

Texas Historical Commission staff (JM), 8/24/1976; replacement (LCH), 8/6/02, 8/28/02
27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker with post
Jefferson County (Job #4-2002)

Location: 801 Main St., Beaumont

Subject codes: LB, LD

UTM ref.: 15 394563E 3328055N

**BEAUMONT: LUMBER MILL CITY
OF THE NINETEENTH CENTURY**

GROWING IN AND AROUND THE FOREST, EARLY BEAUMONT WAS A TIMBER TOWN. THE FOREST GREATLY CHARACTERIZED THE AREA, AND A NEARBY SITE WAS LABELED "STEAM MILL SQUARE" IN THE CITY'S ORIGINAL PLAT OF THE 1830s. BY 1840, LUCIEN HOPSON HAD A SAW PIT ON A CANAL TO THE SOUTH, FLOATING IN LOGS AND FLOATING OUT LUMBER. SOON BEAUMONT HAD HAND-POWERED SHINGLE AND SASH MILLS IN OPERATION. THE 1850s MARKED THE ARRIVAL OF STEAM MILLS. PRE-1861 MILL FIRMS INCLUDED PHILLIPS, ROSS & ALEXANDER, OTTO RUFF AND A.J. WARD.

AFTER THE CIVIL WAR (1861-65), THE MILLS HELPED THE CITY RECOVER FINANCIALLY. MILLS OPERATING BY 1870 INCLUDED BREMER MILL, GOLDSMITH & REAGAN, LONG & LONG SAWMILL, AND HALTOM & PIPKIN. BY 1877, THE CITY HOUSED ADDITIONAL MILLS, INCLUDING BEAUMONT LUMBER COMPANY, OLIVE & STERNENBERG'S CENTENNIAL SAWMILL, RELIANCE LUMBER COMPANY AND THE SMYTH BROTHERS (EAGLE MILL). LATER CAME ADAMS & MILMO SAWMILL, GLOBE PLANING MILL, NECHES LUMBER COMPANY, THE SOUTHERN LAND & LUMBER COMPANY AND TEXAS TRAM & LUMBER COMPANY.

THE LUMBER INDUSTRY IN BEAUMONT PEAKED IN THE LATE 1800s, AND TYCOON JOHN HENRY KIRBY BOUGHT SEVERAL OF THE BEAUMONT MILLS CIRCA 1900. THE INDUSTRY HAD ONE LAST RUSH AS THE NATION PREPARED FOR WORLD WAR I. MILLS TURNED TO SHIPBUILDING, AND KIRBY BRIEFLY SERVED AS SOUTHERN LUMBER DIRECTOR OF THE UNITED STATES SHIPPING BOARD EMERGENCY FLEET CORPORATION. BY THE 1920s, NEARBY FORESTS WERE DEPLETED. LOG-FLOATING ON THE NECHES GAVE WAY TO HAULING BY RAILROAD, AND THE CITY MILLS WERE PHASED OUT IN FAVOR OF MILLS IN THE WOODS.

(1977²2002)
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APPLICATION FORM FOR OFFICIAL TEXAS HISTORICAL MARKER

(Revised 1974)

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
P. O. Box 12276, Austin, Texas 78711

4800
RECEIVED
APR 8 1976

Jefferson County Date 4/7/76

1. Beaumont: Lumber Mill City of the Nineteenth Century
Title of marker **TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

2. Beaumont City Hall
Name of building, cemetery, public square, park, etc., where marker is to be placed.

3. 700 Pearl Street
Marker site (street address or highway number)

4. _____
City or nearest city. If marker is to be placed on a highway or in a small community, you must briefly explain how to get there from nearest town shown on a Texas Highway Department road map. For example, "Marker will be in Bastrop Beach, which is 6 miles southeast of Angleton on FM 523." east of

5. North and South of City Hall on/Main-Pine streets.
Distance (miles, yards, feet) and direction (north, south, east, west) of subject from marker site. For example, "Subject is 1/2 mile southwest of marker site."

6. City of Beaumont
Owner of marker site Address City

7. Jefferson Co. Historical Commission
Sponsor of marker Address City

8. Mrs. Charles Benckenstein
County chairman Address City
"I have reviewed the narrative for this marker and attest to its accuracy."

9. Mrs. Will Wilson 140 N. Caldwood Drive Beaumont, TX 77707
Person to whom marker is to shipped Street Address City
Note: If marker is to be placed on a highway right-of-way, it will automatically be shipped to your district highway engineer.

10. on post
Surface to which marker will be attached (i.e., wood, brick, stucco over stone) if not on post.

ORDER FORM

Please consult the marker catalog for specifications of the markers items desired below. Then mail this application and narrative history to the Texas Historical Foundation, to the address above. No applications _____

W. E. Wilson

140 N. Caldwood Drive

Beaumont, Texas 77707

HISTORICAL MARKER

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 27" x 42" subject marker with post \$475 | <input type="checkbox"/> 16" x 12" building marker with post \$150 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 27" x 42" subject marker without post \$435 | <input type="checkbox"/> 16" x 12" building marker without post \$125 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 18" x 28" subject marker with post \$250 | <input type="checkbox"/> 16" x 12" building plaque only \$ 75 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 18" x 28" subject marker without post \$220 | <input type="checkbox"/> 14" medallion only (for replacement purposes) \$ 50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 16" x 12" grave marker (comes with mounting bar) \$125 | |

MARKER REPLICA PAPERWEIGHT

This item should be ordered at the same time marker is ordered. Indicate quantity desired. Allow six months from completion of marker for receipt of paperweight.

- 3" x 4" plastic paperweight with replica of marker inside \$ 50

SCOTCHLITE HIGHWAY DIRECTIONAL SIGNS

- Please indicate quantity desired.
- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 24" x 24" Historical Markers In City sign \$ 50 | <input type="checkbox"/> 18" x 22" Historical Route sign (in black-and-white only) ... \$ 50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> black-and-white (for farm-to-market roads, state and U.S. highways) | <input type="checkbox"/> with arrow pointing straight ahead |
| <input type="checkbox"/> green-and-white (for interstate highways) | <input type="checkbox"/> with arrow pointing left |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> with arrow pointing right |

AN OFFICIAL TEXAS HISTORICAL MARKER,
CALDER AVENUE AT WILLOW STREET

As a part of its 1976 USA Bicentennial observance, First United Methodist Church, Beaumont, of which Dr. John Wesley Hardt is pastor, will at an early date mount and unveil its Texas state historical marker, which was received by the church in July, 1973. To be erected in the churchyard at Calder and Willow, the marker records the fact that preaching by Methodist ministers was going on in Beaumont as early as the days of the Texas Republic and led the way for other ministries. First Methodist, the parent of the local Methodist churches, is thus accorded historical recognition for more than 135 years of religious ministry by Methodists to this community.¹

The marker, the culmination of several projects undertaken by the Historical and Records Committee of the church under the chairmanship of Mrs. Clarence W. Crenshaw, has inscribed upon it the story of early religious development in Beaumont, as follows:

In 1839, Methodist Missionary Samuel A. Williams (1810-66) conducted first religious service in Beaumont, followed in 1840 by another Methodist minister, Henry Stephenson (1772-1841), organizer of First Protestant church in Texas (McMahon's Chapel near San Augustine in 1834). Early congregations met under brush arbors, in homes, and in a frame schoolhouse, and listened to sermons of itinerant riders of the "Alligator Circuit"—as the ministry called this river and bayou region.

John Fletcher Pipkin (1809-90), a lay preacher from just across the Neches River, began holding regular worship services in Beaumont in 1852, and took up permanent residence here in 1859. During the long intervals between visits of the circuit riders, he performed marriage and funeral services for all faiths.

The schoolhouse-church building, destroyed in an 1865 hurricane, was not replaced, due to lack of money in the post-Civil War period, until 1877, when Methodists and Baptists pooled resources to erect a common church. In 1885, the Baptists relocated and sold their interest in the structure to the Methodists. In 1890, a steepled church was constructed, which was replaced by a domed building in 1907. The present spired edifice was consecrated in 1968.

(1973)

¹Rosa Dicu Crenshaw and W. W. Ward, *Cornerstones, A History of Beaumont and Methodism, 1840-1968* (Southern Methodist University, 1968), pp. 3-57.

DOCUMENTS OF THE EARLY SAWMILLING EPOCH

Compiled by W. T. Block

Two decades before Spindletop's oil eruption ushered in the petroleum age, the rafting of logs on the Sabine and Neches rivers, and the whine of the circular saws along their banks heralded the Southeast Texas empire of King Lumber.

Vastly exceeding the combined value of the area's cotton and cattle production, the timber industry grasped the economies of Beaumont and Orange, Texas, in its vise-like grip, to be displaced only as the great forests vanished and the smokestacks of petroleum plants altered the Southeast Texas skyline. Actually, it was the profits garnered from lumbering that financed the age of the "wildcatters" and the launching of many of the infant oil corporations.

By reprinting some documents of the sawmilling epoch, or excerpts from them, the Texas Gulf Historical Society hopes to foster and encourage scholarship which will recapture accurately the romance of the timber era. The timbermen possessed the vision which made cities out of settlements and provided the payrolls for their growth. Nevertheless, the ownership of property and wealth could not guarantee an escape from the hardships of yesteryear, or buy the comforts of the present.

Numbered among the early sawmillers of Beaumont were the family names of Long, Fletcher, Ward, Wiess, Carroll, Keith, Pipkin, Potter, Smyth, Seale, Gilbert, Olive, Caswell, Ridley, Williams, Sternenberg, Ogden, Milmo, Haltom, Alexander, Ruff, and Lewis. Names of the Orange timber families included Lutcher, Wingate, McKinnon, Moore, Russell, Van Meter, Gilmer, Merriman, Neyland, Bancroft, Norris, Swinford, Jordan, and Stewart.

I

(The first article, reprinted from the Beaumont *Enterprise*, March 12, 1881, originally appeared in the *Orange Tribune*.)

BEAUMONT—WHAT THE *TRIBUNE* MAN SAW IN THE MILL CITY

Taking the 6 o'clock train Monday morning, we went over to Beaumont. Our object was simply a day's rest and a friendly visit to our neighboring city. We did not go over to "write-up" or "blow" the town and its people, but the citizens of Beaumont are and always have been liberal patrons of the *Tribune*. When we get among them, we very naturally feel as we do when in the midst of our friends—like "taking notes"—and to give them to the public is our profession. But enough!

The train reached Beaumont at 8 o'clock, and stepping out at the depot, we met first the clever proprietor of the Telegraph Hotel, Mr. E. L. Wilson--just whom we desired to meet, as much because he is always the same sociable and accommodating gentleman, as because 6 o'clock is an early hour for fashionable Orange, and we were in excellent humor for breakfast. Shaking hands with Mark Wiess and a few other citizens, it did not take us long to reach the hotel, for although accompanied thither, like hundreds of others, we were more accustomed to the route from the depot to the Telegraph [hotel] than to any other line of travel in the city.

After a hearty breakfast, Mr. Wilson conducted us to his well-kept livery stable, and a buggy and a pair of horses were brought forth. We were enabled for the first time to see Beaumont from beginning to end, and we confess, right here, that it is larger and possesses more attractive features than we could be persuaded heretofore to believe. In fact, excepting Orange, we are confident that no city in Texas with anything approximating her population can begin to compare with Beaumont in several respects.

Following up Brake's (shouldn't it be called Mill?) Bayou, and passing a short distance beyond the suburbs, we came to Magnolia Cemetery, where the city lays away its dead and one of the most beautiful spots for the purpose that we ever beheld--high and dry, flanked by a magnificent grove of large magnolia trees. The cemetery contains some handsome monuments, and will doubtless ere long be in itself a monument to the Christian love and worth of the people of Beaumont.

Leaving the cemetery, we were soon on the East Texas railway. This road is an absolute fact, and is being pushed in the direction of the great pine and cypress forests of its upper regions as rapidly as possible. The work has been slow during the past few months--retarded by the unprecedented bad weather; but its progress from this time on will be rapid. A depot building has been constructed, and we judge it is about half a mile from the business part of the city. A train runs to and from the terminus daily, taking both passengers and freight.

We got little satisfaction from the business men as to the probable effect this line will have on Beaumont. While we conclude it must evidently be advantageous, the fact was mentioned notwithstanding that already the transportation of freight for the upper country to its terminus prevented the wagoners from coming in, and lost to the city the trade which they in former times brought. Also (it was mentioned) that Mr. W. R. Carroll was about commencing the erection of a sawmill on the new road, near Concord,¹ and that others are figuring on like undertakings. But

¹Long before the Civil War, Concord was an early settlement and steamboat stop located on Pine Island Bayou in Hardin County. Although the initials do not match, the writer probably referred to one of the sons of pioneer lumberman Frank L. Carroll, who likewise would have been a grandson of Davis Long, one of the founders of Long and Company.

with all this, the East Texas road must, we think, greatly benefit Beaumont in the end. The mill men own large grounds about the junction of the roads, and are preparing for extensive lumber yards in that quarter.

Leaving the depot, we drove downtown, getting a fine view of what we considered the most beautiful part of the city. The Beaumont Academy was visited; the building was erected about two years since--one story only, but large, roomy and well-finished. And if Beaumont can pride herself on any one thing more than another, it is, from all accounts, her most excellent school. It draws pupils from all the surrounding country.²

From the Academy, we returned to the hotel, it being by this time noon, and our ride having extended, we should judge, over about four miles of the city. After dinner, we paid a visit to all the mills--stopping first at the office of Long and Company. Here we found Mr. John Keith, of the firm, busy of course, but ready in his usual very courteous and affable manner of entertaining friends and visitors.³ We gathered many important "points" from Mr. Keith relative to the lumbering interests, and which we shall make use of in their proper places.

The great shingle mill of Long and Company is not in operation at present, owing to the extreme high water [of Brake's Bayou]. The mill has on the yard now 3,000,000 shingles, and the company is buying timber--having just paid before we entered the office the sum of \$404.88 cash for 50 logs, which was at about the rate of \$7 per thousand. Before leaving the office, we had the pleasure of meeting Mr. F. L. Carroll also, and of conversing through a telephone with a gentleman in the office of Beaumont Lumber Company, a mile distant.⁴ This pleased us more than we were willing to admit or manifest, and we were not a little gratified to hear the remark from these gentlemen that they would not be without the *Tribune*.

We next went to the Reliance Company's establishment, one of the best and most conveniently arranged mills on the Neches River. It commenced operations again only last week, but on the yard at present is

²Founded in 1879, Beaumont Academy was by far the most sophisticated of Jefferson County's early educational establishments.

³This was John W. Keith, who should not be confused with his nephews John L. or J. Frank Keith. Part-owner of Long and Company, he had married Haseltine ("Hassie") Long, daughter of Davis Long. His brothers-in-law were William A. Fletcher and Frank L. Carroll, who had also shared in the proprietorship of Long and Company, and Joseph A. Carroll, with whom his brother Frank L. Carroll had earlier shared ownership of a mill in Mansfield, Louisiana. Fletcher and the two Carroll brothers were wed, respectively, to Julian, Sarah, and Martha Elizabeth Long. John L. and J. Frank Keith were wed to granddaughters of Davis Long.

⁴One must realize that these first two telephones in Beaumont existed only four years following Alexander Graham Bell's first successful demonstration on March 10, 1876. However, this was a private line, and many more years elapsed before the first telephone exchange was installed.

1,500,000 feet of lumber. Mr. Mark Wiess, one of the firm, conducted us all through the establishment. High above the mill is a large tank, from which by means of a hose, one man in a few minutes can drench the mill with water, greatly mitigating the danger of fire. The mill is perhaps the only one in the state employing steam feed and is capable of cutting 50-foot timbers. It is situated on Brake's Bayou, and from the bayou, a canal, about 1,000 feet long, has been cut to the river—entering the company's river boom, which is capable of 20,000 logs.

The timber is run from the boom, through the canal, to the mill, saving a distance of two miles, and obviating what occurred to us must be a difficult job--the running of timber down the river and then up the bayou, against the current, to the mill. The burner [boiler houses] is located on the opposite side of the bayou, and also the sawdust not consumed by the furnace is run across the bayou on a drawbridge.

But what we conceived to be the best institution in Beaumont for Beaumont is what is known as Williams' Planing Mills.⁵ Here we found a perfect mass of machinery, planers, picket, moulding, and various other machines--driving away at full tilt. This mill does not come in as a competitor with other mills; it cuts no lumber, but draws its supplies from all the several mills--millions of feet of lumber even from Orange. And by working it into finer material, it enhances its value, and thus retains and turns loose in Beaumont an average of \$100 daily, which, without it, would go elsewhere, while there would be no diminution in the amount of lumber sawed up and shipped to market.

The next mill, following down the bayou, is that of Adams and Milmo. It is the smallest in town, but runs all the time, does splendid work, and turns out 20,000 feet of lumber per day. Its yards are well stocked and its conveniences many.

We visited next the great Centennial Mill of Olive and Sternenberg, extensive indeed and employing more machinery, we thought, than any other in the city--making lumber, shingles, etc., and also running planers. We met Mr. Olive on the yard, and failure to comply with his cordial invitation to call at his office and see him before leaving the city, renders us unqualified to speak of the mill as we desire to. But we found the yard crowded with material ready for shipment, and the two circular saws, as well as the other mass of machinery, were in full operation.⁶

⁵The correct name of J. L. Williams' firm was Globe Planing Mills.

⁶At a later date, S. C. Olive and J. A. Sternenberg transferred their mill operations to a new site, known as Olive, across Pine Island Bayou in Hardin County, and adjacent to the tracks of the Sabine and East Texas Railway, previously referred to. This mill, with a daily cutting capacity of 75,000 board feet, burned down in May, 1907, with a net loss exceeding \$40,000. It was never rebuilt. See *Port Arthur Herald*, May 7, 1907.

The Eagle Mill, owned by G. W. Smyth, was almost concealed from view by the piles of lumber stacked on its yard and ready for the cars. This mill is backed up by Mr. C. C. Caswell, who has ample means to operate it to its full capacity, and he is doing it.

From here we went to the Beaumont Lumber Company's mill, another of the large institutions of the place.⁷ It is in full operation, and is the only mill on the Neches River, having what is termed a full stock of logs although the balance [of the mills] are pretty well supplied. On the lumber company's yard at present are 1,500,000 feet of lumber, and also 1,500,000 pine shingles. The mill has made in all over four million pine shingles which they sell at \$1.50 per thousand, making a very fair profit.

One mill yet remains--a cistern factory (the like of which we should be glad to see in Orange), owned by Mr. Ridley. Cisterns are built by machinery and shipped, in pieces, to various parts of the state.⁸

The car supply troubles have subsided pretty much in Beaumont, and transportation facilities are becoming equal to the requirements of the manufacturers again.⁹

We dropped into the law and land offices of O'Brien and John and Mr. Gilbert, Mr. John being absent on a visit to New Orleans. Of course, we visited Bro. Leonard at the *Enterprise* office, and found him and Mr. Lamb and Mr. Thackaray hard at work. The paper is paving its way to success.

The places were few that we did not visit at some time during the day, and we met and conversed with most of the citizens of the town. The merchants appear to be doing a fine business--nearly every mill has a store in connection with it.

Beaumont has eight saloons, but a most flourishing Temperance Council to check the march of King Alcohol. But the town is too extensive, and we saw too much to include in one notice. Our space is exhausted, and in conclusion, we must return thanks to Mr. Wilson, Mr. Wiess, and other citizens for their kind treatment, and we promise to visit them again before the expiration of many months.

⁷Because of close kinship, an interlocking proprietorship existed between Long and Company and two other firms. Davis Long and Son (James) formed the Long Manufacturing Company, to which a shingle mill was later added. Texas Tram and Lumber Company became the dominion of a son-in-law, W. A. Fletcher, and others, whereas the Carroll sons-in-law, Joseph A. and Frank L., and a son-in-law of Frank L., namely J. Frank Keith, were principally connected with Beaumont Lumber Company. During the 1890's, Keith struck out on his own, organizing the foreign export firm of J. Frank Keith Lumber Company.

⁸R. R. Ridley's firm, located on Pearl Street near the depot, also made wagons, custom-made carriages and buggies, and ran a blacksmith shop.

⁹This situation was only temporary. Railway boxcar shortages plagued the mill owners periodically throughout the 1880's.

II

(The next article is reprinted from the *Beaumont Journal*, April 23, 1905.)

THE RELIANCE SAWMILL AGAIN IN OPERATION--BRIEF HISTORY OF THE OLD PLANT

Tomorrow the Reliance mill of the Kirby Lumber Company in this city will start to regular running after being in idleness for about eleven months. The machinery had been placed in running condition several days previous and a test run was made Monday morning. Actual commencement of operations was not inaugurated till yesterday.

The starting whistle was blown by Col. Mark Wiess, and he also pulled the lever that started the machinery in motion. He was asked to do this by manager A. L. Harris of the Kirby interests at Beaumont, as Mr. Harris said Col. Wiess is the man that gave the mill the name it now bears thirty-four years ago, and was at one time as well as for years afterwards associated actively in the manufacture of lumber in this section of the country.

The mill now known as the Reliance mill was built by Otto Ruff in July, 1860.¹⁰ The machinery was purchased of the Steadman Company foundry at Aurora, Indiana, shipped by steamboat to New Orleans and thence by schooner around the Gulf Coast and up the Neches River to the place of building. The machinery consisted of one double-flue boiler forty-two inches by thirty-two feet, and the engine was 12 x 24 (inches). The driving wheel had a face of fourteen inches and a diameter of ten feet.

Instead of shotgun steam feed with which all modern mills are equipped, the feed for the log carriage was what is known as friction feed, and as compared with the shotgun feed of modern mills, was slow and clumsy.

At this time Beaumont was a mere village. There was only one railroad here—the Southern Pacific—and it extended from New Orleans to Houston.¹¹ All the timber used by the mill was cut in the territory contiguous to the Neches River above Beaumont, and brought down on rafts. Mr. Ruff died of yellow fever in 1862, and for a short time afterwards, the mill was operated by Mr. A. J. Ward, who still resides here. The mill

¹⁰The date is in error. The 1860 Manuscript Census, *Schedule V, Products of Industry*, Jefferson County, Texas, lists the output of this mill as being 1,500,000 feet for the period July 1, 1859, through June 30, 1860.

¹¹The Texas and New Orleans Railway did not extend continuously from Houston to New Orleans until long after the Civil War. The Texas portion did extend from Houston to the Sabine River by 1861, but there was no railway bridge over the Neches River. The Orange County trackage was used only for a short time in 1862, and was torn up in 1863 for use in the construction of Fort Griffin at Sabine Pass.

cut a large quantity of lumber and other timber for the use of the Confederate States of America.¹²

After the close of the war, the mill was bought by Goldsmith and Reagan, and they kept the mill in active operation until the yellow fever broke out in 1867. While the mill was running, Goldsmith made his residence in Houston, where he acted as sales agent for the product. He had originally come here from New London, Connecticut, and after getting the mill in running shape, he went back there and brought his family to Houston. During the yellow fever epidemic in 1867, as just mentioned, Goldsmith's entire family was stricken, and all died with the exception of one married daughter, whose husband also died.

Reagan was a native of Wisconsin and served through the Civil War in the service of the Confederacy. After the death of Goldsmith, Reagan went to Houston to get the mill matter straightened out, and also took yellow fever and died. The administrators leased the mill to Dan Greene, who operated it until April, 1870, when it was bought by H. W. Potter and Mark Wiess, and to the mill they gave the name of Reliance Lumber Company.

This was the original founding of the Reliance Lumber Company. In 1877-1878, the old mill was torn down and a new one built and equipped with what was at that time modern machinery. The new mill commenced running July 4, 1878. The old one had a capacity [for cutting] 5,000 feet [daily], while the new one had a capacity of 50,000 feet and was subsequently increased to 100,000 feet.

The following improvements not in the old mill were put in operation at the new: set of live rollers, automatic slab carriers, cylinder or shotgun feed, steam log trip on the log deck, elevated tank for fire protection, Curran and Wolf steam dry kiln, extended line shaft to separate boiler house from planing mill, Corliss engine, and steam "nigger."

Col. Wiess was associated with the management of the mill until 1902, when it was purchased by John H. Kirby, and continued in operation till May, 1904, when on account of certain business complications, it was closed.

The mill is now considered one of the largest and best-equipped in the entire Kirby system, and with a daily cutting capacity of 100,000 feet, will give employment to something like 100 men.

III

(Excerpt from Microfilm Reel No. 46, Manuscript Returns of Jefferson County, Texas, Schedule No. V, Products of Industry, United States Census of 1870.)

¹²Actually, Ruff sold this mill to A. J. Ward in December, 1860, for \$8,500. See *Deed Record*, Jefferson County, Texas, Volume M, p. 375.

George F. Block Shingle Mill, Port Neches; capitalization: \$200; motive power: hand; employees: 3 men; wages: \$480; months operated: 8; raw material: cypress logs; value: \$200; product: shingles; quantity made: 333,000; product value: \$800.

C. C. Caswell Shingle Mill, Beaumont, Texas; capitalization: \$450; motive power: hand; employees: 4 men; wages: \$500; months in year operated: 8; raw material: logs; value: \$300; product: shingles; quantity made: 360,000; product value: \$1,040.

M. K. King Shingle Mill; capitalization: \$600; motive power: hand; employees: 8; wages: \$800; months operated: 10; raw material: logs; value: \$500; product: shingles; quantity made: 1,000,000; value of product: \$2,750.

H. L. Graz and Brother Shingle Mill; capitalization: \$500; motive power: hand; employees: 8 men, 2 women; wages: \$600; months operated: 8; raw material: logs; value: \$600; product: shingles; quantity made: 600,000; product value: \$1,500.

L. P. Ogden and Brothers Shingle Mill, Beaumont, Texas; capitalization: \$500; motive power: hand; employees: 7 men, 2 women; wages: \$500; months operated: 7; raw materials: logs; product: shingles; quantity made: 500,000; product value: \$1,625.

Haltom and Pipkin Sawmill, Beaumont, Texas; capitalization: \$5,000; motive power: steam, 1 machine; employees: 5; wages: \$500; months in year operated: 2; raw material: logs; value: \$1,000; product: lumber; quantity: 150,000 BF; value: \$2,000.

Pipkin and Rabb Shingle Mill, Beaumont, Texas; capitalization: \$300; motive power: hand; employees: 3 men; wages: \$400; months operated: 8; raw material: logs; value: \$500; product: shingles; quantity made: 350,000; product value: \$1,050.

Stephenson and Simpson Shingle Mill, Beaumont, Texas; capitalization: \$500; motive power: hand; employees: 3 men; wages: \$400; months operated: 8; raw material: logs; product: shingles; the quantity made: 350,000; product value: \$1,050.

Long and Long Sawmill,¹³ Beaumont, Texas; capitalization: \$10,000; motive power: steam, 1 machine; employees: 9 men; wages: \$3,300; months in year operated: 12; raw material: logs; value: \$6,000; product: lumber; quantity made: 1,200,000 BF; value: \$14,000.

¹³Captain James M. Long, born in Georgia in 1837, settled at Beaumont in 1859 with his wife Theresa. Following loss of the Ross and Alexander mill in 1859, Long became a steam miller, owning real and personal assets in 1860, of \$5,000. In 1861, he enlisted in Beaumont's Company E, Spaight's 21st Texas Regiment, subsequently seeing service in two battles at Sabine Pass and in the Louisiana battles of Brasher City, Fardoche Bayou, and Calcasieu Pass.

In 1865, his father, Davis Long, came to Beaumont from Desoto Parish, Louisiana, where he had suffered financially following the emancipation of his slaves. Son and father then re-entered the sawmilling business together, which continued until Captain James Long's death in

IV

(Excerpt from Microfilm Reel No. 48, Manuscript Returns of Jefferson County, Texas, Schedule No. V, Products of Industry, Supervisor's District No. 1, Enumeration District No. 40, United States Census of 1880, Texas State Archives.)

D. J. Coleman Shoe Factory, Beaumont, Texas; investment: \$1,000; employees: 7 men; daily wages: skilled mechanics, \$3.00, unskilled, \$2.00; total wages paid: \$5,000; equipment: 1 leather sewing machine; raw material: 100 sides sole leather, 240 sides upper leather; value all materials: \$7,000; product and value: 900 pairs of boots worth \$10,000, 670 pairs of shoes worth \$4,020; months in operation: 12.

David French Tannery, Beaumont, Texas; investment: \$600; employees: maximum, 3 men, average 2; hours worked daily: 11 in summer, 10 in winter; wages: daily, \$1, annually, \$400; months in operation: 12; raw material: 20 tons of oak bark, 250 raw hides; value: \$400; product and value: 500 sides of leather worth \$1,000, 60 gallons of oil worth \$60; total value of product: \$1,060.

Reliance Lumber Company, Beaumont, Texas; capitalization, \$50,000; employees: maximum 60, average 50 men, 3 boys under 16; daily hours operated: 11 winter and summer; daily wages: skilled \$3.50, unskilled \$1.50; annual wages paid: \$20,000; months operated in year: 9, 3 months idle; equipment: one 5-gang saw, 1 circular saw, 4 boilers, one 80-horsepower steam engine; total value of raw materials: logs, \$50,000, mill supplies \$5,000; product: lumber, 9,000,000 board feet, lathes, 200,000; value of product: \$90,000; origin of logs: Jasper, Hardin, and Tyler counties. Mill did no logging of its own.

Eagle Mill, G. W. Smyth, Beaumont, Texas; capitalization: \$55,000; employees: maximum 115, average 45 men; daily work hours: 10 winter and summer; daily wages: skilled \$3.00, unskilled \$1.50; annual wages paid: \$12,500; months in operation: 7, idle for 5; equipment: one 5-gang saw, 1 circular saw, 3 boilers, one 139-horsepower steam engine; raw materials and value: saw logs worth \$31,250, mill supplies, worth \$3,500; product and value: 6,250,000 BF of lumber worth \$62,500; origin of logs: Jasper, Angelina, Hardin, and Tyler counties—mill did no logging of its own.

May, 1873. By that time, Long and Company had greatly expanded, to include a huge shingle mill, which milled shingles "like snowflakes," at the rate of 160,000 a day. Long and Company sub divided during the 1870's, some family members continuing with the shingle mill under the old firm name, while others took the sawmilling interests, to be operated as Texas Tram and Beaumont Lumber Companies. See *Beaumont Journal*, November 4, 1906; 1860 Manuscript Census, Schedule I, Jefferson County, Texas, residence 305; *History of Spaight's Texas Regiment*; C. K. Ragan (ed.), *Diary of Captain George W. O'Brien*; and File 139, Estate of James M. Long, *Probate Record*, Jefferson County, Texas.

Adams and Milmo Sawmill, Beaumont, Texas; capitalization: \$9,000; employees: maximum 22, average 18 men; daily hours: 11 winter and summer; daily wages: skilled \$2.50, unskilled \$1.40; annual wages paid: \$2,500; months in operation: 4, idle for 8 months; equipment: one 3-gang saw, 1 circular saw, 2 boilers, one 45-horsepower steam engine; raw materials and value: saw logs, \$6,000, mill supplies, \$300; product and value: 1,200,000 BF lumber worth \$12,000; origin of logs: Jasper, Angelina, Tyler, and Hardin counties--mill logged one-fourth of its logs.

Long and Company Shingle Mill, Beaumont, Texas; capitalization: \$50,000; employees: maximum 60, average 35 men, 12 boys under 16;¹⁴ daily work hours: 11 winter and summer; daily wages: skilled \$3.00, unskilled \$1.50; annual wages paid: \$18,000; months in operation: 10, idle 2 months; equipment: 3 circular saws, 1 band saw, 4 boilers, three 75-horsepower steam engines; raw materials and value: saw logs worth \$20,000, mill supplies worth \$1,600; product and value: 24,000,000 shingles worth \$50,000; origin of logs: Jasper, Hardin, Jefferson, Tyler, and Angelina counties--mill did one-tenth of its logging.

Beaumont Lumber Company, Beaumont, Texas; the capitalization: \$35,000; employees: maximum 50, average 35 men, 6 boys under 16; daily work hours: 11 winter and summer; daily wages: skilled \$3.00, unskilled \$1.50; total annual wages: \$18,000; months in operation: 11, idle 1 month; equipment: one 5-gang saw, 1 circular saw, 2 boilers, one 100-horsepower steam engine; raw materials and value: saw logs worth \$50,000, mill supplies worth \$2,200; products: 10,000,000 BF of lumber, 2,000,000 shingles; total value of product: \$78,000; origin of logs: Neches River and tributaries--mill did nine-tenths of its logging.

Olive and Sternenberg's Centennial Sawmill, Beaumont, Texas; capitalization: \$56,000; employees: maximum 160, average 60 men, 6 boys under 16; work hours daily: 11 winter and summer; daily wages: skilled \$3.00, unskilled \$1.50; total annual wages paid: \$22,000; months in operation: 10, idle for 2 months; equipment: one 5-gang saw, 2 circular saws, 3 boilers, two 75-horsepower steam engines; raw materials and value: saw logs worth \$50,000, mill supplies worth \$3,400; products: lumber, 9,000,000 board feet, shingles, 4,000,000; value of product: \$88,000; origin of logs: Neches River and tributaries--mill did 80% of its logging.

Globe Planing Mill, Beaumont, Texas; capitalization: \$15,000; employees: maximum 75, average 40 men; work hours daily: 11 winter and summer; daily wages: skilled, \$2.50, unskilled, \$1.50; annual wages paid \$20,000; months in operation: all year; equipment: planers, 2 boilers,

¹⁴Boys bundled the shingles for shipment. Frequently, Beaumont business men related that they had begun their working careers packaging shingles for 50¢ a day.

one 75-horsepower steam engine; value of rough lumber and mill supplies used: \$55,000; value of finished products: \$85,000.

V

(Excerpt from Microfilm Reel No. 48, Manuscript Returns of Orange County, Texas, Schedule No. V, Products of Industry, United States Census of 1880, Texas State Archives.)

Alexander Gilmer Shingle Mill, Orange, Texas; capitalization: \$35,000; employees: 35 men throughout year; daily hours worked: 9 in winter, 11 in summer; daily wages: skilled \$3.00, unskilled \$1.50; annual wages paid: \$10,500; months operated: 12; equipment: two 4-gang saws, 1 circular saw, 3 boilers, one 150-horsepower steam engine; raw materials and value: cypress logs worth \$15,000, mill supplies worth \$500; product: 14,000,000 shingles; product value: \$32,900; origin of logs: swamps of Sabine River--mill did no logging, but shipped shingles on its own schooners.

John McKinnon and Company, Orange, Texas; capitalization: \$12,000; employees: 25 throughout year; daily hours worked: 9 in winter, 11 in summer; daily wages paid: skilled \$3.00, unskilled \$1.50; annual wages paid: \$10,000; months in operation: 12; equipment: one 4-gang saw, 2 circular saws, 2 boilers, one 80-horsepower steam engine; raw materials and value: cypress logs worth \$31,800, mill supplies worth \$500; product: 5,000,000 BF of lumber, 2,000,000 shingles; product value \$50,000; origin of logs: Sabine River swamps--mill did no logging.

D. R. Wingate and Company, Orange, Texas;¹⁵ capitalization: \$35,000; employees: maximum 50, average 45 men; daily work hours: 11 throughout year; daily wages: skilled \$3.00, unskilled \$1.50; annual wages paid: \$20,000; months in operation: 12; equipment: one 4-gang saw, 1 circular saw, 3 boilers, one 125-horsepower steam engine; raw materials and value: cypress and pine logs worth \$60,000, mill supplies worth \$5,500; product: 10,000,000 BF of lumber, 2,000,000 shingles; product value: not listed; origin of logs: Sabine River and tributaries--mill did its own logging.

¹⁵David R. Wingate was perhaps the most mishap-prone sawmiller in Southeast Texas. A former Newton County judge, he owned a plantation and 73 slaves in Newton County in 1860 and another 13 slaves at Sabine Pass. In his lifetime, he lost no less than four sawmills to fires, including one to the Union Navy at Sabine Pass in October, 1862, and three more in Orange County, one to the negligence and drunkenness of a nightwatchman. Because of exorbitant rates for sawmills, insurance rarely covered more than a small fraction of a sawmiller's fire losses. Alexander Gilmer of Orange lost 3 sawmills to fires, the last with a \$150,000 loss in October, 1899. See *Beaumont Journal*, October 6, 1899.

Bancroft and Sons Shingle Mill, Orange, Texas; capitalization: \$15,000; employees: maximum 35, average 30 men, 3 boys under 16; work day hours: 9½ in winter, 10½ in summer; daily wages: skilled \$4.00, unskilled \$1.50; annual wages paid: \$11,000; months in operation: 8, idle for 4; equipment: two 4-gang saws, 1 circular saw, 4 boilers, two 75-horsepower steam engines; raw materials and value: cypress logs, worth \$18,000, mill supplies, worth \$500; product: 14,000,000 shingles; product value: \$35,000; origin of logs: Sabine River--mill did no logging.

Lutcher and Moore's Star and Crescent Mill, Orange, Texas; capitalization: \$60,000; employees: 60 men throughout year; daily work hours: 11½ summer and winter; daily wages: skilled \$3.50, unskilled \$1.50; annual wages paid: \$35,000; months of operation: 10, idle 2 months; equipment: one 22-gang saw, 1 circular saw, 2 boilers, one 250-horsepower steam engine; raw materials and value: saw logs worth \$75,000, mill supplies worth \$5,000; products: 15,000,000 BF of lumber, 7,500,000 wood lathes; value all products: \$150,000; origin of logs: Sabine River--mill did all of its logging. Star and Crescent mill re-worked 40,000 feet of lumber at its sash and door factory, which employed 15 men.

R. B. Russell¹⁶ and Son Shingle Mill, Orange, Texas; capitalization: \$20,000; employees: maximum 50, average 45 men; daily work hours: 9½ in winter, 11 in summer; daily wages: skilled \$5.00, unskilled \$1.50; annual wages paid: \$8,000; months in operation: 5, idle and undergoing repairs for 7 months; equipment: one 4-gang saw, 1 circular saw, 2 boilers, two 50-horsepower steam engines; raw materials and value: cypress logs worth \$12,000, mill supplies worth \$200; product: 10,000,000 shingles; product value: \$25,000; origin of logs: Sabine River and tributaries--mill did no logging, but shipped some shingles on its own schooners.

A. K. Norris Sawmill, Orange, Texas; capitalization: \$20,000; employees: maximum 50, average 45 men; daily work hours: 11½ throughout year; daily wages paid: skilled \$3.50, unskilled \$1.50; annual wages paid: \$20,000; months in operation: 12; equipment: two 4-gang saws, 1 circular saw, 3 boilers, one 100-horsepower steam engine; raw materials and value: logs worth \$60,000, and mill supplies worth \$5,500; product: 10,000,000 BF of lumber; product value: \$95,000; origin of logs: Sabine River--mill did no logging. Norris sawmill re-manufactured 40,000 feet of its lumber in its sash and door factory, which employed 6 men.

¹⁶Robert B. Russell fought at the Battle of San Jacinto. Between 1846-1850, he was owner-publisher of *San Augustine Redlander*, which in its youth was one of three newspapers considered to be the voice of the Texas Republic. From 1861-1865, he was Confederate postmaster at Orange. On November 29, 1880, R. B. Russell was accidentally killed at his mill, trapped between moving box cars. On May 25, 1973, the writer had the personal pleasure of cementing a Texas state historical marker on Russell's grave in Evergreen Cemetery. See *Beaumont Enterprise*, December 4, 1880, and F. C. Chabot (ed.), *Journal of Thomas S. McFarland* (San Antonio: Yanaguana Society, 1942), p. 76.

J. Jordan Shingle Mill, Orange, Texas; capitalization: \$15,000; employees: maximum 35, average 30 men; daily work hours: 10 summer and winter; daily wages paid: skilled \$3.00, unskilled \$1.50; annual wages paid: \$8,000; months in operation: 11, idle 1 month; equipment: one 5-gang saw, 1 circular saw, 2 boilers, one 50-horsepower steam engine; raw materials and value: logs worth \$12,000, mill supplies worth \$200; product: 10,000,000 shingles; product value: \$25,000; origin of logs: Sabine River and tributaries--mill did no logging.

VI

(Excerpt from *Letterbook of The East Texas and Louisiana Lumbermen's Association, 1884-1886*, p. 305. This is the original 700-page bound volume of office correspondence and statistics, owned by Mrs. Lois Parker, reference librarian, Lamar University.)

LUMBER CUT, SOLD, AND ON HAND FOR
THE YEAR 1886 BY THE ASSOCIATED MILLS.

Location	Board Feet Cut In 1886	Board Feet Sold And Shipped In 1886	Unsold And On Hand, 1/1/1887
At Beaumont	32,017,902	33,127,966	3,324,437
At Lake Charles	11,386,680	10,916,010	2,314,753
At Orange	12,819,472	11,325,761	1,493,717
At mills on Sabine & East Texas Railway Hardin & Tyler Cos.	60,352,231	57,103,600	12,228,323
Totals	116,576,285	112,473,337	19,271,230

VII

(Excerpt from *Letterbook Of The East Texas And Louisiana Lumbermen's Association, 1884-1886*, pp. 64-80, 117, 306. The original 700-page volume is owned by Mrs. Lois Parker, reference librarian, Lamar University.)

LIST OF MEMBER SAWMILLS, with statistics appearing in the following order: page reference in letterbook, mill name, location, owners, cutting capacity each day, board feet of lumber on yard as of June, 1886, if known.

Page 70, Reliance Lumber Company, Beaumont, Texas; Valentine, Mark, and William Wiess, 50,000 board feet.

Page 70, Rice Sawmill, Hyatt, near Warren, Texas; J. S. and W. M. Rice, 45,000 board feet.

Page 69, Star and Crescent Mill, Orange, Texas; G. Bedell Moore and H. J. Lutcher, 50,000 board feet. (Second mill, same capacity, at Lutcher, Louisiana.)

Page 68, Texas Tram and Lumber Company's Eagle Mill, Beaumont, Texas; W. A. Fletcher and others. Texas Tram's Village Mill, Village Mills, Hardin County, Texas; same owners, combined capacity: 60,000 feet; 2,295,000 board feet on yard as of June, 1886.

Page 69, John McKinnon and Company, Orange, Texas; John McKinnon, 40,000 board feet; 100,000 board feet on yard (mill closed as of June 1, 1886.)

Page 68, Centennial Mill, Olive, Hardin County, Texas; S. C. Olive and J. A. Sternberg, 35,000 board feet.

Page 71, Warren Lumber Company, Warren, Tyler County, Texas; A. Young, 35,000 board feet.

Page 72, R. P. Snelling and Company, Woodville, Texas; R. P. Snelling, 25,000 board feet.

Page 72, J. W. Middlebrook and Brothers, at Plank, near Village Mills, Texas; J. W. Middlebrook and others, 20,000 board feet.

Page 73, D. R. Wingate and Company, Orange, Texas; David R. Wingate, 40,000 board feet.

Page 74, A. Gilmer Mill, Orange, Texas; Alexander Gilmer, 40,000 board feet, 500,000 board feet on yard as of June, 1886.

Page 77, Calcasieu Lumber Company, Lake Charles, Louisiana; J. L. Williams, 50,000 board feet.

Page 78, Express Lumber Company, Hillister, Texas; W. M. Gilder, 15,000 board feet.

Page 79, Nona Mills Company, Nona (near Kountze), Texas; owners unknown, 45,000 board feet.

Page 80, Locke, Moore and Company, Lake Charles, Louisiana; George Locke and G. Bedell Moore, 40,000 board feet.

Page 117, Drew Lumber Company, Lake Charles, Louisiana; H. C. Drew, cutting capacity unknown, 1,000,000 board feet on yard as of June, 1886.

Village Mills Company, Village Mills (Hardin County), Texas; owners unknown, 50,000 board feet. (Not to be confused with mill of Texas

Tram and Lumber Company).

Page 306, Beaumont Lumber Company, Beaumont, Texas; Frank L. Carroll and others, 50,000 board feet.

(End of reprinted material)

Under the Lone Star Republic, steam sawmills existed in Texas only in the most populous region, the area between Galveston Bay and the Brazos River. One effort was made to establish a steam mill at Beaumont in 1838, when the Texas Congress chartered the Neches Steam Milling Company. A site, known as the "steam mill square," was set aside for that purpose in Beaumont's original townsite, but circumstances were not economically favorable for so large an investment prior to 1857. The population of the Sabine-Neches region was too sparse, and the shipping costs too prohibitive. And when Texas' first steam mill east of Houston became a reality in 1846, it was more advantageous to raft logs to Sabine Pass than to ship finished lumber from sites along the Sabine and Neches rivers.¹⁷

In 1846, Sidney A. Sweet of San Augustine settled at Sabine Pass, where he purchased a one-half interest in the John McGaffey league and the second townsite of Sabine. He also built a shipyard, a sash and door millwork plant, and a steam sawmill, operated as S. A. Sweet and Company. Prior to his death in 1849, Sweet sold the sawmill to a quartet of new owners, Isaiah Ketchum, David Bradbury, Orrin Brown, and Benjamin Granger, who then changed the firm's name to Spartan Mill Company.¹⁸

In 1850, Spartan Mill Company, capitalized at \$12,000, sawed 4,000 logs into 1,200,000 board feet of lumber valued at \$23,000. The mill employed 15 men, who were paid a total of \$637 each month in wages. Hard times befell the company, however, for by 1857 Spartan sawmill stood abandoned and rusting.¹⁹

In June, 1858, the mill's trustee, John Sealy, sold the property and machinery to David R. Wingate of Newton County, who immediately remodeled the sawmill and doubled its cutting capacity. In 1860,

¹⁷H. P. N. Gammel, *The Laws of Texas, 1822-1897*, II (Austin: Gammel Book Company, 1898), 13; *Deed Record*, Jefferson County, Texas, Volumes B, pp. 201-202, 222; D, p. 47; and L, pp. 8-9.

¹⁸*Deed Record*, Jefferson County, Texas, Volume F, pp. 157, 166-169, 209, and G, pp. 157, 164. Files 87 and 87-A, Estate of Sidney A. Sweet, February, 1849, *Probate Record*, Jefferson County, Texas.

¹⁹Manuscript Returns of Jefferson County, Texas, *Schedule V, Products of Industry*, United States Census of 1850, Texas State Archives.

D. R. Wingate and Company, capitalized at \$30,000, cut 7,488 logs into 2,496,000 feet of lumber valued at \$43,680. In that year, Wingate employed ten men who were paid a total of \$300 monthly in wages. On October 15, 1862, Sabine's sawmill was shelled and burned by the Union gunboat "Dan," during a blazing and retaliatory orgy, which destroyed half of Sabine City. This incident marked the end of the sawmilling era there.²⁰

In 1856, Grigsby's Bluff, or Port Neches, became the second scene of steamdriven industry in Jefferson County, when Samuel Remley and John T. Johnson built a steam sawmill there. In 1860, this mill cut 5,000 logs into 1,000,000 feet of lumber valued at \$12,500. It employed six men who were paid a total of \$200 monthly. In 1861, Johnson sold his interest to Remley and entered the Confederate Army, becoming both captain and adjutant of Spaight's Texas Battalion.

Although the 1870 (Schedule I) census listed Samuel Remley as being a sawmiller, no mill statistics are given for his mill in the Schedule V, Products of Industry, section of the census. It seems a safe assumption that the first mill was destroyed by fire in that year, for on June 23, 1870, Remley purchased a second steam sawmill and a grist mill, located at Wiess Bluff, from H. C. Pedigo of Tyler County, dismantled both, and moved them to the site of his first mill in Port Neches. At the same time, C. H. Alexander, a cotton broker and merchant of Sabine, purchased a one-half interest in Remley's mill, and in 1875 a third partner, Joseph Bunn of Orange County, acquired an interest. In October, 1876, the Remley-Alexander mill burned, ending the steam sawmilling epoch at Port Neches.²¹

In retrospect, some ecologists and historians have sought to portray the pioneer industrialists as despoilers of the public domain, or as exploiters, content only to reap windfall profits. How often these theories have been proven correct is unknown, but a casual glance at the foregoing sawmill statistics would indicate that the pioneer millers found it equally necessary to swim with the competitive currents, or to sink, paying low

wages, perhaps, but likewise reaping quite modest profits.

While the frontier mill owner paid no income tax, neither was he nurtured by a benevolent government, nor blessed with reasonable interest and insurance rates, by which he might expand his business or protect his large investment. He was likewise at the mercy of inadequate shipping facilities, and the ever-present threat of fire, which might pauperize him in one night.

Concerning despoilation of forests, the sawmiller's attitudes were shared equally by the farmers. To an affluent, modern society, a towering timber stand is a beautiful sight to be protected. Except as firewood, lumber, and a game preserve, timber became a menace to agriculture for the pioneer farmer, one which obstructed the plow and sapped the soil of its vital moisture. To the sawmiller, towering trees were bread and butter, both for himself and his employees. Hence, for every forest monarch rafted to market, another was girdled in the field and left to die.

It is the early farmers rather than sawmillers who have been eulogized most often for their taming of the Southeast Texas wilderness. Conceding that the former was the torchbearer of civilization in the Sabine-Neches River valleys, it would nonetheless be a disservice to history not to credit the pioneer mill men with their major contribution to progress, the transformation of a once rural society to its present urban status.

W. T. Block

²⁰*Deed Record, Jefferson County, Texas, Volume L, pp. 572-574; Manuscript Returns of Jefferson County, Texas, Schedule V, Products of Industry, United States Census of 1860; War of the Rebellion-Compilation of The Official Records of The Union and Confederate Navies (Washington, D. C.: Government Printing Office), Series I, Volume XIX, 227-229. From September 24 to December 1, 1862, Sabine Lake and Pass were occupied by Union Lt. Frederick Crocker's squadron, during a period when yellow fever raged in Sabine City. Upon being fired on by Confederate muskets ashore, the gunboat "Dan" and other ships shelled the city, destroying all principal buildings and barracks and doing \$100,000 damage. Bluejackets came ashore, and utilizing a cannon mounted on a wagon, even drove off the Confederate cavalry from their base five miles west of Sabine, and burned the barracks there.*

²¹*Deed Record, Jefferson County, Texas, Volume P, p. 246 and Q, pp. 249, 352, 404, 545; History of Spaight's Texas Regiment; Manuscript Returns of Jefferson County, Texas, Schedule I, Population, residences 381, 385, and Schedule V, Products of Industry, United States Census of 1860; Files 45-B, Estate of Charles H. Alexander, Probate Record, Jefferson County, Texas.*

Sawdust Empire

THE TEXAS LUMBER INDUSTRY,

1830-1940

by

ROBERT S. MAXWELL

and

ROBERT D. BAKER

Texas Historical Commission
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tively engaged in shipbuilding before the outbreak of the war, and each had installed new equipment and facilities. Now these facilities were to be expanded still further, and government orders were to take priority over all others. To procure the necessary lumber and large timbers for this massive program, the federal government on November 1, 1917, preempted all lumber more than two inches thick, ten inches wide, and twenty feet long that could be used to fill a ship's schedule. The Southern Pine Emergency Bureau, an agency of the Southern Pine Association, cooperated with the order fully and urged its member companies to support the program and to save their scale sheets (records of the size and length of the day's cut) so that government inspectors could see that the directive was being observed.²¹

Soon large wooden ships were being built on the Gulf Coast. On the Houston ship channel the Midland Bridge Company and the Universal Shipyard Company, later joined by Kirby's Houston Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Company, took contracts with the EFC and hastened to begin turning out the standard (the so-called Ferris-type, 3,500-ton) wooden ship. At Orange the National Ship Building Company undertook the construction of vessels even larger than the standard wooden ship. The Orange Maritime Corporation and the Piaggio shipyard accepted contracts from the EFC. In Port Arthur the Long-Bell Lumber Company acquired a site and built a shipyard to construct four or more wooden ships.²²

At Beaumont the Lone Star Ship Building Company contracted for four ships, and the Beaumont Ship Building and Dry Dock Company undertook to build eight ships for the EFC. This last organization was a most ambitious undertaking. Owned by lumbermen John Henry Kirby, J. W. Link, and B. F. Bonner, and with C. O. Yoakum as general manager, the company occupied a sixty-seven-acre

tract known as Industrial Island. The Beaumont city fathers gave the land, owned by the city, to the Kirby group in December, 1917, "to assure the early establishment of a large ship building industry for Beaumont." The company spent more than \$30,000 on the site and about \$150,000 on buildings and equipment and within four months had constructed eight marine ways. General manager Yoakum was optimistic concerning the company's prospects:

We now have a present working force of 260 men and expect to more than double this in the next 90 days . . . so that the work on the six hulls now being built may be facilitated. Our payroll is \$20,000 per month—by March 1, 1918, it will be \$80,000. The plant will expand further and within 90 days two more keels will be laid; thus all eight ways will be in use.²³

Initial confusion and misunderstandings were inevitable. A notice from the EFC that it would allot ship contracts on a lump-sum instead of a fee (building costs plus a fee for labor) basis brought a temporary hesitation by the builders until the order was clarified and modified.

Many companies had difficulty supplying the large-size timbers required. In July, 1917, Major General Goethals threatened "summary action" because all but twenty-three mills of the eighty-four that had been assigned lumber schedules for shipbuilding had rejected the schedules. It was speculated that perhaps the government would commandeer the mills. The Southern Pine Emergency Bureau worked out a solution by which the orders were distributed among the mills on a more acceptable basis, and the crisis was averted.²⁴

To expedite further the flow of lumber and timber products to shipyards, Edward N. Hurley, chairman of the United States Shipping Board, appointed John Henry Kirby to the post of lumber administrator for the South. It

²¹ *Gulf Coast Lumberman*, November 15, 1917, p. 22.

²² *American Lumberman*, May 5, 1917, p. 56; May 19, 1917, p. 34; May 26, 1917, p. 32; July 14, 1917, pp. 36-37.

²³ See note 22 above. *Beaumont Enterprise*, December 5, 16, 1917.

²⁴ *American Lumberman*, June 9, 1917, p. 30; July 28, 1917, pp. 33-34.

was Kirby's task to secure the cooperation of the millowners with the board in lumber production for shipbuilding. Kirby, as a past president of the National Lumber Manufacturers Association, was a logical choice and was in a position to wield a powerful influence in support of the Shipping Board. He served with considerable success and not a little controversy from March to late July, 1918, supervising the purchase of lumber supplies in the South and facilitating production and delivery of ships' timbers to the yards in accordance with the board's schedule.²⁵

During the war years the lumber industry, both in Texas and throughout the South, enjoyed an unprecedented boom. With the wartime orders prices rose from \$12 per thousand board feet (for the average mill run) in 1915 to \$14 in 1916. With the entrance of the United States into the war in April, 1917, and the government's demand for quantities of lumber of all types, prices spiraled upward in spectacular fashion.²⁶

Lumber spokesmen could not conceal their satisfaction. Under the heading "Lumber Prices Break All Records," one newspaper editor reported that the most common remark made by lumbermen during the past few weeks had been, "I never saw anything like these lumber prices." "As a matter of fact," continued the editor, "there is no price on lumber, but cars loaded with lumber are strictly at a premium. . . . Yellow pine lumber in the southwestern territory today is worth almost anything that the man who can make delivery is

²⁵ *Ibid.*, March 16, 1918, p. 52. Much of the controversy centered about Kirby's protest against the fixing of prices for southern pine lumber by the War Industries Board. Soon afterward the Shipping Board reorganized and eliminated the post of lumber administrator. Kirby at once resigned. J. L. Ackerson to J. H. Kirby, July 16, 1918, Kirby Papers, University of Houston Library, Houston; *Gulf Coast Lumberman*, August 1, 1918, p. 6; August 15, 1918, p. 9. See also James E. Fickle, *The New South and the "New Competition": Trade Association Development in the Southern Pine Industry*. Fickle concluded (pp. 93-105) that Kirby was, in effect, fired.

²⁶ *Gulf Coast Lumberman*, August 15, 1914; *American Lumberman*, November 11, 1916, p. 56; May 5, 1914, p. 65.

mind to ask for it."²⁷ The average price of yellow-pine lumber, he estimated, was between \$25.00 and \$26.00 per thousand board feet at the mill, and B&B flooring was bringing \$32.50 at the mill. A year earlier, he reminded his readers, the price had been about \$20.00. Continuing the comparison, the editor quoted additional prices:

2×4-16 is worth about \$24 or \$25 right now, as against \$15 at this time last year, and 2×10-12 are bringing about \$22.50 as against \$14 or \$15 last year. 4×4 and 4×6 stuff is worth seven or eight dollars more than a year ago. Big timbers are high as a camel's ears, and special cutting is worth a lot of money, depending a good deal on the service and delivery required. Edge grain flooring is getting in the oak flooring class, and battleship decking prices sound like fairy stories.²⁸

Prices were indeed favorable. In 1918 the federal government, over the protest of southern lumbermen, fixed the price of southern pine, as well as of Douglas fir and other timbers on the West Coast. For example, the price for yellow-pine boards, 1 by 12 (s2s [dressed on two sides]) B&B, was \$31.50. As on wheat, corn, and other commodities, federal war agencies established controls on lumber products and to a large extent stabilized the market.²⁹

A shortage of railroad freight cars further complicated the picture. The lack of adequate cars, a regular complaint of lumbermen since the 1890s, was aggravated by the sudden and unprecedented demands for cars by all war-oriented industries. As one spokesman complained, the lumber was cut and ready, but it was no longer a question of price. It was "merely a question of whether the material can be delivered and in most instances it can not. . . . Our company ordered eight cars per day—we received two. However, the government orders are still moving promptly."³⁰

²⁷ *Gulf Coast Lumberman*, May 15, 1917, p. 5.

²⁸ *Ibid.*

²⁹ *American Lumberman*, April 6, 1918, p. 46.

³⁰ *Beaumont Enterprise*, December 16, 1917, p. 12.



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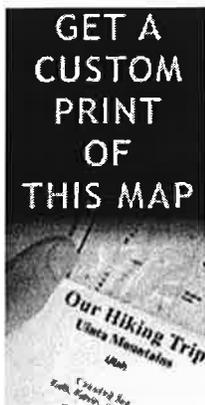
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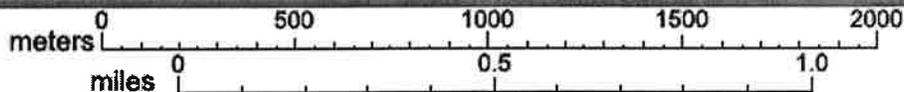
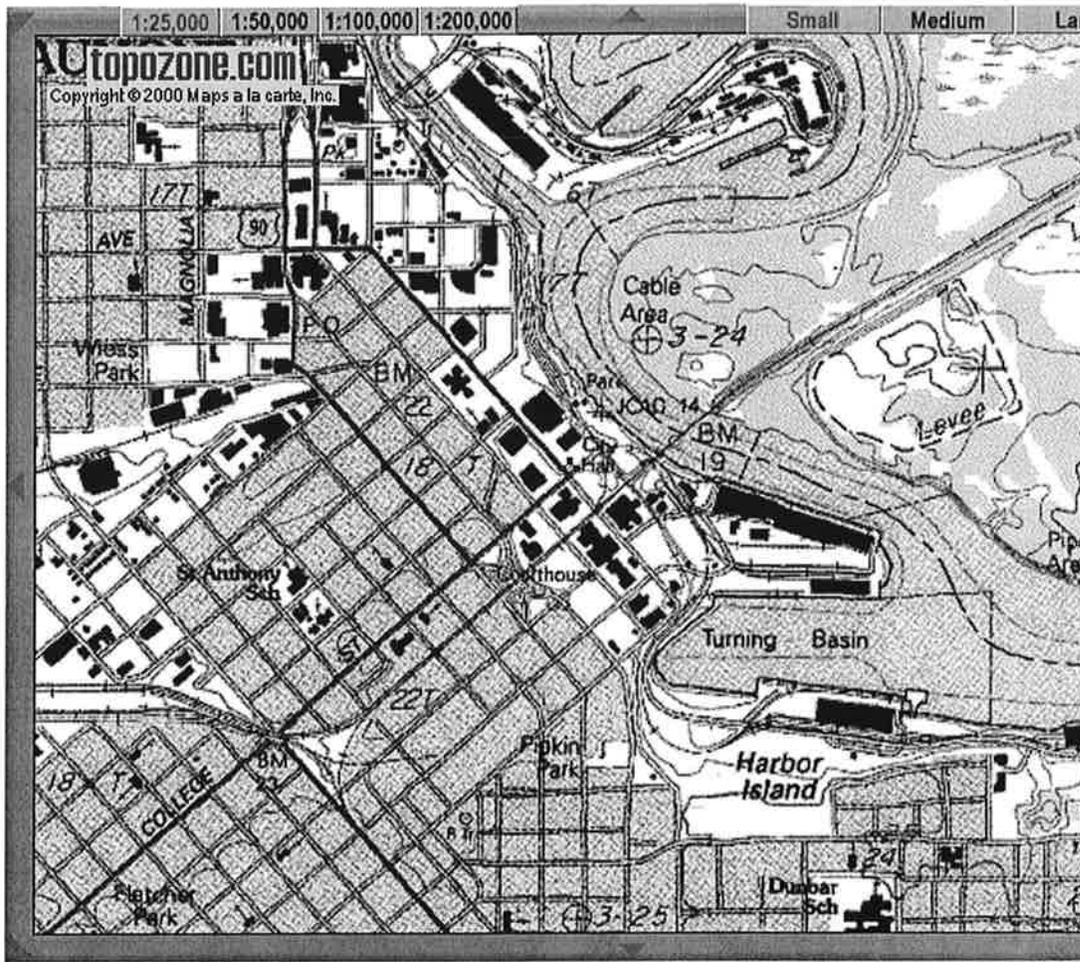
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Compiled by Rosine M. Wilson

4800

Long before the discovery of oil at Spindletop, southeast Texas had a booming economy based on the lumber industry, beginning modestly with shingle mills in the 1840's and progressing until in July, 1881, the New Orleans Democrat called Beaumont "the timber center of eastern Texas" and further stated that "The annual business of the mills approximates \$1,000,000 per annum....Freight trains loaded with lumber are constantly taking valuable cargoes over the Texas and New Orleans.."¹

Earliest mention of the coming lumber industry was the chartering of the Neches Steam Milling Co. by the Congress of Texas in 1838. A site was set aside in the original townsite of Beaumont called Steam Mill Square. There is no evidence that a mill was actually built at that time.²

A year later, Lucien Hopson bought some land from Joseph and Nancy Tevis Hutchinson in Block 1 of the townsite, a location on the southeast corner of the townsite in the curve of the Neches River. On January 15, 1840, a contract was made between Elizabeth McFaddin and Lucien Hopson "for lumber of the following description ... at his saw pilt in the town of Beaumont." The description included "weather boarding", "scantling", and "(illegible) quarter flooring". Although the left side of the document is partially obliterated, it would appear that in trade for a lot next to his saw pit, Mrs. McFaddin was to have logs cut by Mr. Hopson from her own land, and that Mr. Hopson would saw the lumber and deliver the finished products to her by March 1st.³

Mr. Hopson, who had bought the land from the Tevis-Hutchinson family in 1839, in January 1840 entered into a contract with Joseph Hutchinson for a canal (or slip) in which it was specified that the canal could be used for lumbering and wharves, but not for a ferry. (The Tevis family ran a ferry near there.)⁴

Though there was a mill in the 1840's at Sabine Pass, and others north of Beaumont on the Neches and Sabine rivers, the first steam mill did not locate in Beaumont until the 1850's. There had previously been shingle mills, where the motive power was "hand", and there had been a sash saw, erected by a Judge Lewis (probably Thomas H. Lewis) in 1856.⁵ In March of 1857, The Galveston News reported that "in addition to Mr. Phillips' Saw Mill .. another will commence operations in a few weeks under the auspices of an energetic company all the way from Virginny."⁶ The Phillips mill was later purchased by Pipkin and Haltom, and eventually about 1876 sold to Olive and Sternberg, and known as the Centennial Mill. Later the mill was moved across Pine Island Bayou to Hardin County.

¹ Beaumont, American Guide Series, The Anson Jones Press. p.89

² Gammel's Laws of Texas, Vol II. pl3

³ Jefferson County Deed Records, Vol A, p. 361

⁴ Ibid, p. 365

⁵ The Standard Blue-Book of Texas, Edition deLuxe of Beaumont, 1908-09, The A.J. Peeler Standard Blue Book Company of Texas, Houston p. 23

⁶ Beaumont, American Guide Series, p.57

Other mills soon followed, and as the ownership changed often, they will be discussed under their final or best known names.

The Long & Company Mill: Established as the Ross and Alexander mill in 1859, it was sold to Long and Son in 1870 and soon after converted to a shingle mill. After the death of Davis Long, and his son James Long, it was operated by Mrs. James Long and her sons-in-law, John W. Keith, Wm. A. Fletcher, and Frank Carroll until 1896. Long and Co. built several mill additions.

The Reliance Lumber Co.: began as the Otto Ruff Mill in June 1859 (the census record of July 1860 gives figures from June of 1859 for this mill) In December of 1860 Ruff sold his mill to A. J. Ward for \$8,500. (Jefferson County Deed Records, Vol. M. p 375) "After the war" it was sold to Goldsmith and Reagan who operated it until 1867, when both men died of Yellow Fever. The administrators leased it to Dan Greene, who operated it until April 1870, when it was bought by H. W. Potter and Mark Weiss, and to the mill they gave the name of the Reliance Lumber Co. In 1877-78 the old mill was torn down and a new one built, which began operation on July 4, 1878. Where the old one had a capacity of 5,000 feet daily, the new one had a capacity of 50,000 feet daily, soon increased to 100,000 feet daily. In 1902 the mill was sold to John H. Kirby. ¹

The Bremer Mill: established in 1869

In the 1870 Census of Texas, Schedule V, the following mills are listed: (from a reprint in the Texas Gulf Historical Record)

C. C. Caswell Shingle Mill, Beaumont, Texas; capitalization: \$450; motive power: hand; employees: 4 men; wages: \$500; months in year operated: 8; raw material: logs; value: \$300; product: shingles; quantity made: 360,000; product value: \$1,040.

L. P. Ogden and Brothers Shingle Mill, Beaumont, Texas; capitalization: \$500; motive power: hand; employees: 7 men, 2 women; wages: \$500; months operated: 7; raw materials: logs; product: shingles; quantity made: 500,000; product value: \$1,625.

Haltom and Pipkin Sawmill, Beaumont, Texas; capitalization: \$5,000; motive power: steam, 1 machine; employees: 5; wages: \$500; months in year operated: 2; raw material: logs; value: \$1,000; product: lumber; quantity: 150,000 BF; value: \$2,000.

Pipkin and Rabb Shingle Mill, Beaumont, Texas; capitalization: \$300; motive power: hand; employees: 3 men; wages: \$400; months operated: 8; raw material: logs; value: \$500; product: shingles; quantity made: 350,000; product value: \$1,050.

¹ The Standard Blue Book of Texas, Beaumont Edition p.24 and The Texas Gulf Historical and Biographical Record November 1973, p. 52 f

(1870 Census Schedule V, continued)

Stephenson and Simpson Shingle Mill, Beaumont, Texas; capitalization: \$500; motive power: hand; employees: 3 men; wages: \$400; months operated: 8; raw material: logs; product: shingles; the quantity made: 350,000; product value: \$1,050.

Long and Long Sawmill,¹³ Beaumont, Texas; capitalization: \$10,000; motive power: steam, 1 machine; employees: 9 men; wages: \$3,300; months in year operated: 12; raw material: logs; value: \$6,000; product: lumber; quantity made: 1,200,000 BF; value: \$14,000.

¹³Captain James M. Long, born in Georgia in 1837, settled at Beaumont in 1859 with his wife Theresa. Following loss of the Ross and Alexander mill in 1859, Long became a steam miller, owning real and personal assets in 1860, of \$5,000. In 1861, he enlisted in Beaumont's Company E, Spaight's 21st Texas Regiment, subsequently seeing service in two battles at Sabine Pass and in the Louisiana battles of Brasher City, Forloche Bayou, and Calcasieu Pass.

In 1865, his father, Davis Long, came to Beaumont from Desoto Parish, Louisiana, where he had suffered financially following the emancipation of his slaves. Son and father then re-entered the sawmilling business together, which continued until Captain James Long's death in

May, 1873. By that time, Long and Company had greatly expanded, to include a huge shingle mill, which milled shingles "like snowflakes," at the rate of 160,000 a day. Long and Company sub divided during the 1870's, some family members continuing with the shingle mill under the old firm name, while others took the sawmilling interests, to be operated as Texas Tram and Beaumont Lumber Companies. See *Beaumont Journal*, November 4, 1906; 1860 Manuscript Census, Schedule I, Jefferson County, Texas, residence 305; *History of Spaight's Texas Regiment*; C. K. Ragan (ed.), *Diary of Captain George W. O'Brien*; and File 139, Estate of James M. Long, Probate Record, Jefferson County, Texas.

In 1876 the Beaumont Lumber Company was founded by F. L. Carroll, J. Frank Keith, John W. Keith, J.M Gilbert and others. Some of these men had been active in the Long & Co. mill, but after the death in 1873 of Capt. James Long, the families split up their business, some operating the shingle mill under the old name, others starting new companies including the Beaumont Lumber Co. and the Texas Tram and Lumber Co.

In 1877 the Smyth brothers organized a mill, which later became known as the Eagle Mill.

The 1880 Census, Schedule V, lists the following (again the list is reproduced from the Texas Gulf Historical & Biographical Record)

(Excerpt from Microfilm Reel No. 48, Manuscript Returns of Jefferson County, Texas, Schedule No. V, Products of Industry, Supervisor's District No. 1, Enumeration District No. 40, United States Census of 1880, Texas State Archives.)

Reliance Lumber Company, Beaumont, Texas; capitalization, \$50,000; employees: maximum 60, average 50 men, 3 boys under 16; daily hours operated: 11 winter and summer; daily wages: skilled \$3.50, unskilled \$1.50; annual wages paid: \$20,000; months operated in year: 9, 3 months idle; equipment: one 5-gang saw, 1 circular saw, 4 boilers, one 80-horsepower steam engine; total value of raw materials: logs, \$50,000, mill supplies \$5,000; product: lumber, 9,000,000 board feet, lathes, 200,000; value of product: \$90,000; origin of logs: Jasper, Hardin, and Tyler counties. Mill did no logging of its own.

Eagle Mill, G. W. Smyth, Beaumont, Texas; capitalization: \$55,000; employees: maximum 115, average 45 men; daily work hours: 10 winter and summer; daily wages: skilled \$3.00, unskilled \$1.50; annual wages paid: \$12,500; months in operation: 7, idle for 5; equipment: one 5-gang saw, 1 circular saw, 3 boilers, one 139-horsepower steam engine; raw materials and value: saw logs worth \$31,250, mill supplies, worth \$3,500; product and value: 6,250,000 BF of lumber worth \$62,500; origin of logs: Jasper, Angelina, Hardin, and Tyler counties—mill did no logging of its own.

Adams and Milmo Sawmill, Beaumont, Texas; capitalization: \$9,000; employees: maximum 22, average 18 men; daily hours: 11 winter and summer; daily wages: skilled \$2.50, unskilled \$1.40; annual wages paid: \$2,500; months in operation: 4, idle for 8 months; equipment: one 3-gang saw, 1 circular saw, 2 boilers, one 45-horsepower steam engine; raw materials and value: saw logs, \$6,000, mill supplies, \$300; product and value: 1,200,000 BF lumber worth \$12,000; origin of logs: Jasper, Angelina, Tyler, and Hardin counties--mill logged one-fourth of its logs.

Leng and Company Shingle Mill, Beaumont, Texas; capitalization: \$50,000; employees: maximum 60, average 35 men, 12 boys under 16¹⁴; daily work hours: 11 winter and summer; daily wages: skilled \$3.00, unskilled \$1.50; annual wages paid: \$18,000; months in operation: 10, idle 2 months; equipment: 3 circular saws, 1 band saw, 4 boilers, three 75-horsepower steam engines; raw materials and value: saw logs worth \$20,000, mill supplies worth \$1,600; product and value: 24,000,000 shingles worth \$50,000; origin of logs: Jasper, Hardin, Jefferson, Tyler, and Angelina counties--mill did one-tenth of its logging.

Beaumont Lumber Company, Beaumont, Texas; the capitalization: \$35,000; employees: maximum 50, average 35 men, 6 boys under 16; daily work hours: 11 winter and summer; daily wages: skilled \$3.00, unskilled \$1.50; total annual wages: \$18,000; months in operation: 11, idle 1 month; equipment: one 5-gang saw, 1 circular saw, 2 boilers, one 100-horsepower steam engine; raw materials and value: saw logs worth \$50,000, mill supplies worth \$2,200; products: 10,000,000 BF of lumber, 2,000,000 shingles; total value of product: \$78,000; origin of logs: Neches River and tributaries--mill did nine-tenths of its logging.

Olive and Sternenberg's Centennial Sawmill, Beaumont, Texas; capitalization: \$56,000; employees: maximum 160, average 60 men, 6 boys under 16; work hours daily: 11 winter and summer; daily wages: skilled \$3.00, unskilled \$1.50; total annual wages paid: \$22,000; months in operation: 10, idle for 2 months; equipment: one 5-gang saw, 2 circular saws, 3 boilers, two 75-horsepower steam engines; raw materials and value: saw logs worth \$50,000, mill supplies worth \$3,400; products: lumber, 9,000,000 board feet, shingles, 4,000,000; value of product: \$88,000; origin of logs: Neches River and tributaries--mill did 80% of its logging.

Globe Planing Mill, Beaumont, Texas; capitalization: \$15,000; employees: maximum 75, average 40 men; work hours daily: 11 winter and summer; daily wages: skilled, \$2.50, unskilled, \$1.50; annual wages paid \$20,000; months in operation: all year; equipment: planers, 2 boilers, one 75-horsepower steam engine; value of rough lumber and mill supplies used: \$55,000; value of finished products: \$85,000.

¹⁴Boys bundled the shingles for shipment. Frequently, Beaumont business men related that they had begun their working careers packaging shingles for 50¢ a day.

In 1881 a reporter from the Orange Tribune (Orange, Texas) called Beaumont "mill city" and reported visiting the following mills:¹

- Long and Company (and he reported talking on Beaumont's first telephone which connected Long & Co. with Beaumont Lumber Co.)
- Reliance Lumber Co.
- Williams Planing Mill (correct name Globe Planing Mill, owned by Mr. Williams)
- Adams and Milmo Mill (called the smallest in town)
- Centennial Mill of Olive and Sternberg (then in Beaumont, later moved to Hardin County)
- Eagle Mill, owned by G. W. Smyth and C. C. Caswell
- Beaumont Lumber Co, (being the only mill on the Neches River, the others being on Brake's Bayou. This company occupied the site of Lucien Hopson's Saw Pit.)
- Mr. Ridley's Cistern Factory

In 1886 the Letterbook of the East Texas and Louisiana Lumbermen's Association listed three mills in Beaumont:

- Page 70, Reliance Lumber Company, Beaumont, Texas, Valentine, Mark, and William Weiss, 50,000 board feet.
- Page 68 Texas Tram and Lumber Company's Eagle Mill, Beaumont, Texas; W. A. Fletcher and others. Texas Tram's Village Mill, Village Mills, Texas same owners; combined capacity 60,000 feet; 2,295,000 board feet on yard as of June 1886.
- Page 306 Beaumont Lumber Company, Beaumont, Texas; Frank L. Carroll and others, 50,000 board feet.

Among the other mills listed were two at Warren, Texas, two others at Village Mills, Texas, the Centennial Mill at Olive, Texas, one each at Woodville, Hillister, and Kountze Texas, all small towns north of Beaumont.

Later mills in Beaumont included the Neches Lumber Co. mill, the Miller Vidor Lumber Co., The Southern Land and Lumber Co., and the Texas Tram and Lumber Company, and the Industrial Lumber Co.

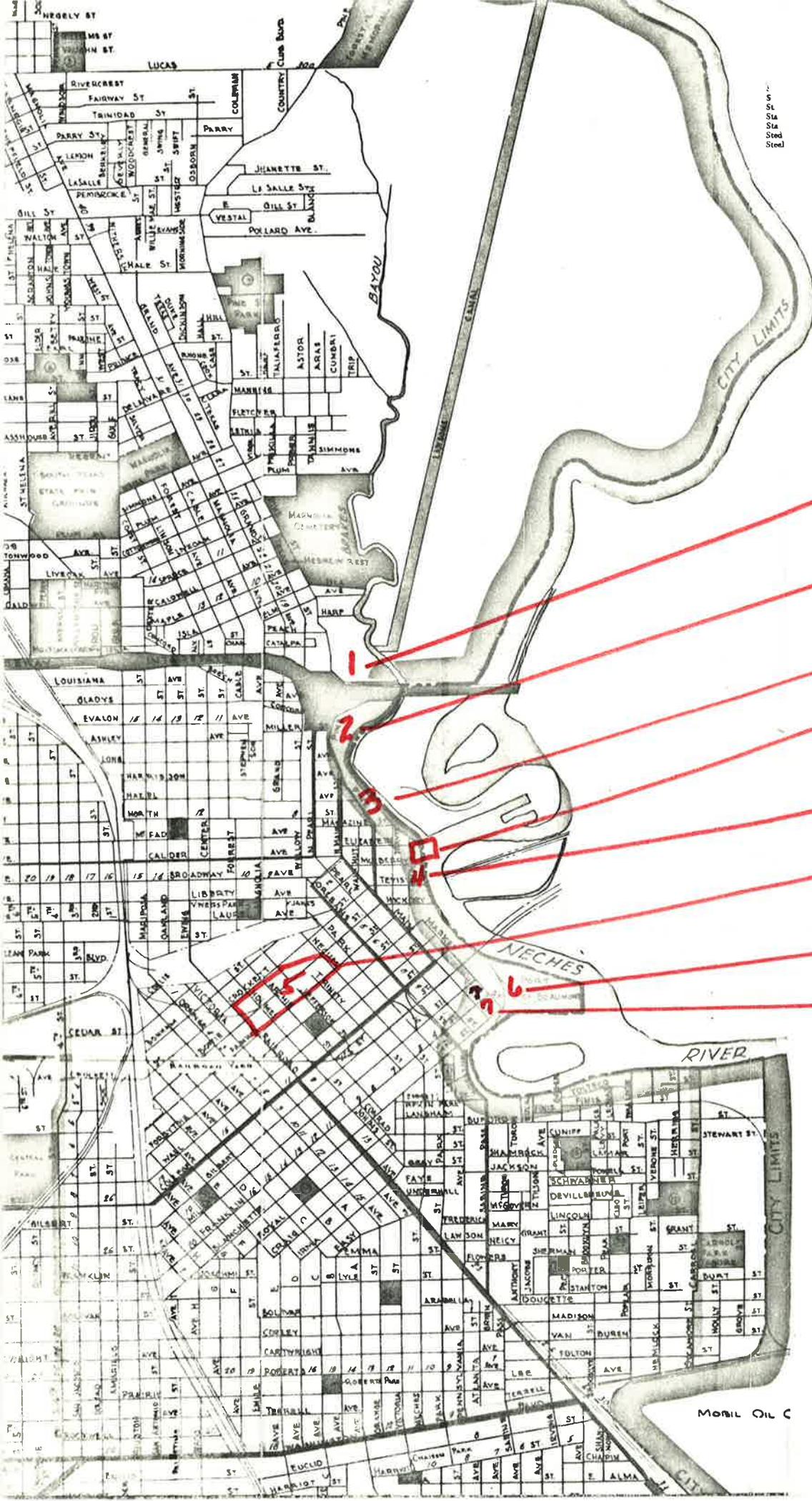
The early mills had depended largely on floating the logs from upstream down the Neches River. As the railroads were built, logs were shipped in by rail. But the rail, which at first benefitted the mills by not being dependent upon the weather and the river conditions, also sounded the death knell for the city mills, because the railroads opened up the east Texas piney woods to development. Machinery and supplies could be shipped in, and it became cheaper to build the mills close to the source of the logs, and ship out only the finished products.

¹Article appearing in the Beaumont Enterprise, March 12, 1881, a reprint from the original which appeared in the Orange Tribune, and reprinted in the Texas Gulf Historical and Biographical Record, Nov. 1873, p.47

About 1900 John Henry Kirby had bought several of the mills in Beaumont, including the Beaumont Lumber Company, The Reliance Lumber Company, and the Texas Tram and Lumber Co. The Kirby Lumber Co. was chartered by the State of Texas in 1901.

The Kirby mills in Beaumont, and several of the other mills continued to operate until the 1920's, but the center of lumber milling had moved to the pine woodlands, and the city mills slowly phased out.

Beaumont, Texas
Saw Mill City of the
Nineteenth Century



Smyth Eagle Mill

Ross & Alexander
Long Mill
Centennial Mill

Reliance Mill

Phillips Mill
(Steam Mill Square)

Otto Ruff Mill
Haltom & Pipkin Mill
Olive & Sternberg
(Centennial) Mill

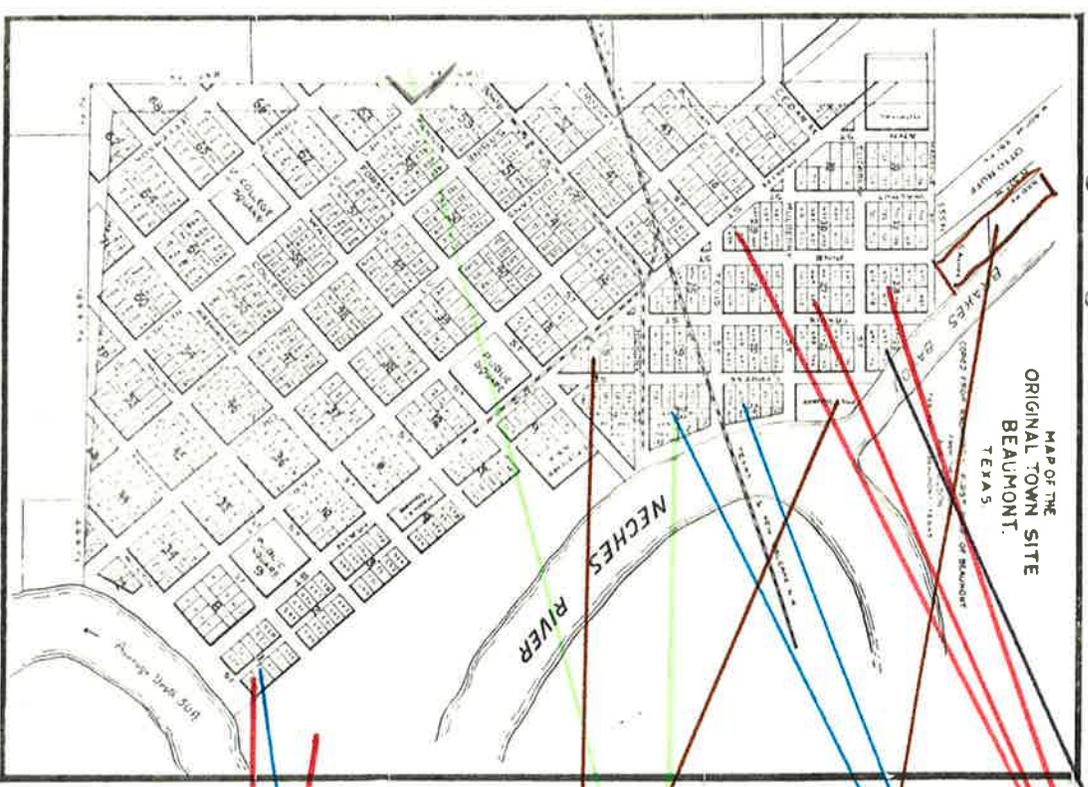
Texas Tram & Lumber
Co.

Beaumont Lumber Co.

Lucien Hopson Saw Pl

Some locations of mills gotten from the Jefferson County Deed records - lots were bought and sold, and interests in mills also sold, so that records are hard to sort out.

To Long & Eagle Mills



Adams and Milmo - Block 22, lots 642-44, 647

Williams (Globe) - Blocks 27, 28, 29, various lots

Sternberg & Olive (Centennial) Blocks 20, 21, 24, & Steam Mill Square (most lots)

Smyth, G. W. - Block 24, lots 600-608
Block 23, lots 589-598

Reliance Lumber Co.

Texas Tram & Lumber Co. Block 23, lots 589-598
(Main plant on other map)

Haltom & Pipkin Block 18, also an interest in
Steam Mill Square

Lucien Hibson Block 1

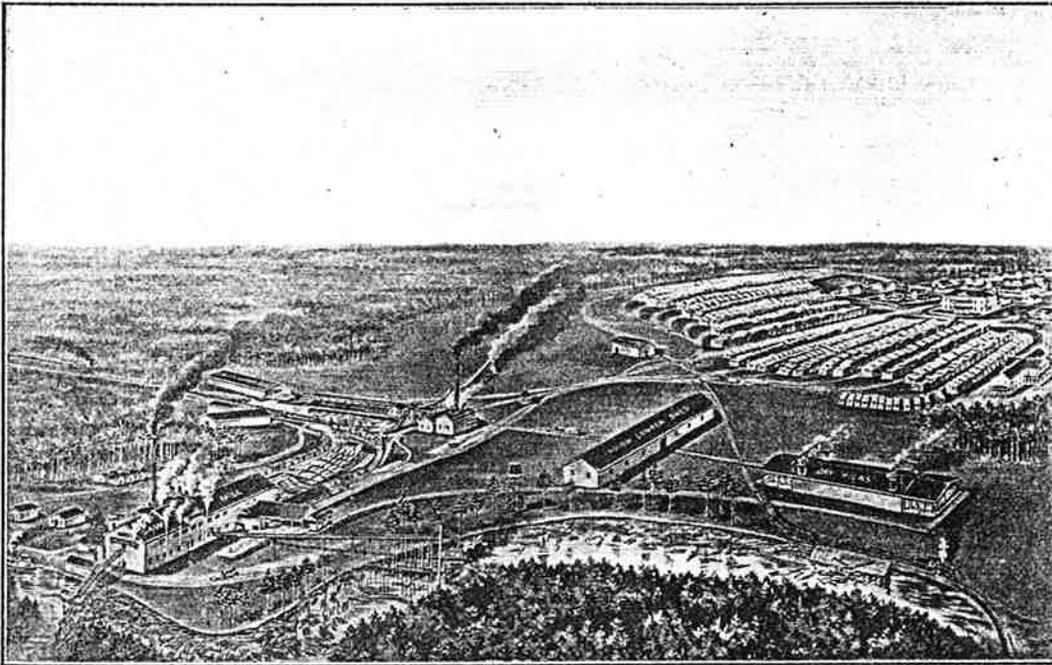
Beaumont Lumber Co. Block 1 plus extra acreage

THE LUMBER INDUSTRY.

As a manufacturing and commercial city Beaumont will rank with the first cities of the South. There are in the city about eighty corporations engaged either in manufacturing or commerce, or both, and exclusive of the oil and rice industries. These corporate companies have an aggregate capitalization of \$8,762,000.

It is a city of mills and factories and of wholesale houses. Among the manufacturing establishments are four immense lumber mills in the city, while there are thirteen lumber companies that make this point their headquarters; here the business of their various mills is transacted and here the money is deposited. The capitalization of these companies is \$3,325,000.

Among the larger of these are the Industrial Lumber Company, with four mills, giving employment to about 500 employes, turning out about 75,000,000 feet per annum; Beaumont Lumber Company, employs 600 persons, and turns out



BIRD'S EYE VIEW OF THE SABINE TRAM COMPANY'S PLANT AT DEWEYVILLE, TEXAS

75,000,000 feet of lumber and 1,000,000 railroad ties per annum; the Reliance Mill, owned by the Kirby Lumber Company; on the water front in the city employs 250 hands and turns out 2,500,000 feet of lumber; the Sabine Tram Company has an annual output of 70,000,000 feet, and the Keith Company 30,000,000 feet.

The Nona Mills Company, Limited, whose plant is located at Leesville, La., has its sales office at Beaumont, Texas, where all of the officers reside except the vice president, who is also the manager at the plant, and is domiciled at Leesville.

The company own some 75,000 acres of land and have enough timber to operate their plant at Leesville for twenty-five years. Its plant at Leesville is a model and up to date in every particular, embracing saw mill, dry kiln, planing mill, lath mill and railroad. The plant is lighted by its own electric light plant, and the daily out-put is over 100,000 feet.

In connection with the lumber business the company also has a complete turpentine plant, making turpentine from fat slabs and pine knots. They have also a turpentine camp. The turpentine and rosin industry is extensive, and from these camps they market annually several hundred thousands dollars worth of turpentine and rosin.

Mr. John N. Gilbert, of Beaumont, is the president of the company and gives the business his personal attention, and is regarded as one of the best lumbermen in the country, having devoted his life to the lumber business.

L. B. Pipkin is secretary and treasurer and sales agent, and has been connected with the company from its organization.

The directors are John N. Gilbert, Geo. W. Carroll, C. L. Wallis, G. R. Ferguson and L. B. Pipkin, all of whom are experienced lumbermen.

The Nona Mills Company has its headquarters at Beaumont and is one of the pioneer lumber manufacturing concerns of the State. The plant of the company is now located at Odellia, Texas, and in addition to the manufacturing of lumber they are also engaged in the supplying of hewn tie and piling. The Company have more than 40,000 acres of land in Texas.

The International Creosoting Works maintain here on the water front at Brake's Bayou the largest plant of its kind in the world. Access to timber, facilities for transportation and the position of this city as a distributing point were the factors which located this immense plant here. Its business is that of treating timbers, railroad ties, etc., to preserving processes, varying with the use to which they are to be put. The company treats about 25,000,000 feet of timber in this plant annually.

The Beaumont Shingle mills turn out 100,000 cypress shingles annually.

Other factories handling lumber products are: several planing mills, two sash, door and blind factories, manufacturing wood work, interior finish, store and bank fixtures, pillars, newell posts, balustrades, etc.; arm and pin factories for telegraph and telephone services and box and crate works.

By reason of her superior shipping facilities Beaumont is the recognized leading lumber market of the Southwest, lumber and timber of all kinds being shipped to all parts of the civilized world. With rail lines penetrating the vast long leaf pine forests of East Texas and Western Louisiana, the city is the great milling and distributing center, not for the United States, but for the Latin American countries, Europe, Asia and Africa.

Some few years back, when general business throughout the United States was disturbed, the great lumber interests were naturally as much affected as any other. The Beaumont mill men then sought for new and profitable fields, and soon established a large and profitable export trade, particularly with Mexico. Enormous quantities were exported through Sabine Pass, Port Arthur and Galveston.

By rail the lumber is distributed to points in nearly every State in the Union, even to Washington, a great lumber producer itself. Millions of feet are shipped to Oklahoma, the Indian Territory, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, Colorado, Wyoming, the Dakotas, New Mexico, Arizona, Idaho, Utah, California, Oregon and in fact the entire Northwest. The trade with Old Mexico is enormous in itself. The famous long leaf pine is also exported by the Beaumont mills to all of the Central and South American States, Cuba, Porto Rico and other West Indian Islands, Australia and New Zealand, Russia, Roumania, England, Ireland, Scotland, Germany, Holland, France, Italy, Spain and Africa. Since the general revival in the business world there has been a remarkable boom in the domestic demand, with a most satisfactory advance in prices, consequently the mill men are now giving more attention to the domestic than to the export trade, as it is more satisfactory.

The lumber sawed and manufactured by the mills located in Beaumont gives employment to many hundred hands and the pay rolls of the mills would sustain a town of no mean size, even if there were no other industries. The

lumbermen are the real pioneers of East Texas. As their properties have enlarged so has the City of Beaumont. Whatever was for the good of the city in a material way, they not only advocated but financially supported, and a more liberal, public spirited or progressive set of men could not be found. During the panicky times they never lost confidence. Their resources were taxed, their very souls were tried, but they held firm and instead of showing weakness they set about to open up new avenues of trade. In this they were successful and to the indomitable pluck of the lumber men is due the fact that many other industries have been enabled to find foreign markets for their manufactured products.

During the whirl of excitement which has followed the discovery of oil in this section the lumbermen have been serene. They have kept the lumber interests moving and at the same time their land holdings have proven to be bonanzas. However, they deserve all the success which has come to them. Their fortitude under most trying circumstances, their liberality, patriotism and progressive spirit have conquered and to the lumbermen Beaumont owes much of its prestige.

The great lumber industry has fed more people, done more to develop Beaumont and Southeast Texas and made more millionaires than any other ten industries combined in this section of Texas, and the present industrial development now going on and the commercial progress of this section of Texas is largely due to the lumber men of Beaumont.

PIONEER LUMBERMEN.

No greater honor could have been won than that of having the distinction of developing this vast industry which has meant so much for the commercial supremacy and prosperity of Jefferson County and East Texas, and the names and achievements of the pioneer lumber men should be perpetuated forever in the industrial and commercial history of the country. While it is in no sense the purpose of this work to treat of any subject historically or biographically, still it would be a gross omission not to mention the names of those industrial heroes who built and operated the first saw mills and laid the foundation for the great lumber business of Jefferson County.

The first mill, a sash saw, was erected by Judge Lewis in the early fifties. The second mill erected at Beaumont was purchased by Simon Wiess, agent for Ross & Alexander, in New York in 1856, and was erected where the Creosote Works are now located. This was a circular saw. Thad Clark and Thomas Fletcher were the millwrights. After running it awhile Ross & Alexander sold to Davis Long & Son. Frank L. Carroll came into the firm about this time, and later on John F. Keith, forming the Long Manufacturing Company. A shingle mill was then added. W. A. Fletcher also became a member of this firm. The third mill erected at Beaumont was by Wm. J. Philips at the mouth of Break's Bayou about the year 1857. This property was afterwards purchased by John F. Pipkin and Haltom. This was also a circular saw. The fourth mill built at Beaumont was purchased from Steadman & Co., Aurora, Ind., and was brought down the Mississippi River to New Orleans, and from thence by schooner, and was landed and erected right where the Reliance Mill now stands on Break's Bayou. These three mills were run during the entire Civil War, mostly for the Confederate Government, and all of them except the Long mill went down with the Confederacy, either by fire or decay.

Our fellow citizen, Mr. V. Wiess, then a boy, was detailed by the Confederate commander of this department to manage the logging of these mills. The logs were cut near Wiess's Bluff and floated down the river to the mills.

Ruff & Ward erected a circular saw mill in 1860-61, which was owned and operated after the war by Goldsmith & Reagan. In 1870 and 1871 the Brewer circular saw mill was built.

the
Ruff

Mr. James L. Long, one of the pioneers of the lumber business, was born in Georgia in 1836, coming to Texas in 1860. No one deserves greater honor than Mr. Long for making the lumber industry of Jefferson County a practical success. Mr. Long died in 1873.

John W. Keith was born in Florida in 1845. He came to Texas when a boy. At the outbreak of the Civil War he enlisted in the Confederate army at Sabine Pass, serving with gallantry until the close of hostilities when he moved to Beaumont. He was first employed in the mercantile store of J. M. Long, afterwards becoming a member of the firm of Long & Son. He remained a member of the firm until his death in 1889.

Mr. Frank L. Carroll, another distinguished pioneer lumberman, was born May 25, 1831, in Dallas County, Alabama. In 1848 he moved with his parents and sisters and brothers to Mansfield, La., and five years later a partnership was formed of Mr. Carroll and his father, Thomas A. Carroll, and his brother, Joseph Carroll. The firm built a mill near Mansfield and active operations were carried on for five years. Mr. Carroll then moved to Natchitoches, La., where he again engaged in the manufacturing business.

It was after the close of the Civil War, during which he served with distinction in the Second Louisiana Calvary, that Mr. Carroll began his career in the Lone Star State, with whose lumber interests his name is inseparably linked. In 1868 he went to Beaumont, where he became associated with the late James M. Long, and the firm inaugurated the old Long Shingle & Saw Mill. This mill occupied the present site of the plant of the International Creosoting & Construction Company, and it was operated until a few years ago. Subsequently Mr. Carroll engaged in business with Capt. W. A. Fletcher and the two men built a saw mill at Village Mills. Upon the dissolution of this partnership Captain Fletcher organized the Texas Tram & Lumber Company, while Mr. Carroll organized the Beaumont Lumber Company. This company was one of Mr. Carroll's greatest achievements in the lumber line. It was he who built up the immense organization and was its chief factor until the sale of the property to the Kirby Lumber Company in 1900.

It was after he had disposed of his interests in the Beaumont Lumber Company that Mr. Carroll and J. N. Gilbert inaugurated the Nona Mills Company, Limited, operating mills at Leesville, La., and having a main office in Beaumont.

In 1886 Mr. Carroll took up his residence in Waco and he made that city his home until his death. He was secretary and treasurer of Baylor University, and one of his gifts to that institution was \$100,000 for a memorial hall. As a member of the Baptist Church he was a loyal supporter and an earnest worker. He was a deacon of the church and was most liberal in giving of his wealth to any movement for the advancement of religion or education. He was a philanthropist and many are the acts of charity that he has performed and of which none but the recipients of his benevolence are aware.

Rev. Jno. F. Pipkin, a prominent factor in the pioneer lumber industry, was born in Georgia in 1809 and moved to Jefferson County, Texas, in 1855, and came to the City of Beaumont to reside in 1861 or 1862. He was the first minister to make his home in Beaumont. He engaged in the saw mill business in Beaumont in 1866. In 1884 he was elected County Judge of Jefferson County and served his county in this capacity until his death in 1890. Rev. Pipkin married nearly all of the old settlers of Beaumont and his name is a household word among the old families, beloved and revered by all.

W. A. Fletcher, the most distinguished living lumber man today, who belonged to the old regime, was born in Saint Landry Parish, La., in 1839, moving to Texas in 1856. Mr. Fletcher was a practical saw mill operator, being considered the most skillful mechanic and competent millwright in Texas, and it was in a great measure due to his thorough knowledge of the mill business that the companies he was connected with were conducted so successfully. After being a member of the Long Manufacturing Company for a number of years he organized the Texas Tram & Lumber Company, which became one of the

largest and most successful institutions of its kind in Texas. He continued in the successful management of this company until its sale to the Kirby Lumber Company in 1900, since which time Mr. Fletcher has been retired from active business life, having accumulated a handsome fortune. When war was declared between the North and South Mr. Fletcher immediately enlisted in the Confederate army, becoming a member of Company F, Fifth Texas. He served with marked bravery and distinction throughout the entire war. He has performed every duty in life with ability and honor and today is revered as one of Jefferson County's most distinguished business men, citizens, soldiers and patriots. In 1865 he married Miss Julia Long, of Georgia, a daughter of Davis Long and Elizabeth Pickard. Five children, four boys and one girl, are now living to bless this happy union, the boys being leaders in the commercial and industrial life of Beaumont, and Miss Fletcher, the only girl, a popular and accomplished member of society.

George W. Smyth, who is one of the most prominent figures in the lumber industry of Texas, was born in Jasper County, Texas, on June 19, 1842. He was raised on a farm. He entered the Confederate army on March 5, 1862, and served through the war in the states of Arkansas, Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama and Georgia, participating in many engagements and being twice wounded. His conduct as a soldier won the admiration and plaudits of his entire regiment, the name of Geo. W. Smyth becoming the synonym for courage and fearlessness. He returned home from the army and was married in 1865 to Miss Rosealthe Blewett. Settled and lived on a farm in Jasper County, Texas, until 1877, when he moved to Beaumont, Texas, where he has resided since. He has been connected with the timber and lumber business, more or less, since 1871, and in 1889 organized the Sabine Tram Company, which is one of the largest and wealthiest lumber companies in Texas, and since its organization he has been its president and general manager.

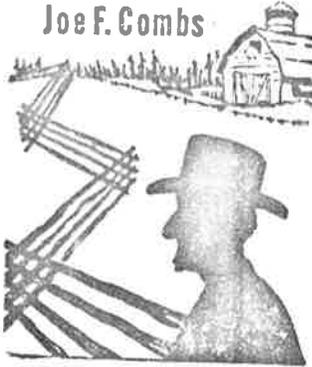
Christopher C. Caswell was born in Decatur, Ga., in 1843; came to Texas when a boy five years of age in 1848. He first engaged successfully in the mercantile business, afterwards becoming interested in the lumber business with Geo. W. Smyth. In 1865 he married Miss Anna Elizabeth Kidd, a member of one of the most prominent pioneer families of Texas. Mr. Caswell died in 1883 in the prime of life, at which time he was looked upon as one of Beaumont's most successful and valuable citizens.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

Beaumont has a flourishing Chamber of Commerce, composed of the most reputable business men whose mission is to build up the city on all lines of progress. It is doing a good work in attracting the investor, homeseeker and manufacturer. No city in Texas, perhaps, is better advertised than the City of Beaumont, and this comes from a well regulated propaganda of advertising done by this Trade organization. Its officers are as follows: S. G. Burnett, President; B. S. Woodhead First Vice President; Leon Sonfield, Second Vice President; J. C. Chaney, Third Vice President; B. R. Norvell, Treasurer; Alexander Helper, Secretary; S. G. Burnett, B. S. Woodhead, J. F. Weed, L. A. Bernard, W. P. Molette, Henry Keith, J. C. Chaney, J. L. Keith, Henry Roos, H. A. Perlstein, Leon Sonfield, board of directors.

FARM CORNER

Joe F. Combs



TODAY oldtimer Richard E. Hart, 4358 Kenneth, Beaumont, tells us about the oldtime saw mill towns. He writes: "Starting from Beaumont and going north on the SP, Voth is first, and was owned by the Keith Lumber Co. Next is Ariola, first known as Hooks Switch. It was later owned by Kirby. Just south of Kountze was Nona, owned by Nona Mills Co., and just north of Kountze was Olive, which was owned by Olive Sternberg Lbr. Co.

"Two miles farther on was Tyron. It was before my day, and I do not know who owned it. I have seen the huge sawdust pile there and the old mill shed. Two miles farther up the railroad was Plank. The mill there was closed down about 1895. I recall seeing some of their cardboard money, or checks, as we called them. Then beyond Village Creek was Village Mills, owned by the Fletchers, Carrolls and J. Frank Keith.

"NEXT up the road was Hyatt, owned by Rice Lbr. Co. This company built and operated the first ice manufacturing plant north of Beaumont, in East Texas. The next sawmill town up the road was Warren. Then Hillister, Seneca and Woodville. Kirby built a modern mill at Woodville and operated it for a few years, but for some reason closed it down while there was plenty of timber available.

"Next was Doucette, built by Peter Doucette, who operated a medium sized mill. Then Thompson Lumber Co. (Long Bell) built a larger mill and operated it there for years. Next was Colmesneil, Zavalla and Huntington. West of Zavalla was Manning, where a large mill was owned by Carter Kelly Lumber Co. They owned their own railroad, from Huntington to Manning.

"LUFKIN had the Lufkin Land and Lumber Co., owned by Long Bell, and there were several sawmill towns north and east of Lufkin. I skipped Rockland, owned by Carter Lumber Co., and east of Rockland was Aldridge. A railroad from Colmesneil to Trinity had several sawmills on it, including Mobile, Chester, Corrigan and Groveton. "West of Beaumont we had Greyburg, owned by Thompson-Ford Lumber Co., and three miles farther west of Greyburg was Budconnor. It was a logging camp owned by Kirby and it supplied logs for the sawmill located on Pine Street in Beaumont. West of Warren was a small mill, at Sadell."

And Hart's letter continues to tell about the sawmill towns of the Santa Fe, north and west. These will be named in Farm Corner, later on.

Lumber
Mills

Texas Historical Commission staff (AD), 7/9/2009, rev. 8/21/2009, rev. 8/24/2009
27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker with post
Jefferson County (Job #08JF02) Subject (Atlas) UTM: 15 400069 E 3314877 N
Location: Beaumont, 8900 Block of Central Drive

BEAUXART GARDENS

NAMED FOR ITS LOCATION BETWEEN BEAUMONT AND PORT ARTHUR, BEAUXART GARDENS WAS DEVELOPED DURING THE GREAT DEPRESSION BY THE U.S. GOVERNMENT AS A FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE HOMESTEAD COLONY UNDER THE NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL RECOVERY ACT OF 1933. THE ACT ENCOURAGED URBAN AND RURAL WORKERS TO SUPPLEMENT THEIR INCOMES THROUGH AGRICULTURE. RESIDENTS WORKED PART-TIME AT AREA REFINERIES AND KEPT GARDENS AND LIVESTOCK. ONE OF FIVE SUCH COLONIES IN TEXAS, BEAUXART GARDENS WAS LOCATED ON FERTILE RICE LAND AND PROVIDED A TOTAL OF 50 FAMILIES WITH A HOUSE AND ACREAGE.

IN 1934, THE U.S. GOVERNMENT BOUGHT 205 ACRES OF LAND FROM FRANK D. AND LILLIAN MABRY AND ED AND MARY MITTIE FOR THE CREATION OF BEAUXART GARDENS. PLANS INCLUDED HOMESTEADS OF APPROXIMATELY 2.5 TO 4.5 ACRES, TWO DEDICATED PARKS, TWO SHELLED PUBLIC ROADS AND A COMMUNITY CENTER, ALL PROTECTED BY FENCE AND CATTLE GUARDS. RESIDENTS PURCHASED HOMESTEADS FOR AN AVERAGE OF \$3000, PAYABLE OVER A PERIOD OF FORTY YEARS. IN ADDITION TO A MODEST FRAME HOME, EACH HOMESTEAD INCLUDED A COMBINATION GARAGE AND COW BARN AND A CHICKEN HOUSE.

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TRANSFERRED TITLE TO THE BEAUXART HOMESTEAD ASSOCIATION IN 1936 BUT CONTINUED TO PROVIDE AGRICULTURAL AND RELATED INSTRUCTION DURING THE DEPRESSION. THE BEAUXART HOMESTEAD ASSOCIATION MAINTAINED ITS OVERSIGHT OF THE COMMUNITY'S DEVELOPMENT, AND THE COMMUNITY CENTER WAS THE LOCATION OF FREQUENT CIVIC AND SOCIAL ACTIVITIES. IN 1942 IT BECAME THE POLLING PLACE FOR A NEW VOTING PRECINCT AT BEAUXART GARDENS. TODAY, BEAUXART GARDENS RETAINS ITS IDENTITY AS A SUCCESSFUL NEW DEAL PROGRAM.

(2009)

RECEIVED

JAN 30 2009

Official Texas Historical Markers
Sponsorship Application Receipt

History Programs Division

RECEIVED

JAN 30 2009

THC-Purchasing

RE: Beauxart Gardens County: Jefferson Marker number: ~~09JF01~~

09JF02

The Texas Historical Commission (THC) Marker Team has received your application and determined that it has all the required elements for our review (see schedule on separate attachment). *Payment of the \$100 application fee is now due and must be received in our office no later than January 30, 2009. Please send your payment to: History Programs Division, Texas Historical Commission, P.O. Box 12276, Austin, TX 78711.*

Please note:

- The application fee is non-refundable.
- Receipt of the completed application does not constitute approval; that will be determined following later staff and commissioner review.
- If the application fee is not received by January 30, the application will be cancelled for this upcoming round of reviews but can be resubmitted for the 2010 round (beginning late 2009).

Billing information:

Name: Linda McMahan, Coordinator Address: Jefferson County Historical Commission, 1149 Pearl Street, Third Floor

City: Beaumont Zip: 77701 Phone Number (with area code): 409 835 9701

Payment enclosed (make check payable to Texas Historical Commission) # 27802

Bill to credit card: Visa Mastercard

Card number: Expiration date: Security Code:

Name as it appears on credit card:

Signature: _____

ENTERED

8089093

Print out the form, sign it if billing to a credit card and return via postal mail only to the address noted earlier. Do not return this form via email.

Ch# 027802
\$ 100.00
cd



RECEIVED

FEB 26 2009

History Programs Division

Official Texas Historical Markers
Sponsorship Fee Receipt

8089112 RECEIVED
FEB 25 2009
THC-Purchasing

RE: Beauxart Gardens County: Jefferson Marker no.: 09JF02 Marker Size: Large Total due: \$1500

The commissioners of the Texas Historical Commission (THC) have reviewed and approved your application. *Payment for sponsorship of the marker is now due and must be received in our office no later than 5:00 p.m. on March 23, 2009.*

Please note:

- Inscriptions will be written in the order that payments are received.
- If payment is not received by March 23, the application will be cancelled but can be resubmitted for the 2010 round (beginning late 2009).

Billing information:

Name: Jefferson County Historical Commission Address: 1149 Pearl Street - Third Floor

City: Beaumont Zip: 77701 Phone Number (with area code): 409 835 8701

Payment enclosed (make check payable to Texas Historical Commission)

or

Bill to credit card: Visa Mastercard

Card number: Expiration date: Security Code:

Name as it appears on credit card:

Signature: _____

ENTERED

Fill out the form, print it, sign it if billing to a credit card and return via postal mail only to the address noted below. Do not return this form via email.

Ch# 312030
\$ 1500.00
AQ



**SUBJECT MARKERS:
2009 Official Texas Historical Marker
Sponsorship Application Form**

Valid October 15, 2008 to January 15, 2009 only

This form constitutes a public request for the Texas Historical Commission (THC) to consider approval of an Official Texas Historical Marker for the topic noted in this application. The THC will review the request and make its determination based on rules and procedures of the program. Filing of the application for sponsorship is for the purpose of providing basic information to be used in the evaluation process. The final determination of eligibility and therefore approval for a state marker will be made by the THC. This form is to be used for subject marker requests only. Please see separate forms for either Historic Texas Cemeteries or Recorded Texas Historic Landmarks.

Proposed marker topic (Official title will be determined by the THC): **Beauxart Gardens**

County: **Jefferson**

Town (nearest county town on current state highway map): **Nederland, TX**

Street address of marker site or directions from town noted above: **8900 Block of Central Drive, Beaumont, TX**

Marker Coordinates:

If you know the location coordinates of the proposed marker site, enter them in one of the formats below:
UTM Zone 15 Easting 400069 Northing 3314877

Lat: Long: (deg, min, sec or decimal degrees)

Otherwise, give a precise verbal description here (e.g. northwest corner of 3rd and Elm, or FM 1411, 2.6 miles east of McWhorter Creek): **At park entrance on South side of 8900 block of Central Drive between Terry and South Garden Drive.**

Will the marker be placed at the actual site of the topic being marked? Yes No

If the answer is no, provide the distance and directions to the actual location from the marker (i.e. 100 yards east).

Subject marker definition

Subject markers are educational in nature and reveal aspects of local history important to a community or region. These markers honor topics such as church congregations, schools, communities, businesses, events and individuals. Subject markers are placed at sites that have historical associations with the topics, but no legal restriction is placed on the use of the property or site, although the THC must be notified if the marker is ever to be relocated.

Criteria

1. **Age:** Most topics marked with subject markers must date back at least 50 years, although historic events may be marked after 30 years, and historic individuals may be marked, or may be mentioned in a historical marker text, after they have been deceased 10 years. The THC may waive age requirements for topics of overwhelming state or national importance, although exceptions are rarely

granted and the burden of proof for all claims and documentation is the responsibility of the narrative author.

2. **Historical significance:** A topic is considered to have historical significance if it had influence, effect or impact on the course of history or cultural development; age alone does not determine significance. Topics do not necessarily have to be of statewide or national significance; many historical markers deal with local history and a local level of significance.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Any individual, group or county historical commission (CHC) may apply to the THC to request an Official Texas Historical Marker for what it deems a worthy topic. Only complete marker applications that contain all the required elements and are received via email, as required, can be accepted or processed by the THC. For subject markers, the required elements are: sponsorship application form, narrative history and documentation. No photograph is required.

- Completed applications must be duly reviewed, verified and approved by the CHC in the county in which the marker will be placed. Paper copies of applications, whether mailed, emailed or delivered in person, cannot be accepted in lieu of the electronic version.
- The sponsorship application form, narrative history and documentation must be in the form of Microsoft Word or Word-compatible documents and submitted via email attachments to the THC no later than January 15, 2009.
- Required font style and type size are a Times variant and 12-point.
- Narrative histories must be typed in a double-spaced (or 1.5-spaced) format and include separate sections on context, overview, significance and documentation.
- The narrative history must include documentation in the form of reference notes, which can be either footnotes or endnotes. Documentation associated with applications should be broad-based and demonstrate a survey of available resources, both primary and secondary.
- Upon notification of the successful preliminary review of required elements by the THC, a non-refundable application fee of \$100 is required. The fee shall be submitted to the THC within 10 working days of application receipt notification.

APPROVAL BY COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

The duly appointed marker representative (chair or marker chair) noted below for the county historical commission will be the sole contact with the THC for this marker application. To ensure accuracy, consistency and efficiency, all information from and to the THC relative to the application—and throughout the review and productions processes—will be via direct communication with the CHC representative. All other inquiries (calls, emails, letters) to the THC will be referred to the CHC representative for response. By filling out the information below and filing the application with the THC, the CHC representative is providing the THC with notice that the application and documentation have been reviewed and verified by the CHC and that the material meets all current requirements of the Official Texas Historical Marker program.

As chair or duly appointed marker chair, I certify the following:

- Representatives of the CHC have met or talked with the potential marker sponsor and discussed the marker program policies as outlined on the THC web site. CHC members have reviewed the history and documentation for accuracy and made corrections or notes as necessary. It is the determination of the CHC that the topic, history and documentation meet criteria for eligibility.

CHC comments or concerns about this application, if any:

Name of CHC contact (chair or marker chair): Leslie McMahan

Mailing address: 1149 Pearl Street – Third Floor City, Zip: Beaumont, TX 77701

Daytime phone (with area code): 409 835 8701 Email address (required):

histcomm@co.jefferson.tx.us

PERMISSION OF PROPERTY OWNER FOR MARKER PLACEMENT

Will the marker be placed on right-of-way maintained by the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT)? Yes **XX** No

If the answer is yes, the THC will secure the necessary permission from TxDOT, and no other information is required. If the answer is no, please provide the following information for the person or group who owns the property.

Property owner: Beauxart Gardens Homestead Association, Scott Stevenson, President

Address: 9339 North Garden Drive City, State, Zip: Beaumont, TX 77705

Phone: 409 721 6588 Email address:

NOTE: The property owner will not receive copies of correspondence from the THC. All correspondence—notice of receipt, request for additional information, payment notice, inscription, shipping notice, etc.—will be sent via email to the CHC representative, who is encouraged to share the information with all interested parties as necessary. Given the large volume of applications processed annually and the need for centralized communication, all inquiries about applications in process will be referred to the CHC for response. The CHC is the sole liaison to the THC on all marker application matters.

SPONSORSHIP PAYMENT INFORMATION

Prospective sponsors please note payment must be received in full within 45 days of the official approval notice and be accompanied by the THC payment form. The THC is unable to process partial payments or to delay payment due to processing procedures of the sponsor. Applications not paid in the time frame required may, at the sole discretion of the THC, be cancelled or postponed.

- Payment does not constitute ownership of a marker; Official Texas Historical Markers are the property of the State of Texas.
- If, at any time during the marker process, sponsorship is withdrawn, a refund can be processed, but the THC will retain the application fee of \$100.
- The Official Texas Historical Marker Program provides no means of recognizing sponsors through marker text, incising or supplemental plaques.

Marker sponsor (may be individual or organization): Jefferson County Historical Commission

Contact person (if applicable): Linda McMahan

Mailing address: 1149 Pearl Street – Third Floor City, State, Zip: Beaumont, TX 77701

Phone: 409 835 8701 Email address (required): histcomm@co.jefferson.tx.us

SHIPPING INSTRUCTIONS

If the proposed marker site is on TxDOT right-of-way, the marker will be shipped directly to the district highway engineer for placement, with consultation from the CHC. If the marker will go on property other than TxDOT right-of-way, provide full information in the space below. In order to facilitate delivery of the marker, neither post office box numbers nor rural route numbers can be accepted. To avoid additional shipping charges or delays, use a business street address (open 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday through Friday).

NO FRIDAY DELIVERIES

Name: Commissioner Mark Domingue for Jefferson County Historical Commission

Street address: 7759 Viterbo Road, Suite #1 City, zip: Beaumont, TX 77705

Daytime phone (required): 409 727 2173 Email (required): trains@co.jefferson.tx.us

TYPE AND SIZE OF SUBJECT MARKER

As part of its review process, the THC will determine the appropriate size of the marker and provide options, if any, for the approved topic based on its own review criteria, including, but not exclusive of, historical significance, replication of information in other THC markers, relevance to the Statewide Preservation Plan and the amount of available documented information provided in the application narrative. In making its determination, however, the THC will also take into account the preference of the CHC, as noted below.

The sponsor/CHC prefers the following size marker:

- 27" x 42" subject marker with post (\$1,500)
- 27" x 42" subject marker without post*(\$1,500)
- 18" x 28" subject marker with post (\$1,000)
- 18" x 28" subject marker without post* (\$1,000)

*For markers without posts, the CHC must receive prior approval from the THC for the planned placement. Such prior approval is based on the following:

- Submittal of a detailed plan for where the marker will be mounted, including the surface to which it will be placed (masonry, metal, wood); and
- A statement of why a marker with a post is not feasible or preferred.

SUBMITTING THE APPLICATION (via email required)

When the CHC has determined the application is complete, the history has been verified and the topic meets the requirements of the Official Texas Historical Marker Program, the materials should be forwarded to the THC via email at the following address: markerapplication@thc.state.tx.us.

- The CHC or marker chair should send an email containing the following attachments (see attachment function under file menu or toolbox on your computer):
 - This application form
 - The subject history (including documentation)

RECORDS RETENTION BY CHC:

The CHC must retain hard copies of the application, as well as an online version, at least for the duration of the marker process. The THC is not responsible for lost applications, incomplete applications or applications not properly filed according to the program requirements. For additional information about

any aspect of the Official Texas Historical Marker Program, visit the Markers page on the THC web site (<http://www.thc.state.tx.us/markerdesigns/madmark.html>).

Texas Historical Commission
History Programs Division
P.O. Box 12276, Austin, TX 78711-2276
Phone 512/463-5853 Fax 512/475-3122
Email history@thc.state.tx.us
www.thc.state.tx.us



**TEXAS
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION**

The State Agency for Historic Preservation