

McFARLAND GENEALOGY.

The first permanent English settlements in that part of the District of Maine now known as Hancock County date from near the year 1762.* By 1764 six townships of land, each six miles square, were granted by the General Court of Massachusetts to David Marsh and 352 other citizens of Massachusetts and New Hampshire. Six other townships on the east side of Donagua River, three of them in Hancock County, were granted upon similar terms. The survey of the two grants of six townships on each side of the river was made by Samuel Livermore and the name of the river was changed to Union River, a name that it has since borne.

Even before the above grants were legalized by the General Court settlements began to be made in different parts of the county. In the spring of 1761, Capt. Abraham Somes of Gloucester, Mass., took up a land grant at the head of the inlet now known as Somes' Sound in Mount Desert, where he built a mill and made other improvements. In 1762, Col. Jonathan Buck and four other men from Haverhill, Mass., settled in Township No. 1, now Bucksport. Joseph Goss moved to No. 2 in 1764 and gave it the name Orland. The first permanent settler in Penobscot was Charles Hutchings in 1768. Township No. 5, now Blue Hill, was settled in 1762 by Joseph Wood and John Roundy from Beverly, Mass. In the same year a settlement was begun at Sullivan by Sullivan, Bean, Simpson and others. Benjamin Milliken settled in Ellsworth in 1763, which is also the date of the settlement of Eden by the Thomas family.

Trenton, which at first included Lamoine and parts of Hancock and Ellsworth, was first settled by Ebenezer Thorndike in 1765. The first permanent settlement in Hancock was made by Capt. Agreen

*A discussion of the early French settlements and land grants in Hancock County will be found in the author's forthcoming "History of Trenton and Lamoine."

Crabtree, Philip and Shemuel Hodgkins and their families. They came from the western part of Maine, Crabtree from Portland and the Hodgkins from the western part of Maine. These three families came up Skillings River in 1764 and settled on the east side of the river above the narrows. A year or two later the Hodgkins removed to the west side of the river (Marlboro). In 1765, Oliver Wooster and family came from Newburyport, Mass.

About this time Thomas and James McFarland, James Smith, and Rogers, Thomas and Joseph Googins began a settlement at Kilkenny stream,* at the head of Skillings River. The exact date of the coming of the McFarlands to Hancock County cannot be ascertained. That they came previous to 1768 is shown by an item in the account of Ebenezer Thorndike, agent for Township No. 1, (Trenton): "To going up Skillings River to forewarn McFarlands Co. from building a mill on their falls." The McFarlands and their companions came from the vicinity of Saco, in 1765, according to a tradition that has been handed down in the family of Thomas McFarland. The McFarland brothers married sisters, James marrying Margaret, and Thomas marrying Jane Smith about the year 1770, at Londonderry, N. H., it is said. With few exceptions, the McFarlands of Hancock County trace their ancestry back to these brothers, and, as will appear later, most of them are traceable to Thomas rather than to James McFarland.