

Biography of Middletown

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NEW RESERVOIR.

Newly incorporated, the city of Middletown faced a water shortage. Monhagen Reservoir had been built years before, and now proved inadequate. The first water mains, it might be mentioned here, were of concrete, and proved neither durable nor satisfactory. They often nor satisfactory. They often broke. In 1872, then, when iron pipe mains unsatisfactory, the Water Board tried out pine wood piping, of eight-inch bore. Of this piping 1000 feet were laid on Hanford street, 507 feet on East Main street, and 770 feet on Cottage street. The Hanford street main outlived the other.

In 1872 was made the first attempt to enlarge the water system. A wooden pipe line extended to the little Shawangunk Kill, and a pumping station installed. During freshets water was pumped into Monhagen Lake. Some \$60,000 was spent on the system.

In 1874, however, operations were stopped by an injunction obtained by James Norbury, one of the owners of land along the

stream. It was charged that damage was caused by the loss of water. The village got along as best it could, until during a water famine in 1879, it was necessary, for fire protection, to shut the water mains to private consumers. The matter was then carried to court in 1881-2, the village winning its right. The pumping plant, however, was not again used.

In the fall of 1889 the city voted \$75,000 bonds for enlarging the water system, the Common Council authorizing the issue to the Water Board the following April. The Water Board selected a point on the Kill in the town of Mount Hope, and had land condemned by a commission: Chairman Henry Bacon, Henry Clausen and Charles T. Knight. Here was built Highland Lake, large storage plant, 8200 feet from and seventy-feet above Monhagen Lake. By an ordinary gravity system water was piped to Monhagen Lake.

In 1891 a new iron pipe line was built from Monhagen Lake to the city, to replace the old concrete mains. The new reservoir had been first put to use in October, 1890..