

**MUNICIPAL HISTORY**  
**OF**  
**ESSEX COUNTY**  
**IN**  
**MASSACHUSETTS**

**TERCENTENARY EDITION**

**A classified work, devoted to the County's remarkable  
growth in all lines of human endeavor;  
more especially to within a  
period of fifty years**

**BENJ. F. ARRINGTON**  
Editor-in-Chief

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Under the second charter—25. 1909-1914, Edwin H. Moulton; 26. 1915-1916, Albert L. Bartlett; 27. 1917-1918, Leslie K. Morse; 28. 1919-1920, Charles H. Croy; 29. 1921—, Parkman M. Flanders.

Haverhill was one of the first towns in Massachusetts to establish a water-works system, being preceded only by Boston, 1652; Salem, 1795; and Worcester, 1798. The situation of the town, built mainly on lands lying closely by, or rising slightly from the banks of the Merrimack, with several large lakes lying not far distant and on higher locations, presented a condition distinctly advantageous for the establishing of an aqueduct system. The pond lying by Mill street and known successively as Ayer's Pond, Mill Pond, Plug Pond, and now as Lake Saltonstall, has an elevation of 122 feet and covers 70 acres. At the southern outlet of this pond a plug dam was built in early years, from which the name that the pond long bore was derived. North of this and for many years tributary to it lies Round Pond, with an elevation of 152 feet and containing 80 acres. A hundred rods east of this lies the beautiful sheet of water long known as Great Pond, but christened in 1859 as Kenoza Lake, a name selected by the poet Whittier, who wrote for the occasion the poem, "Kenoza."

"Lake of the pickerel! let no more  
The echoes answer back 'Great Pond,'  
But sweet Kenoza, from thy shore  
And watching hills beyond.

"Kenoza! o'er no sweeter lake  
Shall morning break or noon cloud sail;  
No fairer form than thine shall take  
The sunset's golden veil."

This lake has an elevation of 152 feet, and covers 225 acres. In the western part of the city, and three miles from its centre, is Crystal Lake, formerly designated as Merrie's Pond, Merrie's Creek Pond, and Creek Pond, covering 159 acres and with an elevation of 152 feet.

In January, 1798, Timothy Osgood and others petitioned the Legislature to be allowed incorporation under the name of the Haverhill Aqueduct Company, for the purpose of "taking the water at & from the round pond, so called, in Haverhill & conveying it through the several streets of said Haverhill for the use & convenience of themselves and others who may be desirous of being concerned therein & for their greater use and convenience." Although there was opposition, the petition was granted. The matter was held in abeyance, however, until 1802, when the sentiment of the town was strongly in favor of the aqueduct. The company was organized, October 11, 1802, in Harrod's Tavern, which stood on the site of the present City Hall. Land rights were secured by payment of damages and an agreement that the grantors of the land should have the privilege "of taking water at all times out of said aqueduct sufficient to water their cattle." The first pipes were of green logs, bored through with a two-inch auger. After the water had

been let on, the pressure was so great that the log pipes burst. This difficulty was solved by making a break in the pipe line and permitting the water to run into a reservoir, whence another pipe line ran out. This reservoir was placed nearly opposite the Unitarian church on Main street. In the early years the aqueduct was facetiously called the "River Jordan," because an old man named Jordan bored the logs, put them down, placed the faucets, thawed the stream when it was frozen, made out the bills, and collected the money. His home and place of business was at the corner of Main and Pond (now Kenoza avenue) streets. In 1848, when the lines of the aqueduct were greatly extended, the log pipes were replaced by iron pipes. In 1867 it became apparent that the water supply from Round Pond was insufficient to supply the rapidly-growing town, and the company was authorized to use the waters of Plug Pond and Kenoza Lake. Connection was made immediately with Plug Pond, and in 1871, with Kenoza.

About 1870 a company called the Silver Hill Aqueduct Company was formed to supply the residents of the district called Mount Washington with water. A brick well was constructed close by the Merrimack river and from this, by a windmill, the water was forced to a reservoir on land 160 feet higher, whence it was conducted by pipes to the residences supplied. The rights and property of this company were sold in 1879 to the Haverhill Aqueduct Company. In the same year the latter company erected a standpipe on Kenoza avenue, and began to supplement the gravity system, hitherto used, by a high-service system. After the great fire of February 18, 1882, high-service pipes were laid for fire protection. In 1882 the company acquired the mill sites on the stream flowing from Crystal Lake, and in 1884 the Legislature granted the right to use the water of this lake. The company immediately laid a 16-inch cement pipe from the lake to the city.

In 1884 there was an agitation for the acquirement of the aqueduct plant by the city, and hearings were held by a committee of the city government, but no definite action towards this result was taken until 1890. In that year a committee of investigation was appointed, and in the following year the formal order of taking was passed by both branches of the city government, and this order was approved by the mayor, June 10, 1891. A commission of three was appointed by the Supreme Judicial Court to determine the price to be paid. The company made a claim for \$3,000,000, but the commission fixed the price to be paid as \$637,500, with interest from July 6, 1891, the city to pay the fees of the commissioners, amounting to \$7,655. The total cost to the city of the hearings, including experts and counsel fees, was \$22,000. The water commissioners early acquired 623 acres of land, around its storage basin and Lake Kenoza, at a cost of \$157,432, a portion of which is under the control of the Park Commission, forming beautiful Winnekenni Park. In 1894-5 the Millvale storage basin was constructed by damming East Meadow river. This has a capacity of 118,000,000 gallons, and the water from this is pumped through a 24-inch pipe into Kenoza Lake, a distance of one mile. In 1897, when the town of Bradford became a part of the municipality of Haverhill, the water commission took in charge the water system of that place. The source of this supply is Johnson's Pond, having an area of 22 acres. From this the water is pumped into a reservoir of 1,000,000 gallons capacity, and is conveyed by high pressure service.

The board of water commissioners consists of five members, each

-serving for five years, elected by the municipal council, and having full charge of all matters connected with the department. The chairman alone is paid, the other members serving gratuitously; the administration of the board has been since its first formation of high character and excellent ability.

The response of Haverhill to patriotic calls has ever been immediate and full, and in the Spanish War, the Mexican Border War, and the World War her sons have freely offered themselves to their country. On February 15, 1898, the United States Battleship Maine was destroyed in the harbor of Havana, Cuba, by a submarine mine, as the investigating committee officially declared. The relations between the United States and Spain grew more and more tense until they were severed on April 21. On that day the Senate passed a bill for a volunteer army of 100,000 men, and the North Atlantic Squadron sailed to blockade the harbor of Havana. The President's call for volunteers was issued April 23, and on April 25 President McKinley made official declaration that a state of war with Spain had existed since April 21.

As soon as war seemed imminent, measures were taken to fill to its full complement the local company, Company F of the 8th Massachusetts Volunteer Militia. The officers of this company were Captain, Will C. Dow; 1st Lieutenant, O. W. Svanberg (of Amesbury); 2nd Lieutenant, David E. Jewell; 1st Sergeant, David F. Whittier. There was a rumor that the company was to be called on Tuesday, April 26, and the city was full of excitement on that morning, but it was not until May 4 that the order to move was received. On May 5 the departure of the company occurred. The address of farewell was given by the mayor, Daniel S. Chase, at the foot of the Common, where in years long past, the Revolutionary minute men and the Civil War volunteers had been given their God-speed, and with an escort of police and of the veterans of the G. A. R. and other organizations, a procession was made through streets to the railway station. The company went into camp at Camp Dewey in Framingham, and thence they went to Camp Thomas at Chickamauga, and later to Cuba.

In the War of the Mexican Border the same procedure was practically repeated. The call of twelve strokes on the fire bells, repeated three times, on the morning of June 19, 1916, summoned Company F, 8th Regiment, M. V. M., to assemble at the armory on Kenoza avenue, to prepare to entrain for the South Framingham camp, there to await orders to proceed to the border. The officers were Captain, Charles H. Morse; Lieutenant, John D. Hardy; 1st Sergeant, George A. Colloton.

A year later the entrance of the United States into the World War made strong and serious demands upon the young life and all of the energies and resources of Haverhill, as it did of all other patriotic communities. On the morning of July 27, 1917, Battery A, Second Massachusetts Field Artillery, which had been recruited in Haverhill, left for the Boxford training camp under these officers: Captain Charles H. Morse, Lieutenants Benjamin P. Harwood and William H. Root; 2nd Lieutenants George W. Langdon and Percy L. Wendell; 1st Sergeant Albert L. Houle; while, a short time later, Company F, commanded by Captain John D. Hardy; 1st Lieutenant George A. Colloton; 2nd Lieutenant John B. Peaslee; 1st Sergeant Harry C. Davis (of Merrimac), and numbering 150 men, was taken by autos to the camp at Lynnfield.

No attempt can be made in this limited article to give the history of the participation of Haverhill in the World War, nor to name those who