

The New Berlin Lumber Company

Summary: Charles A. Hawkins started a lumber company somewhere between 1885 and 1892 at 31 Green St in New Berlin. In ill health, he sold it to Richard G. Broas in 1923. Hawkins died in 1927. Broas sold it to the I. L. Richer Co in 1932. Richer's ran it as a lumber company until closing it in December, 1961.

Source: *New Berlin Gazette*, 06-09-1917, page 1

Headquarters for Lumber, Shingles, Windows, Building Paper, Ladders, Paint, Putty, Glass, Ruberoid Roofing, Storm King and Amatite Roofing and Handler of Farm Property. New Berlin Lumber Yard, C. A. Hawkins, Phone 68.

Headquarters for Lumber, Shingles, Windows, Building Paper, Ladders, Paint, Putty, Glass, Ruberoid Roofing, Storm King and Amatite Roofing and Handler of Farm Property. New Berlin Lumber Yards, C. A. Hawkins, Phone 68.

Source: *New Berlin Gazette*, 08-25-1923

New Berlin Lumber Co.

Announcing the purchase of the
"New Berlin Lumber Yard" from
C. A. Hawkins.

Let us help you with your build-
ing problems.

"SERVICE THAT SATISFIES"

Phone 94

NEW BERLIN LUMBER CO.

Source: *South New Berlin Bee*, 07-30-1927

Charles A. Hawkins

Following a period of about five years of ill health, Mr. Charles A. Hawkins, one of New Berlin's most respected business men and citizens, passed away at his home on Green street, Sunday, July 17, 1927, aged 74 years. The funeral was held at his late home Wednesday afternoon at 2 p. m., conducted by Rev. Joseph M. Coleman, with burial in Fairview cemetery.

Mr. Hawkins was born in Pittsfield, N. Y., on July. 12, 1853, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Ansel Hawkins. He obtained his education in New Berlin, attending the New Berlin Academy. Early in his career he chose the lumber business as his life's work and he established the New Berlin Lumber Company on Green street. This business he successfully conducted for thirty-eight years, until ill

health compelled him to sell out. Mr. Hawkins was strictly reliable and honest in all his business transactions and an upright and loyal citizen of our village. He was a member of the Methodist church and always an ardent supporter and worker in the church.

Mr. Hawkins married Mary E. Spafford who with three daughters, Mrs. Anna M. Brooks of Oneonta, Mrs. Helen R. Day of New Berlin and Mrs. May W. DeForest of Mount Upton, survive him, also a brother, Ralph M. Hawkins of Fulton and several grandchildren.—*New Berlin Gazette*.

Source: *South New Berlin Bee*, 09-15-1932

I. L. Richer Company Buys New Berlin Lumber Company

This week a transfer of the stock and real estate of the New Berlin Lumber company at New Berlin was made to the I. L. Richer Lumber Co., of that village. The latter company also purchased the stock of the New Berlin Lumber company in this village [Sidney], the New Berlin Lumber Company, however retains the Sidney real estate.—*Sidney Enterprise*.

Source: *New Berlin Gazette*, 09-22-1932, page 1

I. L. Richer Co. Buys Local Lumber Business

New Berlin Lumber Co., Taken Over By Local Concern—
Distribution of Lumber and Building Supplies To Be Made
Through Chain of Feed Stores

Announcement was made this week of the purchase of the New Berlin Lumber Company, Inc., by the I. L. Richer Company. The transaction just completed is the result of negotiations that have extended over some period of time and combines two of the oldest concerns in the Chenango and Unadilla valleys. The sale to the Richer Company includes the stock, machinery and real estate of the New Berlin Lumber Company. The consideration involved was not made public.

In announcing the addition of lumber and building supplies to their present business, the owners of the I. L. Richer Company, Charles H. Mitchell of this village and John I. Richer of Norwich, stated that distribution of the lumber and building supplies will be made from the central plant in New Berlin, which is to be maintained. Distribution will be made to the several plants of the Richer Company and delivery to the consumer will be maintained from each. The same policy of the Richer Company, the highest grade products, maintained in their feed business, will govern the new department also, officers of the company said.

The New Berlin Lumber Company was established 40 years ago by the late C. A. Hawkins. Nine years ago the business was purchased by a group of business men and has since been operated under the name of the New Berlin Lumber Company. The concern for many years has enjoyed a desired patronage that reached not only through Chenango county but into Delaware. Otsego and Madison

as well.

The I. L. Richer Company is one of the largest feed businesses in New York state, and since its establishment in 1870 has grown steadily until today plants are operated not only here but in South New Berlin, Norwich, South Edmeston, West Edmeston, Poolville, Hubbardsville and Richfield Springs.

While not enough time has been found yet for the complete assembling of the stock of lumber and building materials at all of their plants, the work is steadily progressing. In the meantime they invite inquiries, and price quotations will gladly be given. The consolidation of the lumber business with the feed business will result in a wider distribution of products from the old concern and on a more economical basis for the consumer.

Source: *New Berlin Gazette*, 10-12-1961, page 1

Richer Lumber Company To Close December 1

The I. L. Richer Company announced that they will close their retail lumber yard in New Berlin on December 1, 1961. Up until that time they will maintain a complete inventory and will give the same service as usual.

Mr. Louis Foote as manager until December. has accepted a position with Webb & Sons which he will assume about January 1, 1962.

Source: *Early Glimpses of New Berlin*, Vol 1, page 274

CHAS. A. HAWKINS

Lumber Yard—Charles A. Hawkins (father of Mrs. (Alvah) Helen Day and Mrs. (Linn) May DeForest) dealer in Pine lumber, lath, shingles, blinds, etc. (located same as the Richer Lumber Co on Green Street).

Source: *Early Glimpses of New Berlin*, Vol 3, page 298

THE NEW BERLIN LUMBER COMPANY

Richard G. Broas once operated the New Berlin Lumber Company. The lumber concern was early organized by Charles A. Hawkins (son of Ansel) on Green Street. It later became known as the New Berlin Lumber Company. Richard G. Broas took this lumber operation over and did a fine business for some years.

Dick, as a sideline, manned a well-known orchestra of his own. He often played with the Holmes Orchestra when they appeared publicly.

The I. L. Richer Company later purchased this lumberyard and expanded its coverage. They operated the same until its closing in 1962.

Source: *Early Glimpses of New Berlin*, Vol 3, page 432

Green #29.....Charles Hawkins lumberyard. He was of

the Hawkins family in Pecktown and taught school in his youth. Lumberyard later operated by Richard Broas, brother and the I. L. Richer Company.

Source: *Early Glimpses of New Berlin*, Vol 3, page 716

New Berlin Lumber Company, #31 Green

Source: *Early Glimpses of New Berlin*, Vol 3, page 844

THE CHARLES A. HAWKINS LUMBERYARD

Charles A. Hawkins came to New Berlin from Pittsfield after spending some years teaching school, and set up a lumber supply business at #31 Green Street. He built the present Ernest Buck lumber building and for years pursued a very successful business program.

At his death, Richard Broas continued the same business successfully for a few years. The Richer Company took over the business and continued with some expansion for a period of years. This ended the use of these buildings in the merchandising of lumber supplies. Ernest Buck came here some years ago and set up a sign-making program. He is to date continuing in this type of manufacture.

(Other references to Charles Hawkins in Vol 3 on pages 721 and 833 of Vol 3 do not add any new information).

Compiled by Tom DeForest, 12-28-2021.