CHAPTER V

The noted Parsons Farm and Road; the Washburn Road and its early settlers; the cutting of the roads; road cut from Houlton to Presque Isle: the coming of the Hooper family; the Aroostook War and its causes; history of the Aroostook War; Bloodless War ended; the Ashburton Treaty.

The noted and historic George A. Parsons farm was known as the Hooper place on the river and was very early settled soon after the first settlers came into the wilderness and forests of Northern Maine.

It is certain that when Ferdinand Armstrong and Jonathan Parks first came into the country on an inspection expedition they camped on land now a part of this farm or near to it and the mouth of the Presque Isle Stream. It is also unquestionable that when Peter Bull camein the fall of 1819 to select his 1000 or 600 acres promised by the British Government that he camped near this same stream. For in the spring of 1820, after he had been at Chatham, N. B. and married Eunice the oldest daughter of Thomas Worden Beckwith at that much talked of triple wedding...that spring Peter Bull returned with his bride and camped on the shore of the Aroostook near the Presque Isle Stream. This was in the spring of 1820...Mrs. Peter Bull related among her reminiscences that first summer in the wilderness "that she did not see a woman for four months,"but one day while standing in front of her cabin she heard the voice of someone and looking at the river she saw a woman coming down stream in a canoe singing and it was the "sweetest music she had ever heard." This woman was no doubt the wife of John Bradley and the daughter of Indian Chief Crooked Foot. No doubt they then lived on Bradley's Island.

It was in the spring or fall of 1820 that Ferdinand Armstrong returned from Canada with his bride and purchased Bradley Island and moved onto it and lived there two years before moving down to what has since been known as "Armstrong Flat". Of Mrs. Bull's wedding and her father, mother and sisters, it is written more fully in Chapter 11 of the early settlers.

It was on this farm that they sent and received the first mail carried by that widely known and peculier character Dave Dubar, the Aroostook Giant, who came from Eaton Grant with his brother Charles amd sister and settled on the farm where Willard Darling now resides.

When the militia came down the frozen river in the winter 1839 there were only four regular settlers between the mouth of the Presque Isle Stream and Caribou on the river.

Peter Bull's mill was going to decay, Fairbanks having frozen him out and he had moved up river. Alexander Kennedy (the old Nova Scotia Sandy) lived on Kennedy Brook, Daniel Freeman on the Bean farm, William Johnson on the Weeks farm, and Ferdinand Armstrong on the "Flats". But the woods were full of Indian Squatters making the

pines into timber. These were the only settlers on the east side of the river between the mouth of the Presque Isle Stream and Caribou.

What is now the historic Parson's farm was no doubt a part of it. The claim selected by Peter Bull when he chose his 600 acres on both sides of the Presque Isle Stream...

The settlers on this farm for a short time were the Towle brothers of Bangor. How long, we have no way of telling, but in the early thirties Story Hooper came with his family from Fredericton N. B. and moved upon this farm which they purchased then or soon afterwards. Mr. Hooper lived upon this farm for several years and was living there at the time of the Aroostook War. They built or bought the house in which they lived. Their daughter Susan W., who later married Daniel Duff, taught the first school in this part of Letter G, Maysville, and the first in town unless the evening school taught in the chamber of Ferdinand Armstrong was the first. Another source of information bearing on the settlement of the Hooper family is the fact that Veranes Chandler came to Letter G or Maysville from Montville, Waldo County, when a young man 19 years of age in 1834 and made his home and farm on what is still the Chandler Farm.

There is but little doubt that the Hoopers were here at the time of his coming and that he knew the family. It is said that one morning when he was contemplating returning to his old home for a visit, he met Miss Elizabeth Hooper and said to her, "You are a pretty and smart-looking young Miss; you be good and when I return I will marry you." And he did for he returned and in 1839 they were married and moved into the long house Mr. Chandler had built. I have in my possession a keepsake with the inscription 1839-1889, their Golden Wedding Anniversary.

The other daughter, Frances, married Joseph Blake, and lived for years on the old Blake Farm near the B & A railroad bridge crossing the Aroostook River. One of Presque Isle's most travelled and popular streets honors the family being called Blake Street.

George Whidden, in his reminiscences of Presque Isle says: "The Hooper place on the river was the end of the mail route, and letters mailed to Fairbanks Mill were delivered there."

Story Hooper lived on the farm now occupied by George Parsons and was the headquarters when the Maine Militia was here during the Aroostook War. This was in 1839.

The Washburn Road and its earliest settlers...The noted and historic Hooper place...mail was delivered there. There was no post office in town, but mail was brought by horseback by Louis DeLaite for some time. There was no turn-pike road north of Monticello in the direction of Houlton. There was one log cabin in Westfield kept by James Thorncroft, the place now called the Trueworthy home.

Park Holland of Caribou, Maine laid out the township of Fort Fairfield in the early years of the first settlers, even before Peter

Bull chose and surveyed for his 600 acres...

It was in the house of Story Hooper that the first school was kept by his daughter Susan, who later married Daniel Duff and made the well-known Duff farm about 80 rods above the Maysville Center Grange Hall and Town House.

Miss Hooper afterward was the mother of the late Story Duff, so well-known by the travelling public, Lewis Duff of Caribou, Marcella wife of Ozias Bean, and Miss Annie Duff, wife of F. S. Wiggin.

It may not be so easy to arrive at an accurately written paper of the first settlers on the river roads above the Aroostook Bridge, but we will give them as traditionary reports claim. Peter Bull, after dispersing his land claim, settled and made a farm some four miles up the river in the town of Mapleton which is well-known as Bull's Eddy. His father-in-law settled upon the Thomas farm just above the Aroostook on the east side...was Thomas Worden Beckwith the father, grandfather, great and great great grandfather of the numerous Beckwith families in our town. John Rafford, brother-in-law of Peter Bull, chose his home where is now the David Ramsdell farm so long known as the Chandler farm or possibly a part of the Moran farm. Here he lived and became the father of the well-known Rafford family. The son of Thomas Beckwith was only 12 years old when the family came to Aroostook.

Later the families of John Rand came from the Province of New Brunswick. John settled and lived for a few years upon an island in the Aroostook River. He was the father of the late merchant Rand who lived on the State Road on the farm which is now the home of George Rand, and of Mrs. Emery Brown.

THE CUTTING OUT OF THE ROADS

During the Aroostook War the province lumbermen were stealing timber faster than ever and they also had got to making the big hackmatack into ship knees. Only a few feet of the butt of the tree was taken and the rest left to rot in the woods. Late in the fall the State sent a crew northward to cut roads. These men were paid good wages and hired with the understanding that they would go where they were sent, do as they were told, and ask no questions. They left Bangor late in October, ostensibly for logging operations on the Penobscot River, so we can guess that Maine under Gov. Kent was secretly preparing to go to war with New Brunswick, Canada and Great Britain.

The road crew went to Molunkus and straightened out and improved an old lumber road from Patten and then cut a road across an unbroken wilderness to the Aroostook River: they then built four large camps, each with accomodations for 30 men and a stable for horses. This camping ground was on the river in Range 5 No. 10, and near the present village of Masardis.

By this time the river was frozen solid and the road makers, some forty men and one team went down the river on the ice. At the mouth of the Machias River the sound of axes warned them that timber makers were near; the road crew broke up in small gangs and skulked around them; if Yankees were seen going through the woods with axes on their shoulders they were taken for timber makers.

Our road making pioneers gathered that night around a big fire in a cedar swamp and after a day's rest commenced to cut a road toward the north. A road was swamped from what is now Sheridan Plantation to Eagle Lake on the Fish River;the distance was about 50 miles. We now see that in winter when the lakes and rivers were frozen, there was a passage way from the Penobscott to the St. John River either down the Aroostook or Fish River.

CUTTING OUT THE MILITARY ROAD (1842)

The military road was cut from Monticello to Presque Isle and the Aroostook; and from Presque Isle to Fort Fairfield in 1842.

In 1844, J. Windgate Haines obtained a grant of 1000 acres of land for which he was to build a saw mill on the Weeks, or what was called later the Johnson Brook. It is reported that Benjamin Weeks settled at the mouth of this brook. Later he traded his claim with William Johnson and moved to the Reach.

J. Windgate Haines came over the road to Presque Isle with a long string of ox-team loaded with his house-hold goods, provisions, and machinery for a mill. There was a fine strip of land between the old military road and the river and Mr. Haines and his neighbors decided to have a road through this strip of wilderness to Alva Plantation now known as Blaine, and the military authority was placed in his hands. As soon as the snow was gone in the spring, Gen. Scott sent a large force of men to the north woods to cut roads.

A State Road was cut or grubbed from Houlton or Monticello to Presque Isle and from No. 10 to No. 11, and from No. 11 to Presque Isle; from No. 11 to Fort Kent through long, dreary and unbroken wilderness. The roads in nearly every instance followed the old Indian trail.

After the war it was only natural that the soldiers who remained and those who came back and stayed and were made United States citizens by taking the oath of allegiance, and there were many doubtless who did, from the British army.

The road leading from Houlton was settled upon very rapidly all along near where there were villages, trademills, and other advantages.

The men who settled here upon these roads are not the young men who marched so bravely away at their country's call, and the beat of the drum and fife so soon after, but the few left are now old and

dropping out fast, one by one to be remembered by those living with the medal of praise and honor their merits and patriotism deserved.

Those who remain and are still with us are James H. Pheir, who left a mother's love and care when only a boy of 17 and came back with a captain's rank and honor; George J. Whidden, ever true, loyal and proud of his war record; C. Hayford who left his clearing in the wilderness: Elbridge Gardner, Chas. C. Pomeroy who served through to the end of the war: Chas. Hardy, Albien Carter and T. N. Ervin.

Joel Bean, one of a large and patriotic family, and Fairfield Ireland of a family who gave liberally of its numbers to save the nation they loved. I might write of those gone, but no language can do them justice nor add to the sacrifices and their loyalty.

ROAD CUT FROM HOULTON TO PRESQUE ISLE

It is a fact well known by people now living and by history "that when Gen. Scott came to Augusta in March 1839, he informed Gov. Fairfield that the United States Govt. had placed matters entirely in his hands and that he would attend to the little unpleasantness in the northern frontier."

So Gov. Fairfield and his counsel were out of a job as far as the war was concerned. As soon as the snow was gone in the spring Gen. Scott sent a force of men to the north woods to cut roads. British troops were flocking to New Brunswick an Gov. Harvey of that Province was showing off his authority, so the United States was preparing a way of retreat if necessary.

A State Road was cut and grubbed from Houlton to Presque Isle. "Uncle David Noble" of Blaine, whom the writer knew well and who died only a few years ago was one of the workmen who cut this road through, and possibly Uncle Clark McGraw the old soldier who was seen in the Cavalcade of th Northern Maine Fair in 1912 and who died only one year ago last winter was another, for they came to Aroostook about the same time and I have often heard Clark McGraw tell of his coming through to Presque Isle by the trail and spotted trees.

The road was built from Presque Isle to Fort Fairfield: from No. 10 to No. 11 and from No. 11 to Presque Isle, and from No. 11 to Fort Kent through unbroken wilderness. These roads followed, in nearly every instance, old Indian trails and went directly over the highest hills along the route as seen by the old State Road to Ashland and from Ashland to Fort Kent.

These roads were of great use to the pioneers who came to Aroostook in later years...Just think of the courage and determination these pioneers had, and the toil and hardships they entered to bequeath to us the legacy we have of ---"The garden of Maine."

THE COMING OF THE HOOPER FAMILY

The Hooper family was, as we judge, one which had had in their home land social, educational, and religious advantages much in advance of many of those who had come to Aroostook at this time. Mr. Hooper's family consisted of himself, his wife, and three daughters. They lived in town for years after we made our home here in 1881 and two of them were members of the Free Baptist Church of which the writer was pastor. These daughters married, lived, and died here. One of them married Daniel Duff, one Vernus Chandler, and the other Joseph Blake, all prominent and respected citizens of Presque Isle in these early times.

...Repeats page 40 and page 41 on rest of information...

THE AROOSTOOK WAR AND ITS CAUSE

The commencement or making of Presque Isle dates back to, and is intimately connected with the Aroostook War in its rise and progress, and in the settlement of the Boundary Line that a short statement of its history should have its place in this book. So, we will give it as concisely and clearly as we understand it from the histories we have read.

The Bloodless War of the winter of 1838-39 attracted much attention. The section of disputed territory between Maine and New Brunswick became an interesting source of trouble, growing out of the Provincial greed for timber, we will say, in the minds of the people. And secondly for the better soil of the land. This at first was not so much thought of, but there were those who, so it seems, were back so early in Aroostook's history.

The trouble at this time reached a condition which lead Gov. John Fairfield to call out a military force to prevent the ravages being made upon the lumber wealth of the forests. John Harvey was the Provincial Governor and some hot and strong words were sent back and forth between them. Several companies came from Kennebec under Batchelder and were at the Bangor City Hall. These were joined by the Militia of Bangor and vicinity. The whole force was under the command of General Isaac Hodgdon of Bangor.

As fast as transportation could be provided, the soldiers were headed toward the disputed territory making an encampment and fort named after the Governor, Fort Fairfield which is also the name given to the plantation and which the town has since been called. A company was also stationed at Bridgewater. They also came through Ashland and Fort Kent and down the St. John and Aroostook Rivers making head-quarters on the Parson farm and along the Aroostook River.

No conflict of arms ensued but in the course of the unpleasantness the Provincials captured Maine's land agent, McIntyre and took him as a prisoner to Woodstock. Some writers say the Fredericton jail. As an offset, our Yankee boys soon captured the Provincial

land agent, McLaughlin, and took him to Bangor.

News of the arrest and time of arrival reached Bangor by fast conveyance that had been established and on Sunday afternoon, Feb. 17th the sacredness and worship of the day was interrupted by the citizens of Bangor gathering on Main Street and openings to the right and left, and were treated to the spectacle of several sleigh loads of fur-clad custodians bearing their distinguished captive to the Bangor House. There I have no doubt, he was well treated and formed many pleasant and valuable Yankee acquaintances. In due course of time the prisoner land agents were exchanged and McIntire came from jail with a poor opinion of the Provincial hospitality and McLaughlin took leave of his comfortable quarters regretfully that the war was over.

At this stage of affairs the federal government took a hand in matters and Gen. Winfield Scott was sent from Washington as a mediator with his headquarters at Augusta and to patch up a truce. Before the winter snows had melted the soldiers were recalled from their winter encampments; they were paid off, and were mustered out of service and the federal government subsequently liquidated the war debt.

LEADING UP TO THE AROOSTOOK WAR

In all of the state histories very little is said about the great territory of Aroostook - nearly one third of the State - and much that has been written is incorrect. The later histories give a short account of the Aroostook War but do not give a correct account of the settlement of the dispute between Daniel Webster and Lord Ashburton and the commissioners from Maine. The historians claim it was a compromise in which Maine took a part of the territory in dispute and New Brunswick the rest. The correspondence between Webster and Lord Ashburton distinctly shows that Great Britain surrendered every foot of the land claimed by Maine, but the U. S. Govt. disregarding the state's rights, traded the land north of the St. John River for territory on the border of Lakes Champlain, Ontario, and Superior, and Maine only received from the U. S. Government the paltry sum of $150,000 for the land taken.

BOUNDARY DISPUTE

The eternal boundary dispute kept the people on the borders of the two countries spitting and snarling at each other most of the time. Great Britain, after much bickering, had generously agreed to take Mars Hill as a corner stake, and draw a line due west across Maine to the Canadian border. But many of the people of New Brunswick declared they would have every inch of territory drained by the tributaries of the St. John or have blood shed; this of course would include Houlton settlement and all the surrounding territory.

In 1826, a body of British troops were sent up the river to Woodstock. They, apparently, had never heard of such a thing as a

line between Houlton and Woodstock. Squads of those overbearing English, under an ignorant corporal, would come over to Houlton and search the settlers' houses for fire-arms, and often used profane and insulting language. Young men from Houlton were often at Woodstock. While they were there they were invited to drink liquor by an oily-tongued officer; the rum was drugged, and when the unfortunate young man awoke, he would find himself in the guard house with a shilling in his pocket, and would be told that he had taken the shilling in the King's name and was duly enlisted in the British army. He would then be taken to Fredericton and forced into the ranks for a long term of service.

British soldiers were continually deserting, and so-called "corporal guards" kept coming over into Maine and searching the settlers' buildings along the border. Protests were in vain, and the haughty British officers had about as much regard for peaceable American citizens as he had for skunks.

COMING OF THE SOLDIERS

HANCOCK BARRACKS BUILT

At length, a Quaker, one Jonah Dunn, a staid and respected citizen of Houlton circulated a petition which was signed by all good citizens regardless of their nationality and it was sent to Washington, D. C., asking that a military post might be established on the northeastern frontier at Houlton. The prayer was granted; the soldiers came, the stars and stripes unfurled, Hancock barracks were built, and for 20 years a body of regular U. S. troops occupied this post.

WARNING LETTERS

We have seen how the State of Maine answered Gov. Harvey's letter, and no doubt the poor man was very sorry he ever wrote it. He soon got a letter from Gen. Scott. That gentleman wrote that he had been sent to make peace if possible, but was prepared for war if necessary. The Governor had threatened in his letter that if the Maine Militia was not called from the disputed territory, he should be obliged to expel them by force; if he attempted to carry out his treat there would be war, but as long as Canadian or British soldiers or armed New Brunswick militia were kept out of the disputed tract there would be no hostilities commanded by Maine or the U. S. In other words the letter meant, "You keep your soldiers at home, and I'll keep mine and we shall get along nicely."

Well, Gov. Harvey had raised a great rumpus and had no doubt by this time got some severe letters from the British Govt., so he promised as long as he had control of the matter that no armed force, should go near the American soldiers nor disturb them at their work, and he kept his word.

GOT BUSY

In the meantime, supplies and war materials were coming down the Aroostook River in a stream. The ice would soon become dangerous and it was deemed prudent to take time by the forelock. At No.'s 10 and 11 great depots of supplies were established, and it is said that more than a hundred cannons were hauled into the Aroostook territory that winter - more big guns than Washington had altogether in the Revolutionary War. 2500 armed men were sent down the Fish River ...Fort Kent, and a boom across the river was rapidly constructed. Fort Fairfield was black with men and teams. The settlers, with their teams, were all pressed into the work and timber-making was suspended for the first time in a quarter of a century. Timber was taken for construction work without regard for the owner's feelings, and forts, piers, and blockhouses were being built out of some of the best timber (pine) in the world. John Bradley, son of "Sagamore John", or "Iron Arm", had a quantity of nice large timber on the river bank close by: this was seized and used without the engineers saying: "With your permission, Mr. Bradley." Bradley got his Indian blood up, and later nearly succeeded in burning one of the blockhouses and came very near breaking the truce between Gov. Harvey and General Scott.

FORT FAIRFIELD

On a steep, high bluff on the south side of the Aroostook River, between the Fitzherbert and Weeks' Brook in Letter D, Range 1, according to the survey of Park Holland, Fort Fairfield was built in February and March in 1839. A rifle pit was dug on the brow of the hill and a solid breastwork of heavy pine timber was built around it with cannons protruding from loop holes in the wall. Two blockhouses were built, one above, the other below the fort on the high bank of the river. The upper one was on the bluff just above where the steel bridge now spans the river, and the lower one just below where the C. P. R. R. depot is now located. South of the Fort was a dense cedar swamp; in this the trees were cut down and crossed up in such a manner when they fell that a rabbit could hardly get thru let alone a man. Across the river on a high bluff just above the bridge, a section of trees were felled and a battery of field guns were placed. This battery and the upper blockhouse were built to guard the boom. The Post was named for Hon. Fairfield, then governor of Maine. At one time there were 2500 soldiers there and 500 more within easy call on the Beach, so-called. A well was dug inside the fort, and a powder magazine constructed: an armed force remained there about four years.

THE BOOM

The boom was built to keep the timber that was cut and yarded along the river from being floated into New Brunswick. Heavy piers were built of pine timber, - anybody's timber that came handy - and filled with stone. Burtsel's Island stood in the line of piers. Great difficulty was met with in finding stones to fill these great structures. Very little of the land was cleared and nobody had ever

thought of picking stones and putting them in piles as was done later; and the loose stones on field and shore were under snow. We are told that teams were sent up river 30 miles searching for stones along the banks. Finally a high ledge was found east of the Fitzherbert brook, and the ledge rock was blown out with gun powder to finish the piers and stone up the well in the fort. The road to the boundary line today runs through the cut where the ledge was removed. The piers were built on the ice and sank with their own weight.

The boom was built double of long pine timber fastened together with silver birch thru shots and attached to the piers with heavy chains. On Burtsel's Island a battery of six guns was placed; the boom lay between the upper blockhouse and the battery on the north side of the river, and about a hundred yards above where the steel bridge now stands. For two years, winter and summer, high water and low, night and day, armed sentries paced back and forth on this timber boom, and when the water was high, a heavy guard was stationed on the shores and every precaution taken to keep the boom from being cut. When the ice went out in the spring, the government sent men to collect all the timber and drive into the boom. Each man's timber was of course marked and every stick was scaled and different marks recorded. Eye witnesses, living today, say the jam of timber when in the boom reached up river for ten miles. Jacob Weeks, son of Benj. Weeks, still living and in good health and an uncle of the writer, says he once walked up the jam of timber and that it reached to the mouth of the Otter Brook, now in the limits of Caribou village. Mrs. Betsy Lovely, still living, tells the same story.

As timber-making had been a thriving business in the disputed territory for 25 years, one may form an idea of the vast amount of choice pine that was stolen and wasted in the Aroostook woods. And it is said that the boom on Fish River at the same time contained more timber than the one on the Aroostook River.

THE FORT BARRACKS

The barracks, or officers' quarters at Fort Fairfield were built almost entirely of material from the surrounding forest. Fairbanks had a little saw mill at Presque Isle which was used mostly to square big pine logs into timber, but the officers, to keep the men out of idleness, had the boards cut out with whipsaws and planed by hand. The structure is still standing. It was built of clear pumkin pine from ridge pole to sill, and in it today are boards four feet wide, without knot or rot that were whipped from pine timber and planed by hand by members of the Maine Militia.

FORT KENT

The story of the building of Fort Kent is only a repetition of the building of Fort Fairfield. It was built in the winter of 1839, where the Fish River unites with the St. John in the extreme northern part of Maine. About the same number of soldiers were taken

there as were taken to Fort Fairfield. A boom was built across Fish River which was closely guarded by armed soldiers and frowning batteries on the hills. The timber was collected and driven as at Fort Fairfield, and the soldiers endured more hardships because the snow was deeper and the weather was colder than at Fort Fairfield. The Arcadian soldiers were found to be very useful in the work of construction as they were tough and hardy, could stand any amount of cold, and were splendid ax men and loyal to a man to the Americans. The Fort was named for Hon. Edward Kent, who was governor of Maine in 1838 and again in 1841. Gov. Kent visited Fort Kent, also Fort Fairfield and the fortification at Houlton where a large body of troops was stationed.

OVER IN NEW BRUNSWICK

Let us take a look at New Brunswick. At the time Gov. Harvey sent his famous letter to Gov. Fairfield he had about 1000 troops, mostly New Brunswick militia, stationed at Tobique and Grand Falls, apparently ready to cross over into disputed territory. There were also 500 regulars at Woodstock, a regiment at Halifax and another at St. John. When the governor attempted to move the British troops up river, they refused to budge without orders from the British Government. We have seen that the state of Maine acted quickly, and ten days after the capture of Capt. Rines, 10,000 troops were on Aroostook soil or on their way there. Then came letters from Gen. Scott with his ples for peace and threat of war. So during the summer of 1839, we see a body of armed troops at Tobique, and a large, well-equipped force at Fort Fairfield within seven miles of each other. The same condition of affairs existed between Grand Falls and Fort Kent, also at Houlton and Woodstock. But in the fall of 1839, the British Government appeared to wake up and some 8,000 troops were sent to New Brunswick. One regiment came from Gibralter, two from Jamaica, one from Calcutta and one from British Guiana in South America. Others came from Canada. Let us look at one of the regiments from Jamaica, W. I. They landed in St. John late in November. This regiment was the 66th light infantry, and had not seen snow or ice for years. Their heavy winter uniforms had not yet arrived. They were quickly put on the march to Fredericton in a blinding snow storm, and freezing and exhausted they fell by scores and were rescued by kindly people living along the road. One member of that regiment, who arrived in Fredericton more dead than alive, and later deserted and settled in Aroostook, said that an old woman with a broom could have beaten the fragment of that regiment when it arrived at Fredericton. Discipline in the British army was severe; to desert meant death if caught, and many poor wretches were shot every day, but many risked death and fled to the forts at Fort Fairfield, Fort Kent, and Houlton. All wanted to enlist in the American army and some of them were taken. Some of these men settled on American soil here in Aroostook and their descendants are here today. The writer is one of them. But the greater part of these British deserters fled far from the border as they feared they might be caught and executed. One whole company at Grand Falls, who were sent out to stop deserters, marched to Fort Kent and

surrendered. The commander, fearing he would be blamed for harboring British deserters pleaded with the officers of the company to return, but they declared themselves prisoners of war and would not go. Many of those soldiers from the tropics died during the winter with pneumonia and other diseases, while there was very little sickness and not a single death among the American soldiers in Aroostook. Strenge as it may seem, not a man was killed or died on the American side during the war - neither soldier, teamster or laborer. Who says we do not live in a healthy climate?

Just before the state legislature adjourned in the spring of 1839, Aroostook was set apart as a separate county. The Southern boundary was then not quite as it is today, but no great change had been made.

FOUNDATION BUILDERS OF ARCOSTOOK CO.

The same spring another great change took place in Aroostook. The settlers, all British settlers who had always cherished such a bitter hatred against the Americans, especially against the Maine Yankees, now, with very few exceptions, sided with the Americans not only in word but in deed. It is true, they and their teams had been pressed into service of the state and made to work early and late; their timber had been seized and their camp property had been confiscated, but they had been used like men and paid like men. The officers and engineers treated them like equals and often allowed them to visit their homes with only their word to assure their return. And those rabid bluenoses now expressed a desire to live and die in their beloved Aroostook, and sincerely hoped it might be under the American flag. There were a few exceptions, however. Peter Bull, James Fitzherbert, Richard Hox, George Rodgers, John Twaddle, John Bradley and David Wark and a few others, when they saw the disputed territory was about to go to Maine, moved to New Brunswick.

BLOODLESS WAR ENDED

FEW DEATHS IN WAR

Only one American soldier deserted during the war; that was while the troops were mustering at Augusta. $10 reward was offered for his capture. Only one soldier died during the war, and that was an enlisted man from Oxford County. He died in the hospital at Augusta in the winter of 1839 and never reached Aroostook.

Just before the company of U. S. troops left Fort Fairfield for Eastport, Me., a detachment of them discharged their muskets and a stray ball struck Nathan Johnson, a young man who was reaping oats in a field nearby. He was so badly wounded that he died the next day.

RED SKIRT ON THE BEAR

I have said there was no blood shed during the war. There was. In the pioneer days, the settlers' cows were allowed to roam the

woods or any old place they chose, and the patches of grain were fenced. One night Polly Armstrong's cows did not come home, and as her husband was away working on the fort she had to go for the next morning to look for them. Near the source of Armstrong Brook she was attacked by a bear and driven up a tree. The bear attempted to come up the tree and she unloosened her red flannel petticoat and dropped it down over his head. The bear ran away with the skirt around his body. Some soldiers had been sent out from the Fort to look for Bluenose spies who were said to be lurking around. At a distance they saw a red object running thru the woods and thot it was a British soldier. Now to make a good story the Yankees should have run, but instead they fired a volley at the bear and killed him...the bear bled like a stuck hog.

A CONTRADICTION

Another story that has been widely circulated and generally believed is that when the State Militia came down from No. 10, they followed the river clear around to Fort Fairfield. This yarn has been printed in newspapers and written in histories, and it has been recently printed and swallowed for truth: that crowds at Cochrein's Mill at the mouth of the Caribou Stream saw the gay regiments march by. The facts are that only one company ever went down the ice below the Week's place, known during the war as the Johnson place. That company was the ill-fated posse commanded by Capt. Hines and captured at the mouth of the Madawaska. The distance from the Johnson landing on the "Reach" by land is six miles. The distance by river is 16 miles. The old Indian trail from Fort Fairfield to the Johnson landing was then used by the timber-makers for a tote road. All provisions, ammunition, and big guns that went to Fort Fairfield in the winter of 1839 were hauled over this tote road from the Billy Johnson fort. All that came afterwards came via Houlton and Presque Isle. The troops that went to Fort Kent left the ice at No. 11 and followed the Portage Lake to Eagle Lake, and then down the ice to the mouth of Fish River. When summer came a road was cut overland.

PRISONERS RELEASED

The war was over, and the long standing dispute was settled; no one had been killed or hurt. Our Bluenose cousins compared the rumpus to the devil shearing the pig, "great cry and little wool." They claim it was a compromise. The prisoners on both sides were released and the greater part of the soldiers returned to their homes. A few companies of the U. S. troops were, however, kept in Aroostook another year. The Maine land agent demanded a certain price per ton stumpage for the timber that was seized; many of the owners came and paid, and claimed their timber; the rest was sold at auction to the highest bidder.

A MUCH STOLEN CANNON

All good citizens of Aroostook have heard of, or seen the old Aroostook cannon. When the last of the soldiers left Aroostook in

1843, the big guns were left in the forts. When the war with Mexico broke out, the guns were hauled away. The Citizens of Fort Kent wanted a relic of the war and hid one of the cannons. This gun belongs to the U. S. Govt. At the close of the Civil War, Fort Fairfield planned to have a big July 4th celebration and asked Fort Kent to lend the gun. Fort Kent refused. A prominent man of Fort Fairfield, ex-selectman and merchant, volunteered to steal it. He proceeded to Fort Kent with two assistants, going from Van Buren up the river in a batteau. He was well-acquainted with the town and soon discovered that the big gun was dismounted and locked up in a blockhouse. He snooped down to the blockhouse and with a wire handle from a washtub managed to unlock the door; his boat was moored nearby.

When evening came he gave two Frenchmen a dollar apiece to go to the upper end of the town and get into a fight. Of course the folks all rushed to see the fight, as good citizens will, and Mr. T. and his men went to the fort and took the gun. As the lump of brass weighed 600 pounds, it was no easy matter to carry. A fence-rail was thrust into the muzzle; one man took this on his shoulder: the other two put a hand spike under the breech and bore it to the boat. There were no mourners present, and the thieves escaped with their booty.

Later it was stolen from Fort Fairfield by Presque Isle, and from Presque Isle by Caribou, from Caribou again by Presque Isle, and again from Presque Isle by Fort Fairfield, and in that town it lies buried today, and not more than two men know of its resting place. But it will be resurrected again when needed. The doggerel rhyme commencing:

"Run, Strickland, run! Fire, Stover, fire!
Were the last words of McIntyre..."

is said by those who know to be a fabrication and a hoax. It refers to the capture of the land agent McIntyre at the Fitzherbert tavern in 1839, and was composed by a New Brunswick poet, and I am told it was often spoken by th school children for years in the Province.

THE ASHBURTON TREATY AND ITS CONDITIONS

"In the spring of 1842, Lord Ashburton came to Washington clothed with authority by the English Govt., or Parliament to settle the matter as he pleased or thought best."

An extra session of the Maine Legislature was called, and commissioners were elected and sent to Washington to confer with the noble Lord Ashburton and Webster, who was Sec. of State under President Tyler.

The result of the conference was that every foot of the disputed territory was ceded, not to the State of Maine, thank you, but to the honorable government of the United States. Lord Ashburton made it distinctly plain that he was not treating with the commissioners from Maine, but the honorable Secretary of State, Webster.

The treaty was signed August 9, 1842, and ratified by the United States Senate August 20, 1842. This act legalized and settled the boundary line question and citizenship of each resident and the ownership of the land.

N. B. SHUT OFF

Then came a strenuous kick and howl from New Brunswick: they were shut off from Lower Canada. To cross the rugged highlands of the Tobique was almost impossible, and to sail around the peninsula of Nova Scotia was the only way to reach the St. Lawrence. They sent a committee to Washington which threatened secession and rebellion.

TRADED LAND

Now on the shores of the Great Lakes and Lake Champlain, were tracts of land that the U. S. Government had long wanted. Without consulting Maine, the U. S. authorities, with the consent and approval of President Tyler, proceeded to trade that section of the disputed territory noth of the St. John River for the above mentioned parcels of land. History tells us that Maine surrendered a considerable portion of land that was of but little value, for which the U. S. received territory of greater value on the Great Lakes. Maine had no voice in the matter, and when a protest was presented, she was told that the U. S. Govt. was attending to the matter, or in other words, "Go home, Sonny, and keep still; your Uncle Sam will attend to this little affair."

RAN A TRUE LINE

Soon after the English and American surveyors were at work on the boundary between the two nations. This time it was not a little party of woodsmen with a pocket compass and a clothesline, scooting and dodging from tree to tree with a hunter on each of them to keep away bears and Indians, but a large force of civil engineers and officers from both countries; also teams, laborers, cooks, blacksmiths and a doctor. Several notable persons were employed on that survey, among them Robert E. Lee, who later became commander-in-chief of the Confederate army during the Civil War. A wide strip of trees were cut thru the forest and iron pillars, properly inscribed, were placed at stated intervals; the trunks of the trees were placed at stated intervals; the trunks of the trees were piled up and burned, and from a hill-top one could look up and down the line for miles. Twenty years later this cleared strip and grown up to young spruce, and from a hill-top looked like a green carpet unrolled between the two countries. In 1908 this line was resurveyed and granite pillars erected so that one could be seen from the other from the monument on the St. Croix to the St. John River. And so correct was the original line that the later surveyors with their modern instruments declared it a model job. Shortly after the boundary had been definitely decided, the United States paid Maine $200,000 for expenses incurred during the war, and $150,000 for the

land ceded to New Brunswick. Thus the boundary line was settled: it might have been worse.

THE TREATY OF 1842

"By the treaty of 1842, every man, woman, and child residing in Aroostook County became an American citizen; and all male citizens of legal age were entitled to vote; and every man with a family was also given 100 acres of land, which he could choose anywhere, if it was not previously occupied, or claimed by another."

The Aroostook citizen, once so loyal to New Brunswick, was very proud of his vote, and the greater number of citizens attended the first election and cast their votes.

The citizens of the Aroostook Valley had to go to Houlton to vote, and the citizens of Fort Kent and vicinity to Madawaska.

With the settlement of the questions between the two nations at the close of the Aroostook War, and the incorporation of Plantation Letter F---Presque Isle, or letter F---began to receive a coming of many valuable families like: Benjamin Whidden, father of the late George F. Whidden, John T. Goss, the Rackliffes, Benial Pratt, John Allen, Philo Bean, Freeman Hayden, Abraham Ireland, Jonathan Ireland, Judge Cloudman, Mr. Henderson, the Fosters, the Rosses, the Wades, the Bradstreets, the Whitneys, who were strong, able and well-informed people of influence, a very encouraging and helpful accession of men like Vernnus Chandler, the Scotts, the Armstrongs, the Duffs, and the Hoopers who came before the war and had waited in faith, for the better days they hoped someday to see.