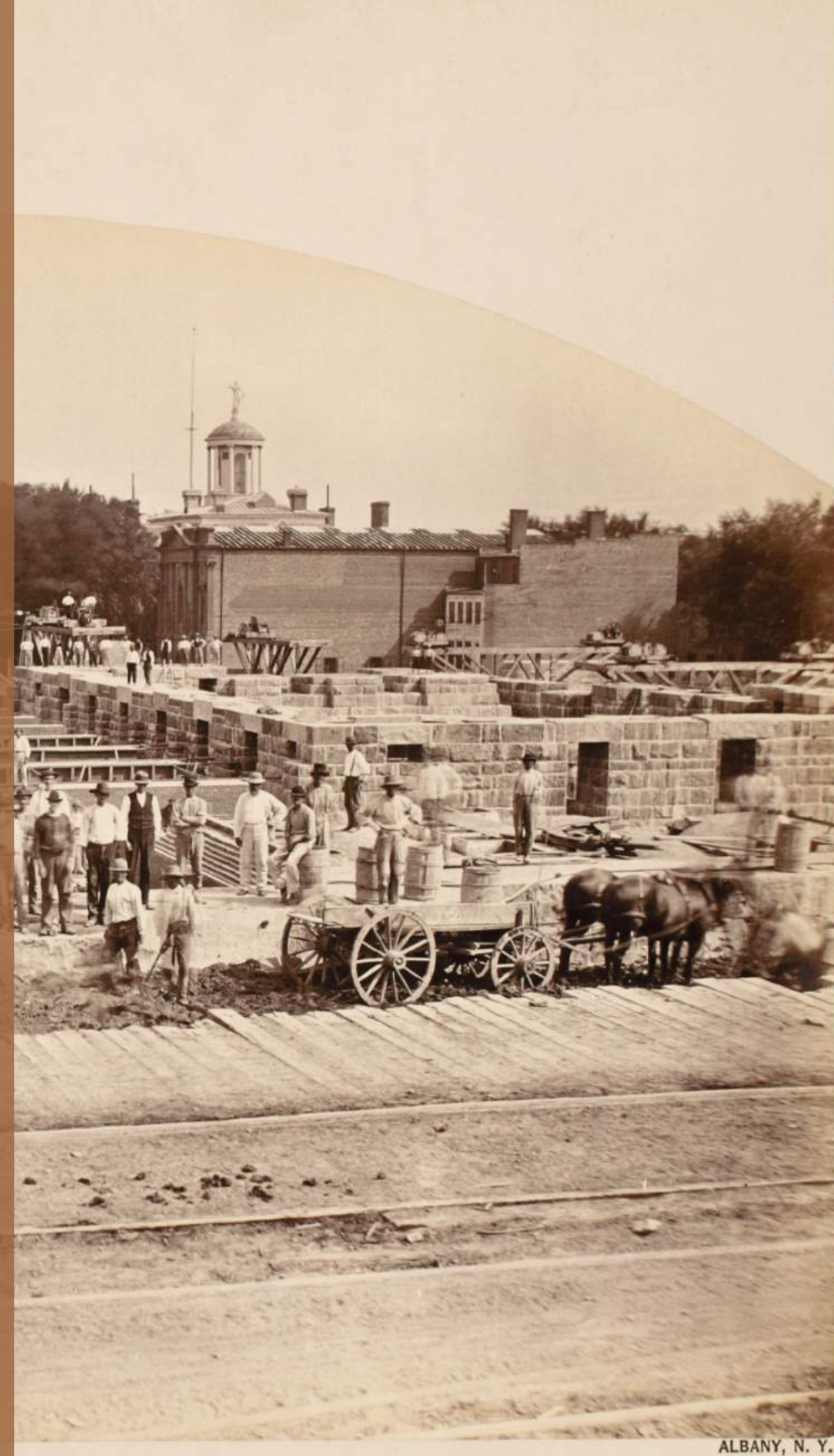


New York State Capital



CONDITION OF THE WORK ON THE NEW CAPITOL, AT ALBANY, N. Y.
PHOTOGRAPH No. 25 310 1/2 in. Aug 2^d 1870

Image: **Condition of the Work of the New Capitol, at Albany, N. Y.**
Photograph by Eugene S. M. Haines, Albany, New York 1870, albumen photographic print on card, Albany Institute of History & Art Library



ALBANY, N. Y.



Object: **Keepsake Box Made from Wood of the Old Capitol**
made by Thomas McEneny c. 1883, wood and metal,
courtesy of Terry and Jack McEneny

The Capital Region in 50 Objects

New York State Capitol

Construction of the new New York State Capitol started in 1867. The cornerstone was laid in 1871, but the building was only partially occupied by 1879. Economic challenges through the 1870s plagued the project with work stoppages and budget reductions. In 1899, when it was declared finished, overruns had raised the cost from its original estimate of \$4 million to a spectacular \$25 million, reputed to be the most expensive building in America. The massive 'Chateau on the Hill' with its elaborate designs, remains an architectural marvel. In 1883, the remaining occupants of the old State Capitol were moved out and, after seventy-four years, the building was demolished. It had stood in what is now East Capitol Park.

Thomas McEneny, an Irish-born brick and stonemason, living in Albany's Arbor Hill neighborhood, worked on the new capitol, shown in the foreground of this photograph, taken in August 1870. He constructed this keepsake box from wood salvaged from the demolition of the old capitol. The old capitol is captured in the background of the photograph with the domed cupola and statue of Themis, the representation of justice, on top. To workers like McEneny, who was raising nine children during the uncertainties of the nineteenth-century boom and bust economy, work was a blessing. Ironically, the box returned to Capitol Hill where it sat prominently on the office desk of John J. McEneny, who served as a New York State Assembly member from 1993-2012.

Vocabulary

Background – the area of a view behind the main subject

Capitol – a building where state government representatives meet

Cornerstone – a stone that forms the base of a building

Elaborate – containing many different and carefully arranged parts or details

Foreground – the part of a view that is closest to the viewer

Keepsake – a small item kept to remember something

Plagued – continually caused trouble or distress

Prominently – standing out or noticeably displayed

Salvaged – something rescued or saved

New York State Capitol

Name _____ Date _____

Directions

Use the depiction of the object, image, and corresponding text to answer the following questions.

1. Name of the object: _____

2. When was the object made? _____

3. What is the object made of? _____

4. Who made the object? _____

5. Name of the image: _____

6. When was the image made? _____

7. What does the image show? _____

8. Who are the people shown in the photographic print of the new capitol?

9. What building appears in the background of the new capitol?

10. Identify two ways in which the object relates/connects to the image:

a. _____ b. _____

11. How many years did it take to build the new capitol? _____