

Mrs. Lona Emery Writes Of Former Farm Owners

Mrs. Lona Rich Emery of Salsbury Cove, Maine, has written a brief outline of some of the former owners of farms which Mr. William Pierson Hamilton of Thirlstane Ranch, Inc., has purchased recently.

The Alley Farm, so called, renamed Eden Farm by Mr. Hamilton is the headquarters of the cattle superintendent. This farm was owned by the late Jason Alley, and inherited by his son Ephraim Alley, father of Clarence Alley, from whom it was purchased by Mr. Hamilton. Mr. Alley was a unique character, being a fine horseman and, although having only one arm, was a fine reinsman.

He owned a pair of spirited black horses, and in the early days when motor cars were unknown, was one of the principal livery men of Bar Harbor, catering to the summer visitors who wished to drive over Mount Desert Island. The twenty-two mile drive was then the most popular drive starting from Bar Harbor around Otter Creek, Seal and Northeast Harbor back over Town Hill down the Shore

Road through Salsbury Cove, Hulls Cove back to the village late in the afternoon.

The writer can, in memory, see him now, driving furiously, but carefully, almost hidden in dust, as there were no oiled roads in those days; a rein wound tightly around his one arm, with a load of city folk, holding on for dear life; the black horses, almost white with foam and dust, arriving back home late in a summer afternoon, after having visited all the places of interest on the "twenty-two" which drive by auto, can now be made in less than one hour.

The Andrews Farm and Vegetable Garden. This farm was owned by Bancroft Thomas, who was a carpenter by trade and a member of the well known Thomas family, decedents of Nicholas and Lucy (Somes) Thomas early settlers on Mount Desert Island. Bancroft Thomas early settlers on Mount Desert Island. Bancroft Thomas was a brother of Leonard Jarvis Thomas, a trial Justice and magistrate who performed a majority of the marriages which took place in town, and also settled many civil law suits, many of which can still be remembered by the older people of Eden. Squire Thomas, as he was called owned the place where is now situated the attractive home of Lowell H. Jordan of Bar Harbor. He was also postmaster of Eden many years.

The Bancroft Thomas place came into the possession of Ezekiel Oliver Perry Andrews of Malden, Mass., who married Frances Thomas, daughter of Squire Thomas. Mrs. Andrews' son Frank, inherited the farm and it has recently been acquired by Mr. Hamilton.

Garden of Eden Filling Station. This filling station is located on a portion of the Samuel H. Richards place being on the site of the blacksmith shop of George Richards. Mr. Richards was the local blacksmith and wheelwright and is well remembered by many in town. The Richards place was sold to Willis C. Paine and this portion of it sold by his heirs to Mr. Hamilton.

Thirlstane Farm where is located the office of the Supt. of horses, was the Captain Eben J. Higgins farm. Capt Higgins was a deep sea

captain, sailing to many foreign ports. He was very successful in his ventures, and was able to give up sea voyages, retiring to his farm and lived comfortably to a ripe old age. He was very liberal to the church here of which his wife Hannah (Hamor) Higgins was a member many years. He presented the bell in the church at Salsbury Cove in her memory.

The Game Preserve Lake Hamilton. This farm was owned by Gilbert Fish, one of the early inhabitants of Salsbury Cove. It was purchased by Edward H. Young, prominent carpenter of Bar Harbor, who built a fine house on the spot where the log lodge is now located. This house burned before the farm was bought by the late Richmond Kittredge of Bar Harbor, whose heirs sold it to the present owner.

Lakewood Farm, Dairy Headquarters. The fine new dairy barn is situated on the farm formerly owned by J. Andrew Wood and was later owned by Clarence Alley, who sold to Mr. Hamilton. Mr. Alley is now living in Winterport, Maine where he has purchased a farm.