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Morse & Co. was Bangor's outstanding example of the industrial commercial conglomerate typical of the late nineteenth century. "The great aim of the present day in business is concentration, you know", said Walter L. Morse in 1896. When the firm was liquidated in 1948, Bangor's <u>Daily Commercial</u> declared that "another era in the history of Bangor is ended. Once the greatest lumber port in the world, now the Queen City is a port without even a mill, let alone lumber".

In 1851, Llewellyn J Morse and Hiram P. Oliver leased the Drummond saw mill on Kenduskeag Stream which dated from 1814. Eight years later they purchased the mill from the Drummond heirs and Frank Hight joined the partnership. In 1858, the old grist mill was demolished, redesigned, and rebuilt for steam power. The partners purchased the McQuestion mill on the same stream in 1860. The firm was incorporated under their old name in 1889.

The company engaged in many diverse business activities. For many years it was the largest salt grinder in New England until their product was forced from the market by western salt. In 1885. their saw mill capacity was estimated to be 5-6,000,000 feet. In 1901, they produced between 40-50,000 daily. The firm handled 150,000 bushels of corn and 80,000 pounds of wool a year. They harvested ice until they met the competition of a larger ice conglomerate. Above all, Morse & Co. were known for their fine interior and Their carefully crafted materials were used in exterior finishes. Beacon Street town houses in Boston and summer residences in Bar Harbor. Locally, the company provided the materials for rebuilding large areas in Bangor after the disastrous \$3,000,000. fire of 1911.

For nearly one hundred years Morse & Co. was Bangor's largest firm and maintained her lumbering tradition. The company was a focus for local community pride. At the present, the city planners are considering the commemoration of Morse & Co.'s contribution to the city's history by the establishment of a 440 acre park along Kenduskeag Stream. "In time", the <u>Bangor Daily News</u> recently noted, "the planners envision the addition of an historical museum complex, including possibly acquiring and preserving one or two of the historic buildings of Morse's mill".

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBL	IOGRAPHICAL	REFEREI	NCES								
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