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HISTORY
OF
GREENFIELD
SHIRE TOWN
OF
FRANKLIN COUNTY
MASSACHUSETTS

BY
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VOL. II

The puir man that has patience to mak' a bulk, has some claim
to the patience o' him wha only reads it.—ELIOT WARBURTON.

GREENFIELD MASS

1904

The hospital took possession of what proved to be its permanent home January 1, 1898. At a meeting held at its new quarters, January 7, Hon. L. J. Gunn, president, announced that Judge Charles Allen of Boston had presented the association with the sum of ten thousand dollars, and after properly acknowledging Mr. Allen's generosity, it was voted to apply the gift to the purchase of the property of Mr. Couillard. Miss Nedwell resigned March 1, 1899, and was succeeded by Mrs. M. H. Laurence as superintendent, which office she held until July 13, 1901. At that time Miss Anna Sweeney began her duties as superintendent. The hospital has rapidly advanced in the estimation of the public of late years, and the people are united in its support to a greater degree than ever before. Unlike many small hospitals, it has been able to pay its running expenses, and is doing a blessed work for suffering humanity.

By the terms of the will of the late Mrs. Maria L. Hosmer, of Brooklyn, N. Y., a daughter of the late Dr. Daniel Hovey, of Greenfield, the hospital at the decease of Mrs. George H. Hovey will receive a legacy of ten thousand dollars, and a share of the rest and residue of the estate. Mrs. Hosmer upon the same conditions, also gave the Greenfield Library Association and the Green River Cemetery five thousand dollars each.

By this generous gift the managers of the hospital feel that the opportunities for the future usefulness of the institution will be much increased.

The principal officers of the hospital for 1903 are Levi J. Gunn, Pres.; Franklin R. Allen, Vice Pres.; Frank J. Lawler, Treas.; Eliza B. Leonard, Sec.; Anna Sweeney, Supt.

GREENFIELD WATER WORKS

"The first water works in Greenfield were established by an act of the General Court, passed June 17, 1796. There were thirty shares of the par value of \$100 each. By that

act 'Daniel Wells, Eliel Gilbert, Jonathan Leavitt, Abner Smead and William Coleman, all of Greenfield, in the county of Hampshire, such other persons as may be associated with them,' and their successors were 'constituted a corporation by the name of The Proprietors of the Aqueduct in Greenfield for the purpose of conveying water by subterraneous pipes into the town street in Greenfield.' This corporation controlled and brought water to the street from several springs, the principal of which were on the Hastings farm, now owned, we believe, by W. P. Maynard, east of the Bernardston road, and on the Clapp farm (now Highland Park). It supplied for many years a large number of houses, and its business was so profitable that its shares sold for double their par value and were sought for as a first-class investment at that price. The water was at first brought in wooden logs of three inch bore. As these decayed, cement pipes were to some extent substituted. The terms were ten dollars per annum for a leak not exceeding three gills per minute. The village depended mainly on this aqueduct for water till 1869. A fire district was formed December, 1849, consisting of the territory included in School District No. 1, and \$1,500 was raised by assessment for the support of the Fire Department. Whiting Griswold, Franklin Ripley, Henry B. Clapp, D. W. Alvord and Isaac Miles were the committee of organization. In the drouth of that year it failed to meet adequately the demand, and the attention of the people of the village was directed to other sources and means of supply. The first suggestion was to form a private corporation and steps were taken for that purpose. Surveys were made by Alfred R. Field and different sources were considered. It was finally decided that the 'Glen brook,' so-called, would furnish the best supply. It was also concluded to give the enterprise a public character by placing the same in the hands of the fire district if it would assume the work. A meeting was held on the 27th day of August, 1869, to see what action the

district would take. W. S. B. Hopkins was moderator of the meeting. On motion of Charles H. Munn it was, after statements by Hon. Wm. B. Washburn and others, voted 'that the fire district assume the work of bringing water from the Glen brook, so-called, into the village.' It was then moved and voted 'that a committee of five be appointed by the chair to nominate a committee of seven members to be called the "Construction committee," whose duty it shall be to take the whole charge of the work of bringing water into the district, to make all contracts for pipe and for laying the same, to settle all claims for damages and to attend to all business connected with the construction and completion of the work; that said committee be instructed to commence work at once and press it to completion as soon as practicable.' The committee appointed under the foregoing vote consisted of Wm. B. Washburn, Robert Wiley, William Keith, Alfred R. Field and Charles H. Munn. On motion of Mr. Washburn, the said committee was instructed to apply to the Legislature at the next session for an act authorizing the district to borrow money, issue bonds, etc., for the purpose of defraying the expenses attending the construction of the works. In pursuance of the application of the committee a bill prepared by S. O. Lamb and Alfred R. Field, having passed the Legislature, was approved by the governor, May 6, 1870. The act was accepted by the unanimous vote of the district, May 17, 1870, and by the town of Greenfield by a vote of 71 yeas to 31 nays, May 28, 1870. Alfred R. Field, who made all the surveys and plans for the work, died in June, 1870, and the vacancy in the construction committee caused thereby was filled August 10, 1870, by the election of S. O. Lamb. The dam at the head of the Glen, a solid structure of stone laid in cement, thirty-five feet high and about 130 feet in length, was built by George Merrill of Shelburne Falls, the ditch for the pipe was dug by P. P. Severance of Greenfield and the pipe was laid by S. L. Wiley.

C. H. Munn superintended the digging and filling of the ditch. The work was pushed rapidly and the water introduced into the village in the early fall. It was first used at a fire, and with good effect, on the 16th of October, 1870, at a small house that stood on the eastly side of Hope street, on land then owned by Mrs. Pratt, next north of the jail property now owned by Emil Weissbrod.

“The completion of the works was celebrated on the 20th of October, 1870, by a fireman's muster. After the regular proceedings of the day, to show our guests the efficiency of our new water works, hose were attached to a hydrant and a clear, compact stream without a break was thrown perpendicularly far up into the air, then upon and over the neighboring block and horizontally along the street. The latter distance was paced off by a stranger, who made it over one hundred and thirty-five feet.

“The distance from the Glen to the street is four and three-quarters miles. The pipe originally laid was eight inches in diameter for about two miles from the dam and six inches the rest of the way. The cost of the works, including land damages, was about \$70,000. They supplied the village with water till 1885, when, to meet the increased demand, an additional fourteen inch pipe was laid from the Glen to Main street, and a twelve inch pipe through Main street at a cost of about \$60,000. Soon after the completion of this addition the efficiency of the works was tested as follows: six one and one-eighth inch streams, two one inch streams, one one and three-eighths inch stream and one seven-eighths inch stream, ten streams in all, throwing horizontally distances varying from 102 to 137 feet, all at one and the same time. The whole length of pipe in use in 1892 was twenty-seven and three-fourths miles. The income that year (at the lowest rates in the United States) was about fourteen thousand dollars a year.

“In addition to the Glen brook, the district, by virtue of an

act of the Legislature of 1883, has taken Fisk Brook in Shelburne with the right to convey the water from the same to the street, but has had no occasion as yet to use it." *

In 1892 the limits of the fire district were extended so as to include Silver street, and in 1894 the district voted to lay a main on Conway and Silver streets, which brought the water to Nash's mills. A committee was also appointed to report upon the expediency of a larger storage of water. This committee reported that four plans had been considered.

1. Pumping from Green river,	estimated cost,	\$7,880
2. Pumping from the Allen brook,	" "	14,100
3. Green river by gravity,	" "	50,000
4. Raising Glen dam 14 feet,	" "	14,550

Another committee was appointed with directions to report to the district before March 15, 1895. The report recommended establishing a pumping station upon the town farm at Green river. Five thousand five hundred dollars was raised for carrying out the recommendations of the committee. The Gamewell fire alarm system was also adopted by the Fire District, and \$2,500 raised for that purpose.

In 1896 the water system was extended to Music Hill in the Nash's mills district.

In 1902 the water rates were materially reduced, and in 1903 the income from the water rentals was sufficient to pay all the expenses of the water and fire departments, so that no fire district tax was necessary.

THE GREENFIELD GAS LIGHT COMPANY

The Greenfield Gas Light Company was incorporated by an act of the General Court, approved March 31, 1854, by

* From the Centennial Gazette.