

HISTORY
— OF —
RENSSELAER CO.,
NEW YORK.

With Illustrations and Biographical Sketches

OF

ITS PROMINENT MEN AND PIONEERS.

BY

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"History of Saratoga County, New York," etc.

NEW YORK

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EVERTS & PECK.

1880.

L. K.

Hearst, William Gurley, William Madden, Ebenezer Warner, Moses C. Green, Hugh Ranken; William G. Crissey, Clerk.

1871.—Hon. Thomas B. Carroll, Mayor; William Gurley, William Madden, Ebenezer Warner, Moses C. Green, Hugh Ranken, Albert L. Hotchkim; William G. Crissey, Clerk.

1872.—Hon. Thomas B. Carroll, Mayor; William Madden, Ebenezer Warner, Moses C. Green, R. B. Ranken, Albert L. Hotchkim, R. F. Hall; William G. Crissey, Clerk.

March, 1873.—Hon. William Kemp, Mayor; Ebenezer Warner, Edward F. Murray, R. B. Ranken, Albert L. Hotchkim, R. F. Hall, William Madden; William G. Crissey, Clerk.

March, 1874.—Hon. William Kemp, Mayor; Edward F. Murray, R. B. Ranken, Albert L. Hotchkim, R. F. Hall, William Madden, Edward Murphy, Jr.; William G. Crissey, Clerk.

March, 1875.—Hon. Edward Murphy, Jr., Mayor; Robert B. Ranken, Albert L. Hotchkim, Richard F. Hall, William Madden, Rodney W. Hickey, Samuel O. Gleason; Charles W. Peeble, Clerk.

March, 1876.—Hon. Edward Murphy, Jr., Mayor; Albert L. Hotchkim, Richard F. Hall, William Madden, Rodney Hickey, Samuel O. Gleason, Robert B. Ranken; Charles W. Peeble, Clerk.

March, 1877.—Hon. Edward Murphy, Jr., Mayor; Richard F. Hall, William Madden, Rodney Hickey, Samuel O. Gleason, Robert B. Ranken; Edmund Stanton, Clerk.

1878, Hon. Edward Murphy, Jr., Mayor; William Madden, John Reardon, Joseph C. Blair, Robert B. Ranken, Edmund Stanton; Richard F. Hall, Clerk.

The present organization of the fire department (October, 1879) consists of the following officers and companies:

COMMISSIONERS.

Hon. Edward Murphy, Jr., Mayor, *ex officio*; John Reardon, term expires in 1879; Dennis O'Loughlin, term expires in 1880; Robert B. Ranken, term expires in 1881; Edmund Stanton, term expires in 1882; Richard F. Hall, term expires in 1883; William A. Simmons, term expires in 1884.

Clerk of the Board, Charles W. Peeble; Chief Engineer, James H. Ingram; First Assistant, Charles F. Green; Second Assistant, J. Lansing Lane.

ENGINES.

No. 1.—Arba Read Steam Fire Company, Third, corner of State. Melville S. Marble, Captain; Herbert M. Caswell, Assistant; Frank W. Mockio, Secretary; George T. Steenberg, Webster Wotkyns, Trustees.

No. 2.—Hugh Rankin Steam Fire Company, 26 Federal. Patrick J. Fitzgerald, Captain; Andrew J. Forest, Assistant; David G. Barrett, Secretary; Edward J. McKenna, Thomas J. Guy, Trustees.

No. 3.—Jason C. Osgood Steam Fire Company, Adams, north of Second. Adelbert T. Burdick, Captain; Patrick

Byron, Assistant; John E. Donohue, Secretary; Dennis Russell, Frank H. McCarty, Trustees.

No. 4.—Charles Eddy Steam Fire Company, 682 River. Robert Seitz, Captain; Joseph Green, Assistant; Dennis J. Cummings, Secretary; Frank Hydorn, Abram Lansing, Trustees.

No. 5.—Franklin W. Farnham Steam Fire Company, Ida Hill. William M. Peckham, Captain; John W. Blockwood, Assistant; Richard A. Hecker, Secretary; John T. Gormly, Bernard Cusack, Trustees.

No. 6.—Edmund Stanton Steam Fire Company, Iron-Works. Thomas Keating, Captain; James Duffy, First Assistant; John Daley, Second Assistant; John J. Barron, Secretary; William Latham, James Donnelly, Trustees.

Washington Volunteer Steam Fire Company, Third, corner of Division. Elias P. Mann, Captain; Lawrence Bastable, First Assistant; William D. Martin, Second Assistant; Horace L. Hicks, Secretary; Daniel W. Bastable, Charles D. Watson, Trustees.

No. 6.—Hope Engine Company, Albia. Abram H. Miller, Captain; Joseph Perigo, Assistant; Joseph Himes, Jr., Secretary; John Broderick, Edward Vandenberg, Trustees.

No. 3.—Trojan Hook-and-Ladder Company, Franklin Square. O. S. Ingram, Captain; H. C. Salisbury, Assistant; W. G. Clark, Secretary; J. A. McDonald, R. H. Van Alstyne, Trustees.

The board of trustees as given above, two from each company, are organized with Dennis Russell, President; Bernard Cusack, Vice-President; John A. Macdonald, Treasurer; C. D. Watson, Secretary.

The officers of the *Exempt Firemen's Association* are J. P. Groat, President; John Toy and Wm. Lemon, Vice-Presidents; Thomas J. Jennings, Secretary; Samuel Lawrence, Marshal; Joel B. Thompson, Treasurer.

The *Troy Fire Alarm Telegraph* is under the superintendence of Andrew Collins, whose office is at the Arba Read steamer house, corner of State and Third Streets. There are forty-seven signal-boxes in the city, and five on Green Island.

The fire department is in excellent condition; the steamers and all the apparatus are of the latest improved make, and are manned by an efficient body of officers and men. It seems utterly impossible for any great and prolonged fire to occur at the present time. So nearly perfect is the apparatus, so instantaneous the alarm, and so prompt the arrival of the steamers at the exposed point, that a fire can scarcely be expected to extend beyond the building where it originates.

VIII.—WATER SUPPLY.

THE EARTHEN CONDUIT COMPANY OF TROY.

The first system for supplying Troy with water was one devised by a number of the leading citizens of the village, and was known by the name of the Aqueduct Water-Works. From a spring half-way up the western declivity of Mount Ida, east of Liberty Street, water was conducted in wooden pipes to different parts of the village. By a resolution of the board of trustees, passed July 1, 1806, "the ordinance for the preservation of the aqueducts in the

village, and to preserve the unnecessary waste of water brought therein for the use of the inhabitants," was made a law. It is likely that the insufficiency of water provided by these means induced certain of the inhabitants to petition the State Legislature for "An act to incorporate the proprietors of the Earthen Conduit Company of Troy." A bill was passed June 16, 1812, by which it was enacted "that Abraham Ten Eyek, Derick Lane, Daniel Merritt, and their associates," were constituted a corporate body, by the name of "The Trustees of the Earthen Conduit Company of Troy," which body was to exist for a term of thirty years. The stock was to consist of one hundred shares of one hundred dollars each. The management of the concerns of the company was to be intrusted to five trustees, who were to be stockholders and inhabitants of the village, elected annually. Abraham Ten Eyek was appointed the first president of the company, and Abraham Ten Eyek, Derick Lane, Platt Titus, Nathan Warren, and Daniel Merritt the first trustees. For some unassigned reason, in December of this year the Aqueduct Water-Works were advertised for sale.

THE TROY WATER WORKS COMPANY.

On the 18th of April, 1829, the act incorporating the Troy Water-Works was passed by the State Legislature. By this enactment, Stephen Warren, Le Grand Cannon, Philander Wells, and their associates were permitted to take possession of and use the whole or any part of any fountain, spring, or stream of water that might be found capable of affording a supply of water to the citizens of Troy, and might erect in or on their margins all such buildings and construct all such machinery or apparatus as might be necessary to insure a constant and perpetual supply of water to the city of Troy, and might use, in any manner and for any purpose, all the surplus water obtained from the said reservoirs, springs, or streams, after supplying the wants of the city; these, however, were not to be taken possession of until the individuals interested in the same should be satisfactorily remunerated. The capital stock of the company was not to exceed two hundred and fifty thousand dollars, and a share in the same, fifty dollars. Eleven directors had the control of the affairs of the company.

As the water-works projected by this company was a private enterprise, the Common Council of the city took action in a more public way to supply the inhabitants with good water. On April 22, 1830, a resolution was passed that the mayor, the Hon. George Tibbits, Aldermen McCann, Ross, and Assistant Alderman Dauchy should be a committee for the purpose of exploring for a suitable supply of good water, and to cause the necessary surveys to be made, to devise a plan, and to make an estimate of the expense of bringing water into the city, and to report the same to the board. The committee proceeded at once to make the personal examinations directed by the resolution, and William Roberts, the city engineer, made surveys of the land adjacent the springs on the farm of Benjamin Gorton in Brunswick, and of the Piscawen Kill. It was estimated that the expenses of bringing water from the Gorton Springs would amount to sixty thousand dollars, and from the Piscawen Kill, eighty thousand dollars.

In the following year, on the 17th of May, another committee was empowered to treat with the Troy Water-Works Company for furnishing the city with water for the extinguishing of fires, watering streets, etc., and also to ascertain whether or not the said Water-Works Company would consent to transfer the power granted to them by charter to the city of Troy, provided the necessary act of the Legislature could be obtained. After considerable discussion of the propositions made it by the committee, the company, on the 3d of December, 1831, agreed to relinquish its charter from considerations of general benefit to the city. The conditions were that the company should be reimbursed by the city the actual amount of their expenditures, which was one hundred and seventy-four dollars and thirty-four cents.

Application was then made to the Legislature for a law authorizing the surrender of the charter of the company, and granting power to the city to continue the work partly begun by the former body. The act was passed March 20, 1832.

Previous to the passage of this act, the Common Council had canvassed the four wards of the city to ascertain the wishes of the people regarding the propriety of supplying the city with water by erecting the necessary works. There were found six hundred and thirty-seven persons favoring the plan and eight opposing, and one hundred and seventy-eight who agreed to take water so obtained.

On the 22d of March, 1833, surveys for the construction of a reservoir on the Piscawen Kill were commenced, and four days thereafter the committee issued proposals for excavating the basin and reservoir. A contract was also made with Samuel Richards, of Philadelphia, Pa., for iron pipe and castings needed for the water-works.

RESERVOIRS CONSTRUCTED.

The open reservoir constructed in 1833 was reported by the water-works committee on the 2d of January, 1834, as having a capacity of four hundred and forty-eight thousand eight hundred and thirty-three gallons, being one hundred and sixteen feet long by an average, sixty-seven feet broad, and eight feet three inches deep. From this one the water passed to a second open reservoir, fifty-one feet long by forty-one feet broad on an average, and eight feet three inches deep, having a capacity of one hundred and fifteen thousand three hundred and twelve gallons. The water was then conducted to a third but covered reservoir, three hundred and four feet long by eighteen feet four inches broad, and eight feet three inches deep, holding three hundred and twenty-one thousand eight hundred and thirty-nine gallons of water, making the aggregate contents of the reservoirs, and a portion of the creek across which a dam had been built, one million nine hundred thousand three hundred and fifty-nine gallons. The receipts for water rents amounted on May 1, 1835, to two thousand and eleven dollars and ninety-seven cents. The total cost of the Troy Water-Works to the 1st of March, 1848, was one hundred and sixty thousand four hundred and ninety-six dollars and thirty seven cents; at which time there were fifty-nine thousand four hundred and ninety-seven feet of pipe conducting water through the city.

WATER COMMISSIONERS APPOINTED.

By act of Legislature passed March 9, 1855, Harvey Smith, William F. Sage, Thomas Symonds, Joseph M. Warren, and Liberty Gilbert were appointed water commissioners of the city of Troy, to hold office until removed by the Common Council, and in case of death the vacancy was to be filled by a vote of two-thirds of the members of the Common Council. These commissioners were to establish the rates of annual rents to be charged and paid yearly by the people of Troy using water, called "water rents," and to have the general management of the affairs of the water-works.

During the months of September and October, in 1856, a new stone dam was built in place of the old wooden one, which had gone to decay. This dam is situated above the lower reservoir, west of Oakwood Avenue. In the summer of 1860 a large reservoir was constructed a short remove east of Oakwood Avenue, covering six and a half acres of land, with a capacity of thirty-seven million gallons. Another, built in 1862, near Cemetery Avenue, at a cost of twenty-nine thousand three hundred and twelve dollars and sixty-two cents, has a capacity of fifty million gallons. In 1863 a more distant reservoir was constructed in the town of Brunswick, about four miles east of the city, covering twenty acres of ground, and having a storage capacity of one hundred and eighty million gallons of water. It is estimated that these various reservoirs, with their appertaining lakes and dams, would contain four hundred and thirty million gallons of water for the use of the inhabitants of Troy. In the winter of 1861-62, on account of the exhausted condition of the reservoirs, a force-pump was placed in the building occupied by the lessees of the cordage-factory, near the State dam, by which water from the Hudson was pumped into the city mains. Subsequently the pump and machinery were removed to the mill on the Hydraulic Canal, farther south, on the west side of River Street, the property of Orrs & Company, where, after several changes in the apparatus for pumping water into the pipes running through the lower levels of the city, a large Eclipse double turbine water-wheel six feet in diameter was erected, by which the full power of the water in the canal was made available. The total cost of the water-works from 1833 to March 1, 1879, was five hundred and fifty-eight thousand seven hundred and ninety-six dollars and twenty cents. The entire debt of the water-works, amounting to twenty million dollars in bonds, due May 1, 1880, will be paid by the funds which have been in the hands of the commissioners of the funded debt for many years.

NEW WATER-WORKS ERECTED.

Preparatory to the enlargement of the works for supplying the city with an adequate quantity of wholesome water, the water commissioners (March 17, 1879) purchased of J. Lansing Van Schoonhoven, of Troy, a portion of ground on the northwest corner of Washington and State Streets, Lansingburgh, for nine thousand dollars, having a frontage on State Street of three hundred feet, and a depth of about four hundred and fifty feet to low-water mark in the Hudson River.

On May 7, 1879, a contract was made by the commissioners with the Holly Manufacturing Company of Lockport, N. Y., for the erection of the necessary buildings, pumping-machinery, inlets, etc., for a better and larger supply of water, to be taken from the Hudson River, in the north part of the village of Lansingburgh. The work began early in the month of June, 1879, under the direction of Prof. David M. Green, of the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, assisted by Harvey M. Geer, civil engineer. An attractive and commodious brick building, one story in height, handsomely faced with Croton pressed brick, has been erected on the ground purchased in Lansingburgh, which will contain the engine, boiler, coal, and other rooms of the water station. By means of a tunnel three hundred and thirty-six feet long, extending from the inlet pier in the Hudson River to the centre of the engine-room, water is brought to the pumping-well. Here is a pair of Holly duplex engines, each one having a pumping capacity of six million gallons of water every twenty-four hours. On the same grounds the commissioners are erecting a brick building for the residence of the engineers and firemen. From this pumping-station a thirty-inch iron pipe extends southward through Lansingburgh to Turner's Lane, in the northern part of Troy, along which lane it is laid eastwardly to the lower Oakwood reservoir, adjoining the avenue on the east. A branch pipe is also laid to the upper reservoir from this point, to be used as necessity may demand. The reservoir east of Oakwood Avenue, and in the valley of the Piscawen Kill, is the high-service reservoir, having a capacity of about three million gallons of water.

The mason-work of the buildings at the new pumping-station was placed in the hands of P. H. Feely, of Troy, and the extension of the thirty-inch pipe to the reservoir was given to Hickler & Co., of Buffalo, N. Y. The work it is thought will be completed by Feb. 1, 1880.

The present board of water commissioners consists of the following persons: Joseph Fales, Lyman R. Avery, George D. Watkins, John B. Pierson, and Richard F. Hall. Joseph Fales is the president of the board, and Edward H. Chapin superintendent.

IX.—POLICE DEPARTMENT.

CAPITAL POLICE.

On the incorporation of the city in 1816, the preservation of good order and the enforcement of the laws were committed to six constables, elected annually.

By an act passed April 22, 1865, by the State Legislature, entitled "An act to establish a Capital Police District, and to provide for the government thereof," the city police government was abolished and the capital police system substituted in its place.

The act provided that "the city of Albany, that part of the town of Bethlehem adjoining said city and lying northerly of the Norman's Kill, the town of Watervliet, in the county of Albany, including therein the villages of West Troy, Green Island, and Cohoes; and in the county of Rensselaer, the village of Lansingburgh, the city of Troy, and the towns of North Greenbush and Greenbush; and in the county of Schenectady, all that territory covered by and included within the lines of property of the New York