

(Transcript: The Early Timber Industry)

(A photo of a pine tree)

The timber industry played a vital role in Hattiesburg's economic development, especially from the late 1800's through the early 1900's.

(A sketch of pine trees and resin containers)

During that era, pine trees from surrounding forests were tapped and the resin collected for use in commercial products such as soap, paint, varnish and shoe polish.

(A photo of a model Lindsey 8-Wheel Log Wagon)

Timber was transported from forests to area mills with vehicles such as Lindsey 8-Wheel Log Wagons that were manufactured in this area.

(Photo of a wheel hub from a Lindsey 8-Wheel Log Wagon)

The museum has both a model of a Lindsey wagon as well as an original, full-scale wheel hub donated by a Lindsey family member.

(A photo of a Peavy Cant Hook)

Local rivers also provided timber transportation. Hand tools such as this Peavy Cant Hook were used to roll, slide or float logs into position.

(A photo of log shackles)

Shackles like these were used to pin individual logs together to form a raft for down stream travel.

(A photo of a two-man saw)

Two man saws were used to cut down trees by hand,

(A photo of log tongs)

while log tongs allowed two men to transport timber over short distances.

(A photo of a marking ax)

And how did the "old timers" identify the owner of individual trees? Marking axes like this one were used

to etch brands into the ends of logs prior to shipping.

(A photo of a steam engine used to transport logs)

Railroads also influenced the timber industry. The nearly 3 miles of logging track owned by the Tatum Lumber Company in 1897, for example, allowed logs to be transported directly from forests to the Tatum Mill for processing.

(A photo of a bust of William Hardy)

Beyond small local trunks, however, William H. Hardy, Hattiesburg's founder, is credited for his vision of large-scale railroads that would eventually allow the shipment of area wood products to other regions of the United States.