CHAPTER IX.

THE SAW MILLS.

The aforesaid "Old Mill" was the pioneer mill in this part of the state; judging from its equipment, says Mr. Albee. Its main line of shafting was octagonal, about 6 or 7 inches in diameter, had a turned journal near each end and clutch couplings, the pieces being about 10 feet long. The machinery consisted in 1857 of two flue boilers, an engine, a circular log saw (perhaps a smaller circular or a muley), lath mill, slab saw, lath bolter, a Daniels planer, and a feed-grinding mill and also an engine lathe of then, modern make, 16-in. swing and 12-ft. beg.

The "New Mill" contained a circular log saw, bolter and lath saws, and a siding mill for sawing siding from 6-in. cants with thick and thin edges alternately. This mill ceased running about 1861 or 62.

A mill called "The Pierpont Mill" stood on the ground now occupied by the Coal Co., and Judge Henry S. Pierpont was the local representative and manager, the Company owning the north pier from which their product was shipped. This mill ceased running about 1858 or 1859 we understand. N. Newcomb was the outside superintendent.

The Lindstedt Mill which was on the ground now occupied by Mr. Fred Eggers Veneering Works, Mr. Albee has no recollection of being run as a lumber mill after 1857, but if he remembers correctly, it was operated as a flour mill, 6 or 7 years later. Julius Lindstedt, now or lately of Manitowoc was interested in it. With reference to this mill, Julius Lindstedt, son of the above, writes:

"The Lindstedt millsite property consisted of Lots 1 and 2, Block 53, City of Two Rivers. The same was purchased by
Frederick Lindstedt Sept. 20, 1855. The purchase price for the property at that time was $2,000.00. The name of the firm at that time was Frederick Lindstedt & Co., the other partner being Daniel Lindstedt. My father, Julius Lindstedt, was not a partner in the business, but was in their employ at the time. I am advised by old settlers that Frederick Lindstedt was at the head of the business and the same was operated for a number of years, but owing to the death of Frederick Lindstedt in 1857 (he was murdered on the roadside between the old “Kuehn’s farm” and the City of Two Rivers) the business was discontinued. The facts in the case probably were that owing to the death of Frederick Lindstedt, the business was not properly managed and they were, in a measure, forced to liquidate the same.”

David Smoke had a lumber mill north of the Lindstedt Mill, which was operated little if any after 1857. North of Smoke’s Mill was one owned probably by Russell and Harvey, or Harvey and Russell, and which was called “The Harvey Mill.” This mill burned down about 1 o’clock P. M. one day early in the Summer of 1858. There were no manufacturing industries carried on upon the east side of the Mishicot River, excepting the making of fish barrels by hand, fishing being an important industry at that time. The “Pound Nets” came into use about 1860. Albert Barry kept the old Government light house, which was located some distance east of the mouth of the river. In the Summer or Fall of 1860, Mr. Barry moved to the west side of the Mishicot River and it was then occupied by James Scott for awhile.

It may be of interest to the present generation to learn when pails were first made by machinery, Jehiel Wilson, of South Keene, N. H., was the first maker of the then called “patent pails,” which was probably about 1825 or 26. Soon after, Benjamin Page of Swanzey, N. H., a town adjoining Keene, took out machinery for cloth dressing and put in pail
making machinery. This was in 1828. The making of pails, tubs, kanakins, and other kinds of woodware has since that date been carried on in Swanzey and Keene, the writer having been an employee in three shops in Swanzey during his early life. It is now carried on in four places in Swanzey, and one or two in Keene, also in a score of places in New Hampshire, Vermont, and Massachusetts, the timber for it growing up from burnt over grounds in 25 or 30 years to a diameter of 12 to 16 inches.

The dates of the building of the chair and pail factories are correct, but those of the changes of management may not be, but are approximately so. Mr. Albee remained with the pail factory until November, 1866, when he moved to Menasha, Wis., and taking up his residence in Neenah a year later, where his home has been since then, but having been away from there about five years at two or three times since 1869. Bradford Smith, the oldest son of Deacon H. H. Smith, succeeded him in the superintendency of the factory. After his decease, Chris. Johannes, Sr., succeeded him, he having been one of the earliest employees of the factory under Mr. Albee's supervision.