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20th Century History  
OF  
Steubenville  
AND  
Jefferson County, Ohio  
AND  
Representative Citizens  
VOLUME I

BY  
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"History is Philosophy Teaching by Example"

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against Galbraith that he resigned the office in favor of Henning. But before Henning's papers reached the postmaster general, who was then in New Jersey, he received a letter from Judge Tappan, recommending David Larimore for the place, and he received the appointment. He held the position for twenty years, and the whirligig of politics having brought him into opposition to Judge Tappan, at the latter's instigation he was removed. He conducted the office on the site of the present Imperial Hotel, but when William Cable was appointed in 1837 he moved the office to North Third Street, between Market and Washington. He served four years, and his successor, William Collins, moved the office to the Turnbull block, on Market Street. Whitaker O'Neal was the next, in 1845, who moved to a one-story building east of Alley A, the site since occupied by the United States Hotel saloon. Francis A. Wells succeeded him in 1849 and was, in turn, succeeded by Thomas Brashear from 1853 to 1861, when George B. Filson became the eighth in succession and moved the office up street to present No. 331, where a moving picture show is conducted. James Reed was his successor, and on the completion of the new Odd Fellows block, in 1873, the office was removed thither, where it remained ten years, and was then removed to its present location at the west end of the city building. F. O'Neil was succeeded by George Moore in 1886, James F. Sarratt in 1890, James Trotter in 1894, M. L. Miller in 1898, and Alexander Sweeney, the present incumbent, in April, 1906, he being the fifteenth to hold the office. The business of the office has grown rapidly during the last ten years. The receipts from the sale of stamps and postal cards for the year ending March 31, 1898, were \$17,357.33, and for that ending March 31, 1909, were \$48,771.62, or nearly treble. The money order department for the year ending June 30, 1909, showed 9,162 domestic orders paid and 419 foreign; 23,191 domestic orders issued and 2,468 foreign, by which it is seen that a great deal more

money is sent away than is received. The business of the office amounts to about half a million dollars a year and is handled by the following office force, in addition to Postmaster Sweeney: Charles Irwin, assistant postmaster; William F. Schaefer, chief clerk; J. T. Brady, money order clerk; Joseph P. Stephens, register clerk; C. S. Flanagan, general delivery; Gladys G. Wyatt, assistant; Chester W. Reed, general utility clerk; Charles W. Streaun, stamper; F. A. Engel, Joseph M. Huston, John S. H. Patton, night clerks; J. C. Williams, James B. Allison, dispatchers; Frank McNally, substitute clerk; Harry E. Fellows, Humphrey J. Goodman, Charles L. McLeish, John J. Helnes, William G. Herb, William Dargue, William H. Bair, John J. Huston, Wesley L. Fleming, Joseph S. Feist, John A. Schnorrenberg, John Ellis Welday, Robert L. Adams, Albert M. Bird, Lawrence E. Patterson, carriers; Peter A. Ward, Paul Geisinger, Reuben Jones, substitutes; George R. Sanders, rural delivery carrier No. 1, for Knoxville Road and northwest; I. G. Bucey, No. 2, for Market Street road west and south; John B. Swinehart, special delivery messenger; D. F. Baldwin, mail messenger; Charles Fleming, assistant. This makes a force of thirty-six persons in quarters entirely too cramped for the business done. Efforts to get adequate accommodations have so far been fruitless, but it is hoped that a bill introduced into Congress by Hon. D. A. Hollingsworth, appropriating \$100,000 towards this object, will meet with better fate than its predecessors. (The bill has since passed.)

In this connection it may be noted that Jefferson County has twenty-one rural free delivery routes, those outside of Steubenville being: Adena, 2; Amsterdam, 2; Bergholz, 1; Bloomingdale, 2; Dillonvale, 2; Fernwood, 1; Hammondsville, 2; Irondale, 1; Mingo, 1; Rayland, 2; Toronto, 2; Unionport, 1.

#### PROGRESS IN WATER SUPPLY.

A reliable and constant supply of pure water is a prime necessity in every grow-

ing community, and it was not long before it was realized that the public wells already mentioned were insufficient, even when supplemented by numerous private wells and springs, the latter being plentiful along the base of the hills. Accordingly, in 1810, a company was formed under an act of the Legislature, dated January 10, and styled The Steubenville Water Company. The incorporators comprised the following named gentlemen: Bezaleel Wells, John C. Bayless, John England, Brice Viers, Joseph Beatty, William Hamilton, David Larimore, Benjamin Tappan, Thomas McKean Thompson, David Hoge, Jacob Fetches, John Galbraith, Thomas Scott, Sampson King Samuel Hunter, Hans Wilson, Thomas Henderson, James G. Henning, Zacheus Bigger, William R. Dickenson, James Larimore and Obediah Jennings.

This company was authorized to purchase lands, lay pipes, erect pent stacks and to do whatever else was necessary to afford a sufficient water supply. The company first laid a line of wooden pipes from a spring, between Market and Washington Streets, above Seventh, and these becoming insufficient, an additional line was laid from the Doyle, afterwards known as "Spencer's Tan Yard." The remains of these wooden pipes are yet struck occasionally in making excavations. The logs were laid southeasterly around the Elliott tan yard to Market Street, and at the court house and other several points were stone cisterns to husband a reserve supply, especially for fire purposes. The logs were ten to twelve inches in diameter, with a two-inch hole bored through the center by Jacob Brickard. It is very likely the logs leaked more or less at the joints, but the system seems to have worked fairly well until about 1820, when it gave out, and a system was adopted of hauling water in large barrels, at 6¼ cents per barrel, from the river. This lasted until 1835, when the necessities of the town and losses by fire induced the calling of a public meeting, which authorized the town council to procure esti-

mates for the construction of a more complete and adequate water system. In the meantime, James Collins, mayor, had been requested to visit Pittsburgh and obtain information concerning the water system of that city. The mayor made an exhaustive report of his trip—the annual expenses incurred and the income derived from the system. Accordingly a loan of \$35,000 was negotiated by Humphrey H. Leavitt from Edward Coleman, of Philadelphia, and the money placed to the credit of the city of Steubenville in The Farmers and Mechanics Bank. Mr. Leavitt's total expenses for the trip and time employed in securing the loan were \$59.65. The plant was erected at a total cost of \$34,453.24, and put into operation in 1836. An effort was first made to have the pumping station located on the west side of Water Street and draw the water from a well, which it was thought would draw an unfailing supply from the river, but this plan was soon abandoned, on account of quicksand and the plant moved out to the river bank at the foot of Adams Street. It has never been satisfactorily explained why the pumping station was located at the south end of town, below all the drainage from the city, instead of at the north end. The reservoir was located half way up the hill, at the head of Adams Street, 192 feet, perpendicular height, above the pumps, and three-fourths of a mile from the works. A forty-horsepower engine forced 200,000 gallons into the reservoir each ten hours, and the capacity of the reservoir was twice that amount, which was considered doing very well, as Pittsburgh then was using only 500,000 gallons per day. In 1854 an additional reservoir was joined to the other on the west holding 600,000 gallons, thus giving a total storage capacity of 1,000,000 gallons. By 1864 it was evident that the works must be rebuilt, the old machinery, besides being worn out, was entirely too light for the work now needed. Accordingly the works were enlarged to double their former size, a twenty-inch main laid to the reservoir, new boilers and two 150-

horsepower engines installed, one of them being made at the Means foundry, and new, up-to-date pumps, with a capacity of 2,480,000 gallons each twenty-four hours. This was far beyond the consumption at that time, which, in fact, did not reach half that amount until 1879, so that it was only necessary to keep one engine in operation, the other being kept in reserve. This work was completed in 1867, at a cost of \$50,000. A few years after another reservoir was added, bringing the storage capacity to 1,700,000 gallons. A twenty-inch main was laid along Seventh Street, from which an eight-inch pipe led down Market Street, and six-inch pipes down the parallel streets to the river (now eight-inch on Washington), from which the laterals are connected.

It was estimated that the city was now provided with a water plant which would, it was supposed, answer every purpose for half a century to come, but early in the nineties the daily consumption was equal to the full capacity of the reservoirs, thus guaranteeing only a twenty-four hours' supply in case of accident. The machinery was once more out of date and none the better for its thirty years' steady work. The adoption of sewers made the location of the pumping station undesirable, and the disastrous Lindsey-Falk fire on August 14, 1893, demonstrated that the water pressure was not sufficient to cope with a great conflagration in the large buildings which were occupying the downtown district. All this led to the conviction that not an improvement of the old water works was needed, but an entirely new plant in another location. The matter was taken up by Mr. Sinclair, then a member of the Board of Council, and it is chiefly to his energetic efforts that the city owes its present magnificent plant, conceded to be the best on the Ohio River. The old Alikanna Iron Works property, just above the mouth of Wills Creek, was purchased and in 1894 work of construction was begun. The river here makes a large curve, and a ledge of rock, exposed at low water, extends almost to

the West Virginia shore, leaving a narrow and deep channel with swift current. Through this the supply pipe was laid, securely protected from ice floes and resting on a crib in the deep water, below any danger from passing boats and getting the purest water that is in the river. The large stone pumping station on the bank is an attractive feature of the landscape. Besides being surrounded by beautiful and well kept grounds, which give it the appearance of a summer hotel, its site is directly opposite the celebrated and famous "Half-Moon" farm, comprising about 1,400 acres of as well located and park-like farming land as may be found at any point along the upper Ohio. Just above it on a hill top is located Stanton Park, from which an entrancing view of the surrounding country can be obtained for many miles.

The daily capacity of the pumping station is 6,000,000 gallons, from two E. P. Allis pumps. As the storage capacity is 7,200,000 gallons, and the consumption about 2,500,000, the city is always assured of a supply in case of emergency, and in addition consumers have full knowledge that the water has a chance to settle before being used for any purpose. The high pressure reservoir is located in a natural depression at the head of Franklin Avenue, 250 feet perpendicular height above the works. From this a twenty-inch main leads down Franklin and Seventh Streets to the original low pressure reservoirs, and from which a high pressure system of pipes covers the city for fire and special purposes, in addition to the low pressure for domestic use.

There are about forty miles of mains in use, ranging in size from twenty-four inches to four. These pipes are divided into two systems, one carrying a pressure of forty to seventy-five pounds, and the other, high, from one hundred to one hundred and thirty pounds. The city has some 300 fire hydrants. When the works were constructed provision was made for the installation of a 6,000,000 gallon pump

when the same should be necessary, and an additional high pressure reservoir, with a capacity of 5,000,000 gallons, was also partly constructed. There is now talk of completing these improvements, together with another low pressure reservoir. When the works were constructed it was foreseen that the hilltops above the reservoirs would ultimately require a water supply, and it came sooner than was anticipated. To meet this demand a sixty-five-foot standpipe was erected on La Belle View, which is fed by an ingenious arrangement. Where the water pours into the low pressure reservoir has been placed a hydraulic ram, which receives the full force of the current. Its operation throws sufficient water to the standpipe, while the surplus flows into the basin below. This self-acting pumping station is operated practically without cost, and apparently contradicts the scientific diction that one cannot lift himself over a fence by pulling on his own bootstraps. The capacity and purpose of the high pressure system are such as to throw six heavy streams at one time over the top of the court house, and steam fire engines have been relegated to the realms of the "have beens." These works were completed in 1895, at a cost of \$180,000. They would now cost double that amount. The contractors were Floto Brothers and A. W. McDonald, of Steubenville, and the work was done under the supervision of D. J. Sinclair, R. M. Brown, Charles L. Foreman, R. E. Blinn, Thomas Frith, Charles E. Moody, Frank Spearman, David McGowan and Winfield Scott.

The estimated value of the entire plant with mains, etc., on January 1, 1909, was \$381,221.85, with outstanding bonds of \$170,000. The receipts for 1908 were \$38,729.31, and total expenditures \$41,903.87. In the latter, however, are included \$5,000 bonds redeemed, and \$6,405.96 for pipe extension to outlying districts, which, of course, are a permanent addition to the plant. So the water works not only pay their own way but provide a sinking fund for the bonded debt, make their own exten-

sions and furnish free water to all city buildings, schoolhouses, churches, fires (including construction of hydrants) and street sprinkling, public and private. The subject of public or private ownership of public utilities is a much debated one, but in Steubenville there is but one opinion so far as the water service is concerned. Nobody would be willing to turn it over to a private company.

G. V. Robitson, of Pittsburgh, became superintendent of the works in 1836, James Baron in 1839, R. J. Irwin in 1865, William Hunt in 1883, F. B. Ford in 1889, S. B. Curfman in 1896, George O'Neal, present incumbent, in 1907.

#### FIRE DEPARTMENT.

Closely connected with a city's water service and depending largely on it for efficiency is the fire department. The original method of fighting fires in Steubenville was by the "bucket brigade." Each family was required to keep in a convenient place at least two leather buckets, which were unbreakable. When the alarm of fire was given every man, woman and child was expected to respond with the leather buckets, especially for the purpose, and fall in line to pass the buckets of water from the river or the nearest cistern to the point of danger. The full buckets were passed up by the men, emptied by those fighting the fire and thrown to the other line of women and children, who rapidly passed them back for supply. This service was far from being inefficient, especially as most of the buildings at that time were small and the stream of water was almost as constant, if not as strong, as from an engine. In the year 1822 a meeting of citizens authorized the council to purchase a fire engine, and a small hand machine was procured in Philadelphia, and housed in a one-story building on Third Street, just north of the court house. This did not do away with the bucket brigade, whose energies were now chiefly directed towards keeping the machine supplied with water.