

*Hammonds Plains
Heritage - The
Era of Barrels &
Boxes*

Presentation by Hammonds Plains
Historical Society

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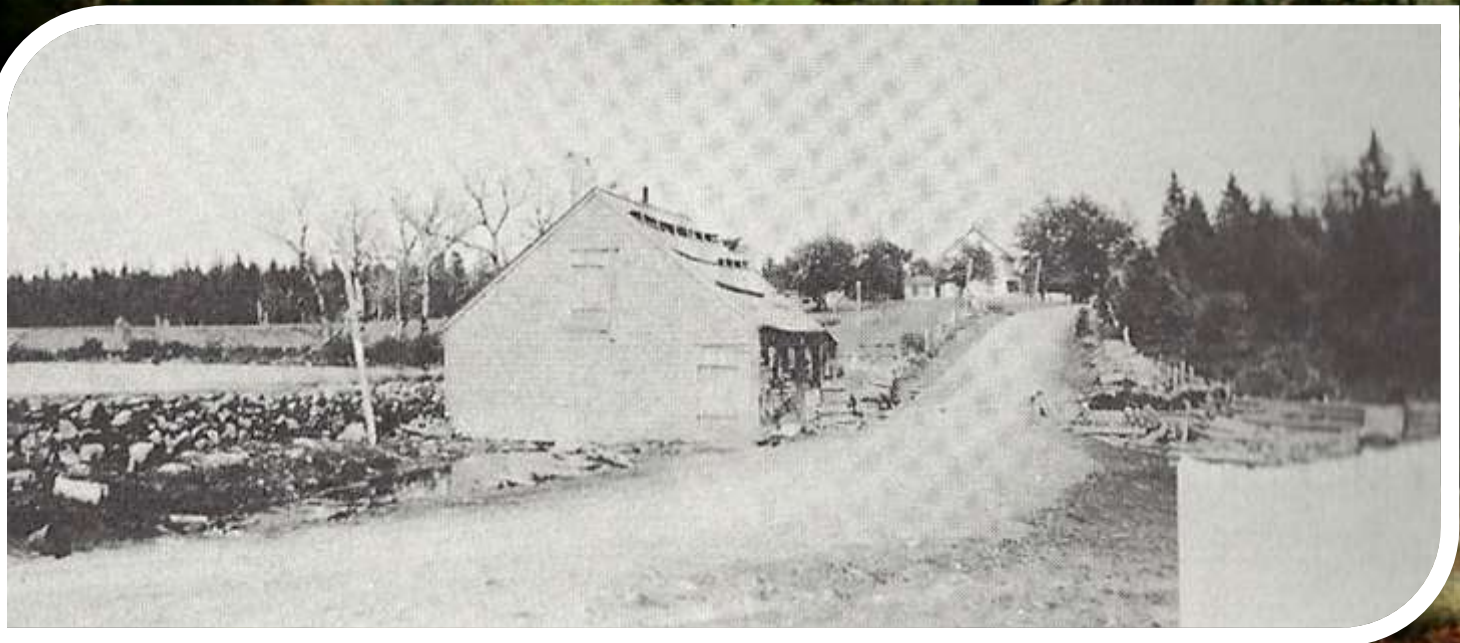
**The Forest Industry
in Hammonds
Plains can be
traced back to the
original**

H P Grant – 1786

**Land was full of Old
Growth Forests**



**First Mills in Area –
Early 1800's**



**Early settlers
brought Cooper
Skills to
Hammonds Plains
– Chester Group /
Chesapeake Black
Loyalists**



**After 1820, Mills
start popping up in
area in increasing
numbers**



**By 1840, mills were
creating wooden
by- products**



**First Cooper Shop
believed to be
Allison & Whiley
Cooperage – built
1825 in Upper H P**



**Before 1900,
almost everything
was shipped in or
stored in wooden
barrel or boxes**



Cooper Shop Facts

- Cooper – name of trade to those who made barrels
- Pieces (staves, tops & Bottoms) for barrels cut at mill, then brought to shop
- Usually 2-3 coopers in one shop
- Cooperage skills usually learned through apprenticeship system.

Cooper Shop Facts

- **Good coopers could make 30 – 50 barrels per day**
- **During 1800's, barrels produced with wooden hoops (iron hoops came in during 20th century)**
- **Both dry barrels (apples, potatoes, sugar) and wet barrels (fish) were made in H P**

How a Barrel is made?

- Staves are shaped using draw knives or jointer plane. Staves are tapered at the ends
- Staves are arranged vertically inside a metal raising hoop or by placing a ring around them



How a Barrel is made?

The barrel staves are heated and progressively tighter hoops around the barrel, forming it's shape



How a Barrel is?

The ends of the barrel are leveled off and a groove cut into the inside edge to receive the barrel heads. The ends are fitted in place and a hoop is put around them



What Did a Cooper Shop Look Like?



A basic rectangular or square wooden building. Most often had windows, tools hung up along wall, piles of staves on floor, storage space for finished barrels, large stove.



Barrels hauled to market via Barrel Wagons



**Box Shops
became
common in H P,
during the
second half of
the 1800's**



**Largest Box and
Barrel Manufacturer
in H P in 1800's –
Hays Brothers
(Pockwock Lake)**



**Wooden Boxes
were used for
shipping dried
and salted fish**



How Wooden Boxes were made?

1. Box pieces (sides, ends, covers and bottoms) are cut to size
2. Sides and ends are created (most often two or three pieces)
3. Width of tops and bottoms are taped using run up saws
4. Sides and ends are grooved and tongued (optional)

How Wooden Boxes were made?

5. Sides are stamped using stamping machine (optional)

6. Sides and ends put together to create box frame

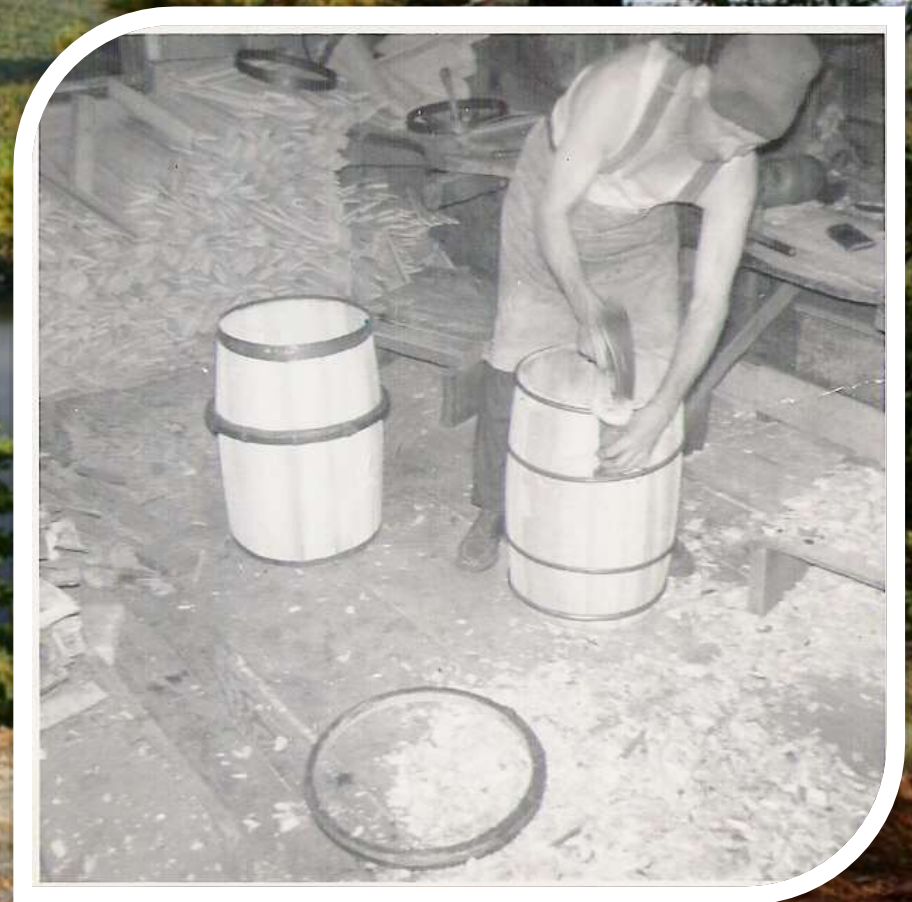
7. Bottoms are nailed to box frames

8. Tops are bundled

(Amount of boxes per day depended upon equipment and size of box shop)



The art of
Coopering and Box
Making was passed
down from
generation to
generation in H P



H P Families involved in Making Barrels & Boxes




- **Smith**
- **Thomson**
- **Haverstock**
- **Romans**
- **Pace**
- **Eisenhauer**
- **Melvin**
- **Frizzel**
- **Schmidt**



Upper H P / Kemptown Families involved in Making Barrels & Boxes



- **David**
 - **Allison**
 - **Whiley**
 - **Marsman**
 - **Jones**
 - **Anderson**
- 
- **Moren**
 - **Hay(e)s**
 - **Wright**

Early 20th

Century – Golden
age of Barrels &

Boxes

Over 30 shops in
area



20th Century

- New Machinery Introduced (Nail machines)
- Motorized vehicles to haul products
- Move to iron hoops for barrels





New vs Old Transportation Methods



**Box and Barrels
interwoven into the
social fabric of
Hammonds Plains**

- **Care Packages
sent during
Depression**

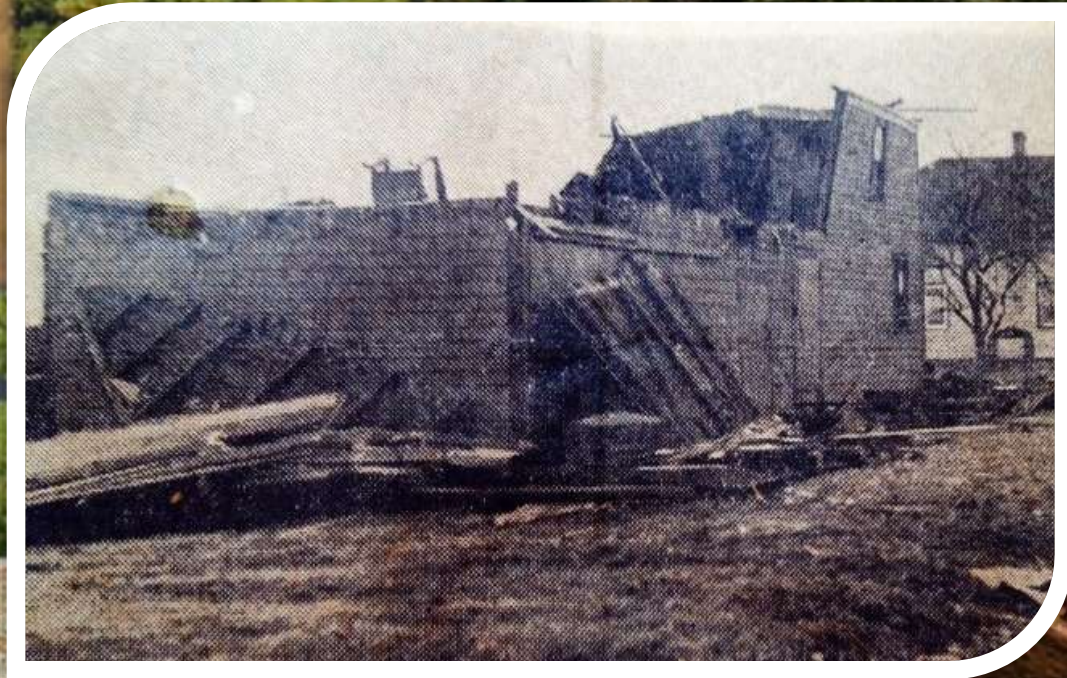


The 1930's start the decline of the Barrel and Box industry

- Great Depression (affecting markets)
- Iron hoops increase longevity of barrels
 - WW11
- Move to plastic products
- Decline of fish stocks



By the 1950's, the nature of the forest industry was changing leading to cooper shops and box factories closing at an increasing rate



Last Barrels

W. G. Haverstock
closes doors – Late
1970's



AUG

67



W. G. Haverstock – 1990 (After it was closed)

Last Boxes

Whiley Mill closes
1990's



Barrels & Boxes

Now a lost art & industry, but is a huge part of our heritage

