

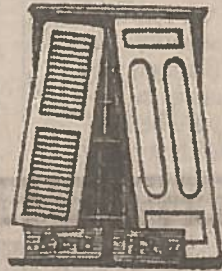
12-8-05

Sawyer & Gould business

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ORLEANS COUNTY BUSINESS DIRECTORY.

**SASH, DOORS & BLINDS,
LUMBER,
LATH & SHINGLES!**



AT

**SAWYER & GOULD'S
Steam Planing Mill,
CANAL STREET, - - ALBION, N. Y.**

Dressed Matched Flooring, Ceiling and Siding. Also, Seasoned Pine, Lath & Shingles, constantly on hand at reasonable rates. Planing, Scroll Sawing and Job Work done with dispatch. Hemlock and Pine Lumber sawed to order. All orders promptly attended to.

JACOB SAWYER.

ISAAC GOULD.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BY C.W. LATTIN

Our illustration is an advertisement taken directly from the "Gazetteer and Directory of Orleans County" published in 1869. Jacob Sawyer and Isaac Gould operated a lumber yard on what was called Canal Street in Albion. We know this street today as East Bank Street.

Back in 1869 the street did not connect to East State Street but simply dead ended just a little east of the lumber yard. The site of the Sawyer & Gould Lumber Yard is now the business establishment of Suburban Electric.

This location was ideally situated adjacent to the Erie Canal for easy shipment of all kinds of building materials. We note that this was a steam planning mill. By this point in time where water power was not available the steam engine was the source of power before electric generation.

The fine print gives in detail

some of their goods as follows:

"Dressed Matched Flooring, Ceiling and Siding. Also, Seasoned Pine, Lath & Shingles, constantly on hand at reasonable rates. Planing, Scroll Sawing and Job Work done with dispatch. Hemlock and Pine Lumber sawed to order. All orders promptly attended to." The ad also of course features "Sash, Doors & Blinds," a small illustration shows a blind, sash and a door.

This ad tells us a lot about the building trades at the time. Outside blinds (shutters) were in common use back then. Blinds were closed to keep out the sun in the summer and closed to break the wind and cold against the glass in the winter. They were truly a functional item on many homes before storm sash. The use of lath tells us that dry wall was unheard of. Wooden shingles were the norm before asphalt. Ceilings were often made of

matched boards before the suspended systems of today.

What is also interesting about this ad is the mention of scroll sawing. Something practically unknown to people in the building trades today unless copying a Victorian style home. But back in the 19th century, scroll work was a must on many buildings. Bracketed cornices were common along with decorative trellis below porch floors. Many times the sole decorative part of the residence was the scroll work on the porch or even a decorative railing around the roof. Although decorative, it was considered an important element of most architectural work.

With the advent of modern siding, 19th century scroll work has pretty well been obliterated. The best place to see it is unfortunately in a used house parts store. A sad commentary on our present day sense of aesthetics.