

Dayton Last Block Works



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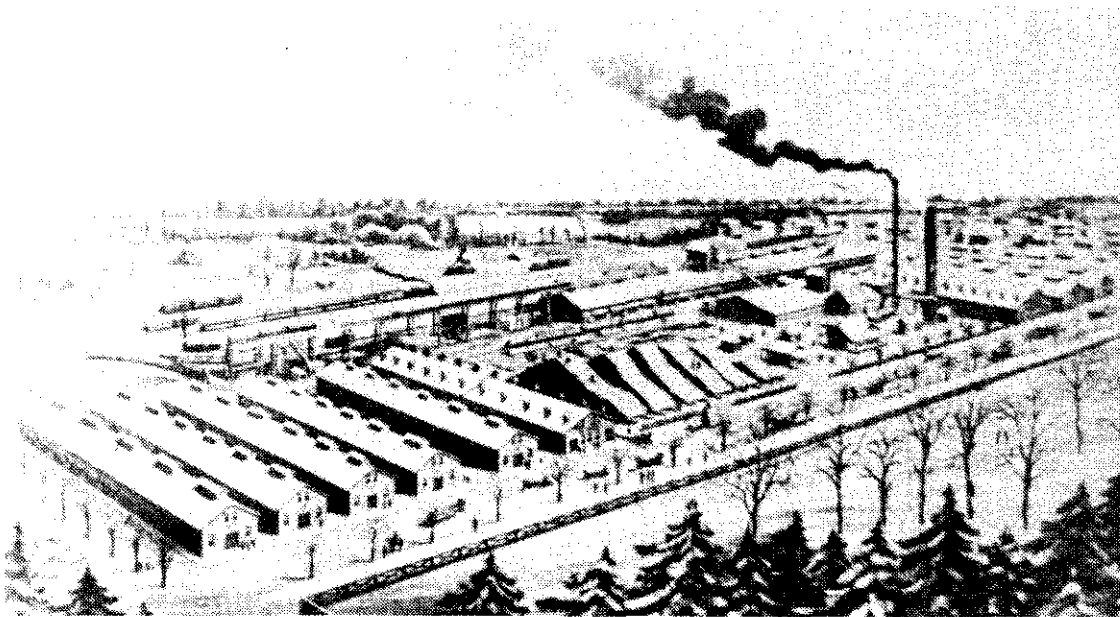
the factory limits ranged from the fire department on Old 27 at the north end, to the cemetery at the south end. Dayton Last provided employment to about sixty people at the factory, plus a local place where the lumberjacks could sell their hardwoods.

In April of 1931 the Dayton Last Block Works ceased operation. All area hardwoods of the quality needed by the factory had been cut. It is impossible to estimate the vital financial benefit this area reaped from forty years of the Dayton Last. But it obviously must be realized that this business was one of the most important steps in the progress of industry to Otsego County.

During the late 1800's a number of small saw mills operated in and around Otsego County. The largest of which was the Frank Buell Mill. Logs were brought from the forests of southern Cheboygan County by rail to the mill located in northern Otsego County. After about ten years of operation the Buell mill shut down.

The early 1900's brought us the Gaylord Manufacturing Company. Two men by the name of Mitchell and Huff started this business. They made logging sleighs, big wheels, and other transportation items necessary to the lumber industry. In addition, they also made the Gaylord Farm Wagon. This large bright yellow wagon, made exclusively in Gaylord, was sold throughout the state and kept the Gaylord Manufacturing Company in a profitable business for nearly twenty years.

In the early spring of 1910 it was clear that the lumber industry in and around Otsego County would be coming to an end in the relatively near future. At that time, outside of saw mills, there were only two factories in operation in the area and they both depended upon



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