

BETHINKING OF OLDE ORLEANS

Vol. XXX, No. 34

8-21-08

BARNARD, MASON & SPAULDING, Lumber Dealers,

Canal Street, - ALBION, N. Y.



Matched Lumber,
SIDING, LATH,
AND
SHINGLES!

Always on Hand.

ALL KINDS OF BILL TIMBER FURNISHED
ON SHORT NOTICE.

Custom Planing and Sawing Done to Order.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Wilbur saw mill a great success

The following information composed by Lafayette H. Beach and published in 1911 tells of the Wilbur Saw Mill. This was located on East Bank Street in Albion and operated by Edward Wilbur (1808-65) up to his death and did a big business back in the years when all the lumber and shingles used here were home made.

The farmers would pile the mill yard full of logs in the winter, and these would be fed through the mill and reduced to marketable material.

Every spring the youngsters would gather in the mill yard with saucers and knives and scrape the gum from the ends of the pine logs and convert it into spruce gum. Every "kid" had his gum recipe and was able to make his own chewing gum.

We have a distinct recollection that the first money we ever earned was made in

the Wilbur mill packing shingles and we think many other "old boys" could tell the same story.

Rafts of logs were also received by canal from Tonawanda and reduced to lumber and shingles.

After Mr. Wilbur's death the mill was operated for a time by his son Sidney, now living in Florida.

Then it passed to Mason & Barnard, later was operated as a sash and blind factory by Merritt Dunning, and finally was made a factory for producing waterproof coats. Its life was spent by this time and after being stripped of all its machinery the building was demolished.

The accompanying advertisement published in 1869 is taken from the Orleans County Directory. This goes back to when East Bank Street was known as Canal Street.

*C. W. Lattin is the
Orleans County historian.*