

GHOST TOWN

WALKUP CITY

WALKUP CITY, NAME OF A VILLAGE SITE SURVEYED BY THADDEUS WATERS IN 1881. LOCATED ON THE EAST BANK OF BLUE LAKE, SEC. 22, LILLEY TWP. IT WAS THE TERMINUS OF THE C.&W.M. R.R. AND JUNCTION WITH THE BUTTERS LOGGING R.R. (FLINT & PEREMARQUETTE) FROM MANISTEE. IT WAS ESTIMATED THAT FORTY MILLION FEET GREW IN THIS VICINITY. GROSVENOR & BREWER WERE THE FIRST TO BUILD A SMALL MILL, LATER SOLD TO BABCOCK BROS. & PHILLIPS. IN 1882 TROUBLE DEVELOPED OVER THE OWNERSHIP OF THE MILL. A. LEEBELT HELD A MORTGAGE ON THE MILL AND PINE LAND AND STARTED TO FORECLOSE. LATER STOPPED BY COURT PROCESS. THE WEST TROY LUMBER CO., WAS FORMED TO TAKE OVER THE PROPERTY AND THE NAME OF THE VILLAGE WAS CHANGED TO WEST TROY. THE NEW FIRM BUILT A LARGE MILL WITH TWO CIRCULAR SAWS HAVING A DAILY CUT OF 90,000 FEET. THE MILL EMPLOYED 150 MEN WITH ABOUT THE SAME NUMBER IN THE WOODS. THE NEW COMPANY DID NOT DO SO GOOD; SOLD OUT AT AUCTION THE NEXT YEAR, TO AN AGENT OF H.E. CARTIER & CO. OF LUDINGTON FOR CASH. THE PURCHASER WAS RECOGNIZED AS A ROUGH LOOKING PERSON WITH AN OLD SACHEL AND MUCH TO THE SURPRISE OF EVERY BODY OPENED THE OLD BAG AND COUNTED OUT PURCHASE MONEY. THE NEXT YEAR L.S. BAKER PURCHASED THE PROPERTY FOR \$100,000.

WEST TROY IN 1884 HAD 60 BUILDINGS AND 45 FAMILIES. IN 1886 THE MILL WAS TAKEN OVER BY ANDERSON & GRIFFIN. THE MILL BURNED DOWN THE SAME YEAR; THEN RE-BUILT AT ONCE.

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ALL THIS TIME THEY WERE PUTTING THOUSANDS OF LOGS IN BLUE LAKE BY RAILROAD. IN 1888 A. & G. BROUGHT SUIT AGAINST BAKER, ET AL, BECAUSE OF A LARGE SHORTAGE IN DELIVERY OF LOGS. THE SUIT WAS DECIDED IN 1892 IN FAVOR OF THE PLAINTIFFS. THIS IS THE LAST RECORD OF THE MILL.

TODAY ONE CAN SEE WHERE THE VILLAGE STREETS WERE CUT THROUGH THE WOODS. A FEW SLABS OF THE OLD DOCK ON BLUE LAKE CAN BE SEEN AND THE OLD RAILROAD GRADE IS STILL VISIBLE.

RIT 175.