

LUSTY MILLS

Sequel to "Libert's Mill"

After the Lusty Mill on Hogg Street burned down on April 30, 1891, Father was undecided what he would do; but with Will and me at home he finally decided to cut out the stock of logs with a portable mill, and then build a good mill in Rodney.

Father purchased four and a half acres of land from Robert McCorkell on the west side of the Furnival Road and Back Street corner. The mill was built long enough so it could cut long timbers and the lower floor high enough to install factory machinery. The timbers were got out at the portable mill, and by fall Henry Mistele, who was an expert framer was engaged to do that work, and by Christmas Day 1891 the first bent, or frame, was raised; and when it was in place Mr. Mistele climbed up on top, walked out to the center of the span, pulled a bottle out of his pocket and christened the building by taking a good drink.

We worked all winter getting the mill erected and the machinery installed; by spring it was completed, and had a very large stock of logs on hand -- enough to keep going all summer. This proved to be a good mill, capable of cutting 30,000 feet in 10 hours, and boards as wide as thirty-one inches without using a top saw.

Father purchased from John Purcell and Dougald Campbell, their turning factory that stood on Stinson Street, opposite the Christian Church, tore down the building, moving the machinery to the lower floor of the saw mill and installing an extra steam boiler and a second engine to run the factory. We did not do much in the turning of handles, chair rungs or bed spindles, but installed a lot of heavier machinery and decided to go more into the building and contracting business. Will was head sawyer and a good one. He could get more good lumber out of a

log than any man I ever knew. With him tied up for the full ten hours each day it fell to my lot to take over the planing and contracting business, selling the lumber and shipping the same. In the winter, when the mill would be idle, I would be in the woods with the men and teams getting the logs out, while Will would be in the mill yard measuring the logs as they came in.

We were paying for first grade logs, Elm, Soft or Hard Maple, Basswood, Chestnut, etc. \$4.00 to \$7.00 per thousand feet. For White Oak, and White Wood, about \$12.00; and White Ash \$16.00. Occasionally I would have to stay in the yard for a day or two to do the measuring. One day while I was measuring a one-log load came in. It was Chestnut and just over eight feet in diameter at the butt end. We had to split this log before it could go into the mill. Rough lumber retailing out of the yard was selling from \$8.00 to \$10.00, and through the planer \$1.00 extra per 1000 feet. Finished lumber was about \$20.00 per 1000 feet.

Sawing Custom lumber was cash \$3.00; if booked \$3.50 per 1000 feet. Matched maple flooring was \$16.00 per 1000 feet. Wages were \$1.00 per day; carpenters \$2.00; a man and his team \$2.50 drawing logs and etc.

Certain kinds of logs begin to spoil very early in the spring so some years, for a few weeks, we would run night and day in order to save the quality. At such times either Will or I would be there all the time; many times we worked eighteen hours a day. Our business expanded quite fast. Father was getting older and tiring easily. He began to talk to us about buying a quarter interest each. It was some time before we finally made up our minds, but we finally decided to make the deal. Will and I were each to have a drawing account of \$30.00 a month, while Father was to have \$60.00. This business was then to be called

N.S. Lusty & Sons, after March 28, 1898.

We grew in the contracting business very fast and during these years were doing a lot of building--some for ourselves, on speculation, and contracting for others. Some of the larger buildings were the Andrew Streib block in West Lorne; the Evangelical Church in Rodney; the Eberhardt house on the corner of Sanford and Victoria Sts; a large store in Glencoe; the Large building on the Fair Grounds, and a great many other houses in Rodney and houses and barns in the area.

Doing well as a company, we continued to expand our business, but Father was anxious to get out and retire; so by January 2, 1902, we finally got to-gether, Will and I, in taking over the business and were then called Lusty Bros.

During that year I wasn't very well and by the following spring was very anxious to get away from the business. We were then working about forty men and many teams. I finally persuaded Will to buy me out and in May 1903 he took over the business alone. After being alone for a year or two he found out it was too much for him to handle, so he persuaded some Rodney men to go in with him and form a joint stock company called the Canada Casket Company. All the factory machinery was moved from the Lusty Mill and installed in the new business. He sold the Saw Mill business to F.A. McCallum, who ran it for about one year, when it burned down in the fall of 1908. This ended the Lusty Saw and Planing Mills that had been running in the hands of the Lusty's for about 17 years. After this there was only one saw mill left in Rodney.

Will Lusty was always considered to be the best all round lumber man that ever was in Aldborough. He was a first class mill right, a No. 1 head sawyer, a steam engineer, a No. 1 man on any kind

of factory machinery, a hand wood-turner, a good timber estimator. He could make any kind of a saw cut straight with a file, an anvil and a hammer. If the saw was too limber, he would stiffen it with a hammer; if too stiff, he would limber it with the same hammer-- as a saw had to have the right tension to run straight in the log.

Written and signed by:
Ernest G. Lusty
April 1, 1954

E. G. Lusty,

Lusty Lumber Co.



Al. Berner, Wm. Lusty, Dunc. McLean, Wm. Skidmore, Bob Wulher, J Hillman.



THE RODNEY CASKET CO & LUSTY LUMBER CO. FIRE April 10/13

FIRE, April 10th 1913

CANADA CASKET COMPANY

A Joint Stock Co. promoted by W.N. Lusty

About the year 1904 W.N. Lusty organized the Canada Casket Co. on the land opposite Sanford Street, north side of Queen Street, where there had been in previous years one saw and stave mill, and another saw mill, and a grist mill, which had been burned down.

Some of the share holders were N.S. Lusty, his father who was a lumberman; A.J. Liebner, furniture dealer and undertaker; David mistele, hard-ware storekeeper; Wilbur Scane, casket maker; Jack Woods, painter; Sanford Campbell, carpenter; D.H. McRitchie, storekeeper; James Ralph, and others.

W.N. Lusty was elected President and General Manager. James Ralph Secretary-Treasurer. They built a large two-storey building and soon were doing a good business with Elihu Stoddard as their travelling salesman. They were selling large quantities of very fine caskets; turning out many designs, covered or finished in Natural wood.

After the old Lusty mill south of town burned down in 1908, they began to have trouble securing coffin boards, which were cut to widths; so the Lustys decided to build another saw mill next to the factory under the name of the Lusty Lumber Co. Proprietors were W.N. Lusty and his father N.S. Lusty. This soon relieved the lumber short-
age as they could always cut out from the logs the kind and size needed. Everything went along fine for sometime until Mr. Ralph decided to take a holiday. When he did not arrive back when he was expected, they began to investigate and found that he had drawn all funds available, and taken them with him. After a season Mrs. Ralph held a sale of her household goods and left for England where they had come from; but Mr. Ralph never was heard from again.

Until April 10, 1913, the factory and mill continued doing a thriving business when both buildings burned, together with all Casket stock, and a large stock of lumber in the years. This closed the business of both companies and they were dissolved.

Mr. Wm.N. Lusty then build a house closer to the street in front of where the buildings had been, sold what was left of his possessions, and moved to the Parry Sound district, where he again entered the lumber business. He continued for years, and, after retiring from all business, he returned to Rodney where Mr. and Mrs. Lusty finished their days.

Written by: Ernest G. Lusty

RODNEY SASH & DOOR FACTORY
Known for many years as the MITCHELL & GRAHAM FACTORY

This factory was built about 1884 by Dan Campbell and Dan and Alex McCallum. Before it was ready for business, Dan McCallum came in contact with a saw and lost most of the fingers off one hand. They then sold out to Archie Mitchell and Duncan Graham, who completed the building, which was under construction, and a house for the McCallum's to live in. Archie Mitchell, after he married, moved into this house and remained there during the rest of his life.

These men soon had this business humming, turning out all kinds of materials for buildings. They were both good machine men, and good carpenters and framers. Mitchell took charge of the Factory as he could make anything that could be made with machinery, and was an expert on a hand-turning lathe; and Graham took charge of the outside work doing all kinds of building. They soon got into building, contracting in a big way, securing many large contracts.

Graham soon decided to get married and bring his wife from the farm. Mrs. Graham wasn't very anxious to live in town, and felt she would rather be back on the farm. After they had been in partnership for about four years, Graham decided to please his wife, and sold his interest in the factory to Henry Mistele, another good carpenter, who could take his place. All went well again with the new partnership for about another four years, until January 1892, when Mistele contracted a very heavy cold and passed away in March of that year. Mr. Graham by this time was ready to leave the farm and bought back the Mistele share. The business was again Mitchell and Graham. They understood each other very well and did more business than before, building many very large buildings. Mitchell