

# Land Clearing and Lumbering

Primitive forests disappeared in the township as the axes of the settlers were used to create tillable land for their farms. Saw, planing and shingle mills began popping up near farms.

In the old days wherever trees grew "making wood" was an important annual chore on the farm, performed mostly in the winter months when farmers had time. The horse could skid the logs easily over the snow. It was also easier to load them on a low sleigh than a wagon. Trees were felled and cut into hauling lengths with ax or crosscut saw. Farmers were anxious to clear more land for crops, and tillable land.

In the early 1860's and 70's lumbering, bark peeling, tie hewing, cordwood, chipping and fence post cutting was at the height of production. The wood industry was flourishing. In 1858, sawmills began to be established. Lumbermen joined hands with farmers to clear the land. Some of the area sawmills were: Albert Haese and Co., John Reif and Co, August Gross, Frank Ronk, William Vergeils, August and Karl Krause, William Brockmann, and Marvin Saenger.



In 1970, Mr. Christensen purchased Mr. Saenger's share of the mill. Christensen Mills, Inc. was formed in 1983, with Todd Christensen joining the operation. At that time a new sawmill was built at the current location. Unfortunately, that mill was then destroyed by fire in 1985, and rebuilt that same year. Fire struck again in 1987, then the resaw was destroyed by fire, and rebuilt again that same year.

In 1993, Don and Todd moved the sawmill part of Christensen Mills, Inc. to Niagara, WI, to be closer to the log sources. The rest of the operation continues with the resaw, gang saw, and trim saw all in Morrison.

Today, Christensen Mills, Inc. has 27 full and part time employees, processing between 35,000 to 55,000 board feet of lumber daily.



The only remaining lumber mill is the Saenger mill, which is currently a Christensen Mills operation. In 1930, Marvin Saenger and his father Louis, bought an American Sawmill. In 1942, Marvin went into business with Ed Quinnette. At that time, they also began to sell fuel and coal. In 1947, the old mill burned down, and was replaced that fall. In 1955, Helmuth Lemke bought Mr. Quinnette's share, who then sold it to Don Christensen in 1963.

