



Looking Back Early Water Works

By EDITH BROCKWAY

When Akron first began to be settled around Main and Exchange sts., the thirsty canal workers and their horses were watered at the pump in the center of the intersection.

Most everyone wanting water had his own pump in his backyard until in the early 1840s when a group of families living on W. Market and Aqueduct sts. formed a company to distribute water through pipes to their homes from the cool spring on

Spring Hill. This was the first water company in Akron.

Dr. Eliakim Crosby piped water from a spring on Perkins Hill to his home and a few of his neighbors previous to this, but formed no company.

The Akron Cold Spring Co. was incorporated in the early 1840s to bring water of a large spring, called Cold Spring, at Portage rd. and W. Market st., in four-inch cast iron pipes to its subscribers.

The Howard St. Water Co., organized in 1865, laid pipes along

Mill, Howard and Market sts. from a spring at Mill st. and Broadway.

By 1880, another plant had been constructed on Wooster av., piping in spring water, and later water from three wells at Howard and Market sts., Howard and Mill sts. and on High st.

The city purchased the Akron City Waterworks in 1912, consolidating the small companies, and water was eventually piped to all parts of the city.

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