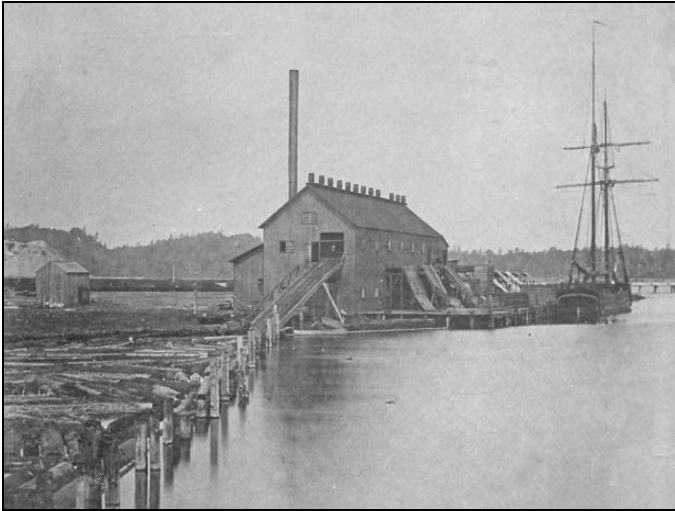


Treasure in Deep Water



Close grain

At the turn of the century, the forests that boarder Lake Superior was the scene of immense logging operations. White pine, hemlock, walnut, red oak, sugar maple, elm, birch and cherry were rafted on the lake for towing to mills in Duluth, Superior, Ashland and others. Over a two decade span, thousands of logs (as much as 20°) sank in the oxygen starved cold waters of Lake Superior. The logs that sank had bacteria that increased the moisture content making them heavy in the water. The chilly waters of Lake Superior stopped the bacteria and preserved the forgotten treasure. The enzyme changed the makeup of the wood increasing its tonal quality making it ideal for musical instruments.



[See the video](#)

Now divers are going after this virgin old growth lumber. Explorers International of Washburn Wisconsin is using floats, divers and barges to reclaim the forgotten wood. Once dried, the logs appear fresh cut. Since they are from old growth forests, the 3-4' diameter logs offer fine grain with few knots. These trees were saplings when Columbus discovered America. Their slow growth gives them perhaps a whole different look with more than 10 times the annular rings, 60 to the inch as opposed to the 4-6 of today's lumber.

