

# J.F. Parkhurst & Son Trunk and Bag Co.

J.F. Parkhurst & Son Trunk and Bag Company, established in 1866, was located in 12 buildings at 203 Main St on the corners of Main, Rowe (which no longer exists) and Barker streets. The building was 175'x45' and 5 stories high with an elevator to transport goods from floor to floor. By 1910, it was Bangor's biggest employer with 175-200 employees.

J.F. Parkhurst & Son manufactured trunks, bags, valises (suitcases) as well as blankets and a full line of carriage and sleigh trimmings. The trunks included flat top, curved top, barrel top, low steamer trunks, and bureau trunks (trunks that have drawers inside, often used for theatrical groups).



*P&S was the trademark for the J.F. Parkhurst & Son Trunk and Bag Co. of Bangor, Maine*

*Each of their trunks displayed this unique yellow lithograph on the inside.*



*A Parkhurst & Son Trunk of Bangor, Maine  
(From an attic in the West Side Village!)*

## *Did you know...*

*It is believed that the curved or barrel tops of trunks were made for those who wanted to try to have their trunk packed on the top of baggage cars, so they would not be damaged!*

Trunks were covered with a variety of materials; some covered with canvas, Spanish leather, metal, and fibre. Some trunks were trimmed in brass, some iron bound or fibre bound. Some were with straps and some without. Parkhurst & Son Co. carried the largest and finest stock of saddlery hardware in New England. Their "horse jewelry" was varied and considered to be the richest and best quality. They were one of the

premier trunk manufacturers producing 30,000-40,000 trunks annually. There were 50 styles to choose from each with 3-4 different sizes. Their motto: "Trunks That Wear Everywhere" was appropriate as their trunks were used all over the country.



*J.F. Parkhurst & Son  
Linen Trunk  
c. 1890*