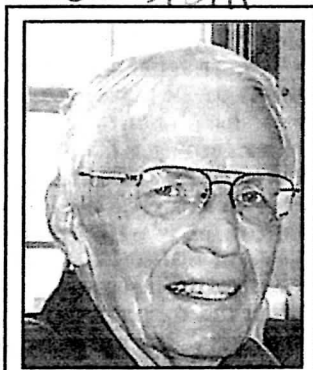


# Who Was Who In Washburn—Mill Owners and Managers -1

The large sawmills along Washburn's waterfront during the great lumbering boom were all owned by outsiders—Bigelow, Hines, Stearns, the Spragues, and Thompson. They located their mills in Washburn to exploit the vast pine forests in the surrounding region, and closed them when the pine timber was depleted. By 1906 all of the large mills were closed and the great lumbering boom was over. A box factory established by Lamoreaux and Kenfield, two local men, continued in operation until the mid-1920s.

Anson A. Bigelow was born on November 7, 1833, on a farm in Washington County, New York, the son of Anson and Eliza Morres Bigelow. He was educated in the local schools, leaving home in 1852 at age 19 for employment as a clerk for a linen manufacturer in Troy, New York, then as a bookkeeper and general manager for corn merchants in Albany, New York. In March 1855 he moved to Racine, where he was employed by a lumber dealer as a bookkeeper, later becoming a partner in the firm. In September 1862 he sold his interest in the Racine firm and with his brothers Charles and William organized the firm of Bigelow Brothers, which operated a lumber yard in Chicago. In 1866 the firm purchased a



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sawmill in Muskegon, Michigan, along with a large tract of white pine timber. In 1886 the Muskegon mill was moved to Washburn, where the firm had purchased 37,000 acres of pine timber. The mill continued in operation in Washburn until 1902 when it and the remaining timber were sold to the Edward Hines Lumber Company. Bigelow married Emma Ullmann in 1859. He died in Chicago in October 1895.

Edward Hines was born on July 31, 1863, in Buffalo, New York, the son of Peter and Rose McGarry Hines. In 1865 the family moved to Chicago where he attended school. He began his career in the lumber business as a tally boy in a lumber yard, then as an office boy with a lumber company, where he was rapidly promoted to secretary-treasurer. In May

1892 he established the Edward Hines Lumber Company to buy and distribute lumber. In the following years the firm expanded its distribution and wholesale operations by the purchase of six large lumber yards in Chicago. In 1897 the company began to purchase sawmills and tracts of standing timber in northern Wisconsin and Minnesota, purchasing the mill and timber holdings of the Bigelow Brothers Company at Washburn in 1902. The company also operated a large fleet of lake steamers and barges to transport lumber. He married Loretta O'Doud on June 12, 1895. He died on December 1, 1931 in Chicago.

Corwin C. Thompson was born in 1826 near Rochester, New York, the son of Lott and Abigail Gillett Thompson. In 1837 the family moved to Western Reserve, Ohio. His father was a manufacturer of carriages and the son worked in that business until he was 21 years old. From 1859 to 1861 he carried on a produce and commission business in Chicago, moving the business to St. Louis, Missouri in 1862. In 1865 he established a lumber business in St. Louis, then moved the business to Chicago in 1873. In 1874 he bought out a partner and the firm became C.C. Thompson and Company, incorporated as the C.C. Thompson and Walkup

Company in 1886. In March 1888 the company took over the failed Rood and Maxwell mill in Washburn, having purchased extensive tracts of timber in Bayfield County. In the fall of 1906 the mill was sold to the Red Cliff Lumber Company of Duluth. He died in early August 1897 in Chicago.

Ossiann A. Lamoreaux was born in Lansing, Michigan, in 1859. In 1896 he came to Washburn, where he was employed as a teamster in a shingle mill. In 1896 he and Elmer E. Kenfield, who was a foreman in the same mill, formed a partnership to purchase the small door and sash plant of the Washburn Manufacturing Company. The Kenfield and Lamoreaux Company manufactured boxes, crates, wire reels, and similar products. As their business rapidly grew, they expanded the Washburn plant and established plants in Cass Lake and Bemidji, Minnesota. For many years after the lumber mills closed the K-L plant was one of the main components of Washburn's economic base. The company prospered during World War I and the immediate postwar years, but in 1922 was taken over by the Chicago Box and Crating Company. The plant finally closed in 1924. Ossiann Lamoreaux died in Duluth, Minnesota on October 19 1921.