

**THE ALBANY LUMBER
TRADE: ITS HISTORY
AND EXTENT**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649316366

The Albany Lumber Trade: Its History and Extent by Anonymous

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

ANONYMOUS

**THE ALBANY LUMBER
TRADE: ITS HISTORY
AND EXTENT**

#

THE

Albany Lumber Trade,

ITS HISTORY AND EXTENT.



ALBANY:
THE ARGUS COMPANY, PRINTERS
1872.

ADVERTISEMENT.

This pamphlet simply embodies, with several historical and statistical additions, an interesting review of the Lumber Trade of Albany, published in the Albany ADVERS of Thursday, August 15th, 1872.

Albany, September, 1872.

E. F.
—
.

CONTENTS.

	Page.
Early History of the Albany Lumber Trade	7
About the District	9
The Lumbermen as a Community	15
Arnold & Folsom	28
Beecher & Silliman	32
Benedict, J., & Son	38
Chase, Smith & Co.	21
Clark, Sumner & Co.	22
Crocker, James C., & Co.	26
Douglass', J., Sons	38
Dunham, J. W., & Co	19
Dunscumb, E.	20
Easton, C. P., & Co.	29
Fassett, Son & Co.	24
Gratwick, Wm. H., & Co.	30
Hawley, H. Q., & Sons	38
Hunter, G., & Son	37
Hyatt, J. L. & C.	38
Kelley, J. B., & Co.	29
McGraw & Co.	31
Norton & Co.	21
Nichols, C. B.	34
Patton, John R., & Co.	27

	<i>Page.</i>
Rathbun, Joshua, & Co.....	24
Romaine & Co.....	25
Rork, S. & G.....	40
Rogers, Nelson, & Co.....	35
Ross, E. A.....	27
Sage, H. W., & Co.....	32
Salisbury & Co.....	18
Smith, Craig & Co.....	34
Skillings, Whitney Bros. & Barnes.....	23
Sumner & Hasey.....	25
Towner, B. A., & Son.....	28
Towner, J. O., & Co.....	28
Thomas, Wm. G., & Co.....	18
Thomson, L., & Co.....	30
Vose, Rodney.....	37
Van Rensselaer & Willson.....	20
Van Santford & Eaton.....	33
Warren, C., & Son.....	33
Weaver, Wm. H., & Co.....	27
White & Co.....	17
Winne, C. H.....	40

THE LUMBER TRADE OF ALBANY.

Among the many large mercantile and manufacturing interests of our city, the lumber trade confessedly occupies a leading place. When we consider that it has grown from a mere nothing, comparatively, to its present importance, within forty years, we are forced to conclude that there must be a progressive spirit of enterprise among the lumbermen, at least, and that the sneering assertion so frequently made that Albany is "a slow old Dutch town," is only founded upon the meaningless prejudices of the envious.

But little over two score years ago there were hardly more than half a dozen lumber dealers in the city whose business entitled them to be called wholesale merchants. These were mostly located between Quackenbush street and the present site of the Columbia street bridge. One of our modern lumber houses will do more business in a year than the entire aggregate sales of those days would annually represent.

From this small beginning Albany has grown to be the largest lumber market (in the money value of her sales) in the country. It has been claimed that Chicago is the largest market. This is true as far as the number of feet sold is concerned, but in the matter of dollars and cents the capital city has con-

tinned to outstrip her western rival for several years past, and, until within the last five years, has also been ahead in the quantity of her sales.

In the early history of the business the lumber received at Albany was prepared for market at mills located at different points on the upper Hudson, and rafted down the river to its destination.

Among the gentlemen now actively engaged in the lumber business as proprietors, who were working as tally boys or clerks for Albany merchants before the present system of obtaining stock had superseded the crude expedient of floating the rafts down the river, might be named C. P. Easton, Mr. Sage, Wm. G. Thomas and D. Salisbury. Mr. Wm. N. Fassett is one of the pioneers in the lumber business, having been engaged in it over thirty years. Among the retired merchants still living, two of those who have been most successful are Frederick J. Barnard and Ebenezer Hill.

The construction of the Erie canal gave to the Albany lumber interest its first grand impetus, by opening up a superior channel of communication with the great lumber producing territories of Canada and the Western States. It also tended to give the trade a local habitation and a distinctive character by furnishing the pier and basin — the natural adjuncts of the canal at this point — the early history of which embodies the first really progressive era in the life of the business.

The general advantages of the pier, lying as it does between the basin and the river, were not long overlooked by the dealers who had been located on the

main shore; and as early as 1837 the only prominent lumbermen situated west of the basin were Hill & Van Santford, F. J. Barnard and the Van Valkenburghs. Among those who had taken quarters in the lumber district of those days was the late Wm. H. De Witt, who long ago retired from business with an immense fortune. The pier retained its prestige among the lumbermen as the most eligible of all locations for many years, and even up to the year 1848 it continued to be the head-quarters of the lumber trade.

About the District.

The Albany lumber district proper is bounded upon the south by North Ferry street, commencing there with a breadth of about 500 feet, and gradually spreading as it runs northward until, in the distance of a little over a mile, it measures at its furthest end 1,150 feet between the Erie canal and the Hudson river. The area of ground occupied is something over one hundred acres. For the sake of convenience in unloading the canal boats which convey the lumber from the north and west, slips to the number of thirty-one communicate with De Witt Clinton's big ditch, nearly at right angles, and cross the district to within about one hundred and fifty feet of the river. The largest slip is 1,000 feet long; the others gradually reducing in length as they recede towards the southern terminus. Several of these have involved an expense of \$25,000 each in their construction. Something over one-half of the district, commencing at Ferry street, belongs to the estate of the late