to touch liquor, and was afraid of girls. Two mischievous girls once cornered him and attempted to kiss him. He jumped through the window and ran away with the sash on his neck. He knew nothing about lying and his word was taken as truth from Houlton to Fort Kent.

The Indians, believing him possessed with evil spirits, were somewhat afraid of him. They used to give him moccasins and leggings and Newel Bear made him a gift of a large strong pair of snowshoes. With these on his feet, we are told that he once carried a barrel of flour on his shoulder for a mile through a brushy swamp without once putting it down. It was carried from a timer camp to his brother Charles' cabin by moonlight.

While Mr. Bubar detested rum, he was very fond of molasses. It is reported that he once drank a gallon measureful at one drink.

Many of his droll sayings are still quoted by Aroostook people. It was he who saw the minister trying to bore a hole in a short, round piece of wood of which he intended to make a mallet, and said, "Say, Mr. Goodman, put that in the hog-trough and it can't turn around."

"God be praised!" said the minister, "we can learn something from any fool."

"Sartenly," said David, "that's why people go to hear you presch."

he once caught a spruce partridge: those birds at that time were very tame. When David was asked how he managed to catch it, he replied, "I surrounded it."

Jack Eyers, ex-English sailor, but at one time Aroostook's champion ox teamster, lived in a cabin near the river. Mr. Eyers used to tell fortunes, and one evening David went to have his fortune told. Eyers, to test the giant's strength, told him if he'd go down to the landing and bring up a big, cream-colored rock which lay there, he would tell his fortune for nothing. Bubar went and got the rock, threw it down and sat on it while he listened to his fortune. The rock is still laying there; the cabin has decayed. All the young men for miles have tried to lift the rock, and perhaps a thousand river drivers have lifted on it, but none could lift it. It lays now not far from where I sit writing.

Dave and his brother Charles were up on the Medawaska Stream cruising for timber. It was late in the fall, and David was bare-footed as usual. There were seven miles from home and passed the night in an old camp. Charles arose in the morning and looking out said, "I snum, Dave, it's snowing."

"Let 'er come," said David, "we're prepared for it."

Time passed. Charles and Lyda Ann married and settled in homes of their own. As Dave was such a "terrible feeder" and somewhat lazy they did not want him around. He moved into deserted camp where he stayed part of the time. In summer he spent most of his time playing about the river and subsisted on wild onions, clams, fish, wild duck's eggs, and berries. When winter came he would visit the timber makers and hunter's camps and all the settlers' camps along the river.

One winter the snow came down early and the cold was intense. In February the snow got so deep that the timber makers managed to get their teams to their homes and were blockaded by snow for six weeks. Snowshoes and hand sleds were the daily means of conveyance. David retired to his camp and lived on venison which he secured by catching the deer in the deep snow. His beloved river was covered deep with snow but he had a good supply of crooked roots, stones, fishheads, shells and pieces of loffing chains to play with and was happy and contented.

For a bed he had an old camp-spread about 20 feet long and 8 feet wide. When he wished to retire he would unroll this great blanket and go to the farthest corner of the camp, lay down, take one corner in his teeth and roll toward the fire; thus he would be rolled up like a mummy and as snug as a bug in a rug.

One bitter night he piled the great fireplace high with logs, rolled up in his blanket and went to sleep. A big blazing log up-ended from the fire and fell across the sleeping giant's neck; before he could extricate himself he was fatally burned. He managed to get onto his snowshoes and go to the nearest house some three miles away.

As no medical aid could be procured, he died a few days later in great agony. Before he died he requested that his remains be taken to his boyhood home on the St. John River and be buried beside his parents who were resting in the shade of a big English willow. So one morning the body was rolled in a blanket, lashed on a big hand sled and two men on snowshoes started for his old home in New Brunswick some fifty miles distant.

Now the story goes that while these men were on their way down river with their ghastly load they stopped at a house to get dinner, leaving the sled and corpse in the yard. While they were at dinner some hogs that were running loose tore the remains from the sled and dragged it under the barn where it was found badly torn and mangled. There are many people still living in Aroostook who remember the "Aroostook giant", David Bubar.

Thus ended the life of the Aroostook giant, the first mail carrier before and at the time of the Aroostook War.

THE FIRST PRESS EXCURSION

This expedition was financed by citizens of Bangor having large land interests in Aroostook. The members gathered at the Bangor House, among them John Adams of the PORTLAND ARGUS, Mr. Elwell of the PORTLAND TRANSCRIPT, Rev. J. C. Fletcher representing the CHRISTIAN MIRROR, Albert G. Lenney of the BRUNSWICK TELEGRAPH, Mr. Cowan of the BIDDEFORD JOURNAL, Darius Forbes of the HALLOWELL GAZETTE, Daniel Pike of the AUGUSTA AGE, Dr. Lothan of the MAINE FARMER, and Hon. F. K. Smart of the ROCKLAND FREE PRESS.

The Bangor men were John H. Lynde of the WHIG AND COURIER, Joseph Bartlett of the JEFFERSONIAN, C. P. Roberts of the DAILY EVENING TIMES, and Rev. Amory Battles representing the GOSPEL BANNER.

Then there was John A. Poor, formerly of Bangor, later of Portland, editor of the STATE OF MAINE. The party numbered twenty-five. They spent the last night of the journey at the Snell House in Houlton. From there they rode forty-three miles by way of Bridgewater to Presque Isle by stage and team...where they were to rest and be entertained while attending the fair. They were entertained at the Presque Isle House (now the rest room owned by Sidney Graves next below the R. J. Smith store) when in its original form and length, and in the homes of the people.

These guests and visitors enjoyed the Fair, met the people, were entertained in their homes, and taken over the towns in the county.

They visited in Fort Fairfield, and were taken up and over Limestone by the late lawyer Trafton. They were feted upon all the good things of which Aroostook could boast, even its milk and honey. They saw its lands and its productions, its forests and timber, its river, lakes, broad ridges and valleys. They were as a whole exceptionally bright and intelligent men, such as you would expect would be sent out on such a mission and expedition. They returned to their homes and wrote up Aroostook in their papers as such could and did in a candid, discerning, and truthful way. It spread a knowledge, as they saw it and it went broadcast over the state. It was a great advertisement to boast Aroostook County.

The following is taken from the AROOSTOOK PIONEER, Oct. 19, 1852

THE AROOSTOOK EXPEDITION

"The recent visit of so many of our brother editors to Aroostook bids fair to become as prominent in the history of the state as the famous Aroostook War. It is already denominated by the papers as the AROOSTOOK EXPEDITION. As our readers are anxiously looking for the "opinions of the press", upon this expedition, we propose to copy portions of the correspondence, and begin by making the following extract from the BANGOR WHIG, written by our fun-loving friend, Lande. The letter is dated at Presque Isle October 6:

'From Houlton to Presque Isle, as far as the eye can reach, on either side of the road the land is covered by a thick growth of hardwood, with an occasional low spot where cedars flourish; on the whole line, there is hardly a rod of land that is not suitable for farming, and better land can not be found in any part of the Union. In many places there are clearings, but a large part of the distance nothing but boundless forests can be seen.

'Persons who are familiar with the land of the Western States and Pennsylvania say that these lands are equal to any they have ever seen there; and that in climate, health, etc., the Aroostook is infinitely superior to the West.

'Some of our party supposed that Aroostook was a poor, unfertile region where it was almost impossible to obtain a livelihood. To such, the fertile soil and the cultivated fields afford an agreeable surprise and satisfied them that in point of advantages, with the exception of communication with the rest of the world, Aroostook is equal to any part of New England.

'In Houlton and Presque Isle, and on the road between these two points, we noticed many neat, cosy, comfortable farm houses, with large and commodious barns, and in almost every field were fine horses and good cattle and sheep. We were exceedingly gratified to see the excellent flocks of sheep, many of them showing unmistakable marks of the breeds which are now of the most popular with the sheep fanciers of New York and Massachusetts. Nearly every field and farm yard shows a flock of choice sheep. The cattle are also very fine animals--some of them showing evidences of good blood. We noticed the most numerous, but they were the Durhams

and Herefords, but the Devon blood appears in many of the younger cattle. In this department owing to the exertions of J. W. Haines of Fort Fairfield and others, Aroostook is but little behind her sister counties.'

"In addition to the above, we give the following extract from the correspondent of the BANGOR TIMES, as we suppose our readers will feel interested in the report of the editorial corps:
And we quote...

Presque Isle, Maine
Thursday, October 7, 1858

Leaving Houlton yesterday morning with a breacing northwest wind, the party had the privilege and pleasure of a continuation of the view of the fine farms and land to make them of as good as lies out of doors anywhere, on the road to this place. The country possesses quite as much interest in its natural state as where the hand of man had been at work. The miles of ridge previous reaching Presque Isle, were the theme of admiration. The noble growth of hard wood bears witness to heaven of the strength of the soil in which they are rooted, and to its capacity for supporting a race of men, comparable to itself, and an honor to the State. The future of Aroostook seems indelibly traced by the hand of the Almighty in this strong and generous soil; and, as sure as the sun rises to his course and looks upon the magnificence of these vast forests which respond with the gladness and pomp of autumnal decoration, this region is destined to bear a large, industrious and virtuous population that shall do honor to Maine and materially add to her wealth and prosperity. These swells of land, now typically golden in their natural scenery of the yellow harvests that shall adorn them, are in reserve for the strong hand and the faithful soul of the coming settler.

Our party made their entry into town about four o'clock this afternoon and were pleasantly surprised by the neat, fresh, and vigorous village which seems here to have risen as by magic. A large collection of people were present from the adjacent country from a considerable distance, and the members of the party were immediately taken in close custody by the warm hospitality of the people and pleasant quarters were provided in their dwellings. We were strangers and were taken in.

The cattle show, which opened in the morning was nearly closed upon our arrival, much of the stock having started for home; but from what remained in oxen, bulls, sheep and horses, a highly favorable impression was received of the stock-producing capacity of the county. The quality of the sheep is not surpassed anywhere in the State beside, and we believe unequalled in Vermont.

In the evening a public meeting was held in the school-house which was densely filled by ladies and gentlemen, at which the editorial fraternity were present. J. B. Hall, editor of the AROOSTOOK PIONEER who is in centering acted as chairman. Three hours were consumed in speeches from various members of the party expressive of

their feelings upon what they had witnessed on their way hither and their estimation of the character of the soil and future prospects of the country. Speeches were made by Messrs. John A. Poor, W. K. Smart, J. C. Fletcher, L. O. Correan, J. I. Gilman, Dan. T. Pike, John M. Adams, who held the attention of the audience with their eloquent discourse, in which humor was duly sprinkled with earnest sentiment.

Remarks being called from insiders the people of the neighborhood, Mr. Haines of Maple Grove, Fort Fairfield, made the most interesting talk of the evening, eloquent in the simplicity of its statements and in the certainty of its figures. When he first came into the country from Kennebec, and saw by comparison with the region he came from, the richness of the land he could not sleep for the thought of it, and he felt that the country as soon as its merits should be known. He had been prosperous in health and increase of family, and in worldly goods since he came to the country. His doctor's bill, which was formerly considerable, became in his new home reduced to almost nothing.

October 26, 1858

(Bro. Poor from the STATE OF MAINE, writing from Presque Isle says:)

"The representations put forth of the severity of the climate of Aroostook are disposed of at once by a simple reference to its physical geography. We could see evidence of this in the characters of the forest growth all along our route. The lower grounds abound in cedar and other black growth, but the ridges produce rich forest of maple, beech and birch, with a moderate supply of black growth intermissed. The soil is formed of argillaceous slate, and limestone, yielding wheat and other cereals, hay and potatoes in abundance.

"The land improves as you advance toward the Aroostook River and the ridges in the region of Presque Isle are equal to the best lands in western New York, or in the basin of Lake Memphremagog, the 'Paradise' of Vermont.

"Our party was increased on the way by friends from Houlton and on reaching Presque Isle, a gathering of 1000 people greeted us on our arrival. The party was ticketed out in good quarters, some going as far as three miles to find lodgings. The hospitable mansion of Sumner Whitney, Esq., 'Mayor of Presque Isle', was made headquarters, where we found admirable accommodations and abundant cheer. Our friends of the AROOSTOOK PIONEER, Jos. B. Hall, Esq., met us with a cordial welcome, though surprised and delighted with the fulness of our rank. Bro. Bartlett, of the JEFFERSONIAN, had gone ahead as our purveyor, so that the fraternity had nothing to care for.

"Of the Exhibition itself, it is sufficient to say that it was highly creditable in every respect. The neat stock was fine, the houses good, the sheep excellent. The lack of shelter at the village had compelled the farmers to scatter portions of the stock before our

arrival. Farm products were of the best quality, wheat, oats, buckwheat, and potatoes were all well grown, and the dairy products of the best flavor. The specimens of cloth, of furniture, and of hand manufactures were beyond our expectations. Our chief purpose in this exhibition was to see the soil and the natural products of Aroostook, the land and the forest growth. These we had found on the way, a soil suited to the production of foods, as a growth that indicated its fertility with a mild and salubrious climate. What man had already accomplished in the way of cultivation was of secondary importance as the arts of life are sure to follow the settlement of the country.

"We unhesitatingly pronounced the Aroostook Country the 'Garden of Maine', and we say that any young man who goes West without first exploring the Aroostook region, acts very unwisely, and very injuriously to his own immediate interests."

FIRST DISASTROUS FIRE

SUNDAY AFTERNOON, MAY 13, 1860

The AROOSTOOK PIONEER of May 22, 1860 says:

THE GREAT FIRE 1860

PRESQUE ISLE PARTLY DESTROYED

NINETEEN BUILDINGS BURNED

LOSS \$25,000

A terrible fire swept over our village one Sunday afternoon May 13th, destroying a large portion of it, and threatening destruction to the whole town. For some days during the week previous, fires had been furiously raging in the woods in Maysville on the west side of the Presque Isle Stream. The weather had been dry so long that the fire ran along the trees almost as rapidly as it would on a dry prairie.

On the day mentioned, at about three o'clock in the afternoon, the woods belonging to Solomon Parsons on the west bank of the stream just abreast of the lower part of the village were all in flames, and the wind blowing from the west swept the fire across the stream, burning every building in its range. It was a terrible sight to see property destroyed, in a single movement, which the hand of honest industry had been years in accumulating.

All the lower part of the village was destroyed, and had it not been for the most strenuous exertions, and careful watching on the part of the citizens, the whole village would have been in ashes. Sparks and cinders would fly through the air for a distance of a mile or more. When a building caught on fire it took but a few moments for it to burn. In many instances the inmates could barely

escape with what clothing they had on, it being impossible for them to save anything from the house. Others were more lucky, having removed all the furnishings they conveniently could to a place of comparative safety when the fire first broke out in the village.

Many families are in a state of utter destitution and are deserving, and we trust will receive sympathy and material aid from the community.

Those of our citizens who have been preserved from this awful calamity are behaving generously towards the sufferers, as becomes good neighbors and Christians. Families who have been turned from their homes find a hearty welcome at the hearthstones of those who have been spared.

A number of young mechanics who had been employed here a year or two lost everything they possessed - tools, clothing and money.

THE FOLLOWING BUILDINGS WERE BURNED

A new building, a dwelling house belonging to Mr. William Camber and occupied by Mr. Bishop - every article of furniture was consumed. The dwelling house of Mr. James Dunn with all its furniture was destroyed. George Mosher's house and barn with all their contents were lost. James McCleaves' house, stable, tannery, with all furniture, tools, and everything about the premises were burned. Bishop and Dye's Blacksmith Shop with all tools was destroyed.

The building belonging to George Hall, the upper part occupied by Mr. Hall and Mr. D. G. Reed with their families went; the lower part was Mr. Hall's carriage shop. The furniture of both families burned, as did some sixteen carriages in and about the building. This is a severe loss to Mr. Hall who is well deserving and enterprising a young man as the community can boast.

A dwelling house owned and occupied by Mr. Glidden, dwelling house of Mr. George Dingee, J. Deckerdeff's house and stable, dwelling house of Warren Hughes, a new and unoccupied house belonging to Hiram Church and also the house and barn belonging to the same gentlemen and occupied by C. Church and family - all were destroyed. The latter building was insured for \$400 and the only building burned on which there was insurance.

The academy building was entirely consumed, and with it the furniture and other articles belonging to the Backwoods Division of S. T. (Sons of Temperance). The estimated loss is \$25,000. Aid was sent from Boston to the unfortunate sufferers.

Boston
May 22, 1860

We the undersigned acquaintances and friends of Mr. David Dudley of Presque Isle, hearing through him of the loss and the

suffering of his neighbors by fire hereby express our sympathy for the sufferers and to relieve them, wish Mr. Dudley to distribute the sums set against our names in such manner as he thinks will best relieve the sufferers:

Wellington, Gross & Co.	\$100.00
Tarbell, Dana & Co.	100.00
George C. Wales	25.00
W. W. Kendrick & Co.	25.00
Coverly, Kneop & Co.	25.00
Chas. Richardson & Co.	25.00
Briggs & Co.	25.00

The recipients of this money wishing to express their thanks in an appreciative manner have drawn up and signed the following card of thanks, and handed it to us for publication.

We the undersigned, sufferers by the fire in this place, wishing to make some suitable acknowledgement to the generous Boston gentlemen above named for such unusual gifts to strangers in distress, take this method of expressing to them our gratitude, feeling it more sensibly, from the fact of its being so unexpected:

James Dunn and wife
J. McCleaves and wife
F. A. Bishop and wife
George Hall and wife
D. G. Reed and wife
C. Church and wife
George Dingee and wife
W. Hughes and wife
William Camber and wife
George Mosher and wife

THE CAUSE OF THE CIVIL WAR

There had been a restless and growing sense of conviction for many years of the great injustice of slavery as an institution, protected by law, existing under the Flag which declared it floated over a nation of free men and women and land. There was an uncounted number of nations most intellectual and far-seeing as well as forecasting citizens who believed that as a nation we were professing one thing and acting another. That Abraham Lincoln was inspired when he gave utterance to the declaration "that a nation could no more live half drunk and half sober, than it could half slave and half free."

Great dissatisfaction, still growing and increasing existed over the act of Congress by which the Missouri Compromise of 1820 was established: "The Dred Scott case and the Fugitive Slave Laws, and Underground Railways existed," with their sad and horrifying and terrorizing scenes were practised. The discussions of these questions in Congress and by the men of the country in pulpits and the lecture platforms of the North... The story of the invasion

of Kansas, resulting in outrages and murders which were devilish and unendurable. The assault of Charles Summers, one of the noblest sons of Massachusetts... All these were antagonizing and dividing the relations, politically and religiously, between the North and the South.

Such acts coming one after the other inflamed the public mind to the verge of unendurance. Harriet Beecher Stowe's "Uncle Tom's Cabin" had been written and circulated as perhaps no novel of reform had been before; had been read by parents and children, by politicians...and people in every walk of life. Its influence was more universal and far-reaching as it pictured the history of a slave, the sorrows of the auction block, the slave cabin, and the cotton field and proved itself the novel of great reform... It came as an inspiration divinely given and as such was read with its telling and nationwide influence. Add to these another influence like that of Wendell Phillips, William Lloyd Garrison, John P. Hale, Charles Summers, Henry Ward Beecher, and many of the pulpits of the country were wrought up to a pitch of excitement, and conditions which lead to a state of affairs beyond any possible hope of settlement.

In 1860 Abraham Lincoln had been elected as President, and notwithstanding all his assurances of fairness to the south and disinclination to interfere with slavery where it lawfully existed, his election was considered by the south as a reason for disunion and separation "And eleven Southern States led by South Carolina declared for Secession uniting as the Confederate States of America."

THE WAR BEGUN

The first rebel gun fired at Fort Sumter April 12, 1861, which led to its surrender by Major Robert Anderson on April 14, 1861, "roused the patriotism of the north, united all parties, or better obliterated all parties and when the President's call of April 15th for 75,000 men was flashed over the wires the enthusiasm was so great that a million would have offered their services if required and if they could have been armed and fed."

PRESQUE ISLE IN THE CIVIL WAR

"Of all the magnificent parades this country has seen" was that of the victorious veterans in interest and gladness of unexpressable joy all over the greater part of the nation was the grand review of the armies of the Union as they marched down Pennsylvania Avenue to the White House on May 23 and 24, 1865.

The most cruel, heartless, and bloody war in the world's history up to this time had been brought to a triumphant close by the surrender of Gen. Robert E. Lee to Gen. Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox on April 9th, and the surrender of Johnston's and all other confederate armies east of the Mississippi by the military concession of April 20th.

The very same flag that floated from the flagstaff of Fort Sumter and was lowered by Major Robert Anderson April 14, 1861 was again floating over Fort Sumter, raised by Brevet Major General Robert Anderson on the 14th of April 1865, the fourth anniversary to celebrate thrillingly the restored national supremacy of the nation on the spot where the great battles were first begun.

It may not be out of place to here state to our readers that on this same evening of that day, the beloved and tender-hearted president had been a victim of the animity and hate of the mourners of a lost cause, by the bullet of John Wilkes Booth at Ford's Theater in Washington.

The Sunday following the tragic death (Friday evening if I remember right) the pulpits of the north, east and west paid tributes to the immortal but lamented president who had been a friend of all with a love, charity, and impartiality as was never witnessed displayed before.

May 18th by special orders No. 239 War Department, adjutant general's office, a grand review by General Grant. President Johnston and cabinet...ordered to all armies then near Washington to take place May 23 and 24. The night before the review the armies camped in the streets of the capitol; when the hour came for review, the armies of the Potomac led the way around the capitol and down Pennsylvania Avenue past the reviewing stand at the White House. With tattered flags, faded uniforms - the emblem of service and exposure - true veterans, cheered by thousands they marched with patriotic stride such as only victors of final triumph could after four long years, with steps soon turned towards home.

There were the men from Fredericksburg, Gettysburg and the 24th army of Sherman who had been in the 2000 mile march in fighting and had joined Grant at the nation's capitol. There were "sixty-five thousand veterans who had won each an honor for his shield without device at Chattanooga, Dalton, Rescer Henesaw or Atlanta, in the army of the Tennessee under Henends, in the army of Georgia under Solomon, in the army of Ohio under Schofield, or in the cavalry division under Kilpatrick." For two days the review of joy and gladness continued with deep gratitude that peace had come at last to stay.

It may be well for us who do not know but have inherited the legacy bequeathed to us by the sacrifices of these veterans, "if the War of the Rebellion ended with so much rejoicing by what was inaugurated."

PRESQUE ISLE'S PATRIOTISM
and
FIRST SOLDIERS TO ENLIST

In writing of Presque Isle's patriotism and sacrifice in the Civil War, it must be remembered that the entire number of polls or

voters in 1860, 1861 and 1862 ... were 2000 in the county. Many of the families were large and poor and dependent.

There were no railroads in Aroostook then and many of our soldiers walked from their homes and towns a distance of 155 miles to Bangor. Many of them were young and in their teens. I remember two young men in Westfield who had just come to the county when the war broke out. They had purchased their lots and were making clearings; they were Cyrus Chase and Levi Reed. They left their wilderness homes and enlisted. Another was Charles Allen who had been on his farm about one year. He left his young wife in the woods and went to war. Like instances were found all through the plantations as well as in the new-made towns. So the young men of our county showed their patriotism by serving their country.

SECOND PAPER PUBLISHED

THE "SUNRISE" 1860

The second paper published was the SUNRISE, edited by Daniel Stickney, a well informed and avid reader. A very sympathetic and emotional man who lived and died in town and who was a prolific writer, he wrote up the town of Presque Isle and the County. To him the county owed much for its early advertising. He spent his last years in Presque Isle. He attended the Baptist Church after he came to Presque Isle in the winter of 1880, and was one of its financial supporters and friends in building its first church edifice, from which he was buried. Whereupon his gravestone in Fairmont Cemetery which marks his resting place bears the inscription which bespeaks a real revelation of the man:

"Daniel Stickney born November 25, 1804. Died August 16, 1894. Until 18 years of age a farmer's boy; 25 years a mechanic and teacher of common schools; 25 years a lay preacher of the gospel as taught by David in the twenty-third psalm, by Jesus Christ in the Sermon on the Mount, by Paul upon Mars Hill to the Athenians, and in the twelfth chapter of Romans. For over fourteen years proprietor and editor of the Presque Isle Sunrise; a Republican from his earliest recollection to the day of his death, always regarding the Democracy of politicians with perfect contempt."