

Bethinking of Old Orleans

C.W.Lattin County Historian

Vol. XIV

5-14-92

No. 19

PINE HILL



Many place names are indicative of what used to be there many years ago or what early settlers observed about an area or what people thought important in a certain place. For instance, Eagle Harbor got its name supposedly because someone found an eagle's nest when the canal was first being dug. Lakeside is more obvious than some and needs no explanation. In nearby counties there are places such as Wheatland and Wheatfield. These names point to the fact that wheat was an important crop in the general area in early times.

Likewise along with food is a basic necessity so shelter was so important. Therefore, timber got its place among the names which remain with us today from long ago. Hence, we find the obvious, Pine Hill. And here is the interesting story behind it:

Pine Hill in the Town of Barre got its name due to the fact that it was covered by an excellent stand of

pine timber comprising about 1500 acres. This land the Holland Land Agents refused to sell. When informed that settlers in the vicinity were stealing timber, they only made sufficient inquiry to learn that they took it for their own use in covering and finishing their buildings, and then dismissed the matter with the remark, "They ought not to" or "Tell them they musen't." Only one or two cases were ever prosecuted for these depredations, and these were when timber was cut for sale and shipment.

This land was not sold till most of the timber had been cut off. It was afterwards learned that the Holland Land Co. had reserved it for the purpose of allowing settlers to thus supply themselves with timber for building their houses and barns. In some cases, when people told them, on their refusal to sell the land, that they should be compelled to steal timber, they replied, "Don't steal more than you want."