

Historical and Biographical Annals
OF
Columbia and Montour
Counties
PENNSYLVANIA

Containing
A Concise History of the Two Counties and a
Genealogical and Biographical Record
of Representative Families

IN TWO VOLUMES
ILLUSTRATED

VOLUME I

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Kelley

handsomely fitted up, and admirably adapted to the needs of the business.

The *Berwick Savings & Trust Company* was founded to fill the want of a savings bank for the workers of Berwick, and it has grown into strong popular favor. Business was begun in 1903 with a capital stock of \$125,000, paid in, and the following were the first officers: S. W. Dickson, president; O. F. Ferris, Isaiah Beaver, vice presidents; B. D. Freas, treasurer; C. C. Evans, solicitor. Directors: H. F. Glenn, H. R. Bower, J. M. Schain, J. U. Kurtz, W. W. Hanly, F. A. Witman, M. M. Harter, C. C. Evans, Duval Dickson, B. H. Dodson, W. F. Lowry, J. J. Myers, R. H. Davenport, O. F. Ferris, C. D. Eaton, Isaiah Bower, F. Carkins, F. E. Brockway, J. E. Smith, J. L. Evans, S. W. Dickson.

The bank is located in the Dickson building, and conducts a general banking business, while the trust department acts as executor, administrator, guardian and trustee, and in all other fiduciary capacities.

The Berwick Building and Loan Association was organized in 1894 and has done a good work in enabling persons of small means to acquire homes. In 1914 the association had \$65,625 outstanding on mortgages; \$6,185 on association stock; a net profit of \$4,019 for the year, and 967 shares outstanding. The net profits from the time of organization were \$28,782. The capital authorized by the charter is \$500,000. The officers for 1914 are: A. D. Seely, president; James E. Smith, vice president; John W. Evans, treasurer; John H. Smethers, secretary; James L. Evans, solicitor. Directors: B. D. Freas, Frank Shive, James L. Evans, C. C. Lockhart, A. D. Seely, John A. Kepner, P. C. Currin, Charles F. Hartman, James E. Smith.

OFFICIALS OF BERWICK

Berwick was incorporated as a borough Jan. 29, 1818, but the names of the first officers have become buried in the archives of the past, too deep for the writer to unearth.

The officials in 1914 are: F. R. Kitchen, burgess; C. E. Sitler, C. E. Ross, W. T. Stout, Thomas Morton, William Raup, E. A. Glenn, Elliott Adams, councilmen. The city hall is located on Second street.

WEST BERWICK

A petition presented Sept. 2, 1901, was approved on Sept. 5th, and on Dec. 9th the final decree was made declaring West Berwick a borough. There were then seventy-five free-

holders within the limits of the town. An election was ordered held in February, 1902, but on the 3d of that month the court annulled the decree on the ground that all the requirements of the law had not been complied with. A new petition was filed, and on May 10, 1902, the borough was declared to be legally established, the election day being fixed as June 24th. The election resulted as follows: Eli Sherwood, burgess; J. M. Fairchild, John Dodson, Walter Hughes, J. C. Sponenberg, Clark Heller, William Zerinden, councilmen; Jacob Smith, Samuel Hess, O. F. Ferris, George E. Laub, R. Funk, C. G. Crisman, school directors; Wilson Bond, Chester Marr, overseers of the poor. On Sept. 7, 1905, the borough was divided into two wards.

The officials for 1914 are: Chief burgess, C. W. Freas; members of council, D. R. Farrell, George Knecht, Harry Rasley, Wesley Fairchild, C. W. Helt, James Levan; poor overseers, Frank Creasy, Chester Marr; justices of the peace, Frank Fenstermacher, Samuel Crouse.

The West Berwick city hall is a frame building, erected in 1903. The upper part is used for council meetings and the lower floor for the fire department.

BERWICK WATER COMPANY

The Berwick Water Company, one of the oldest incorporated companies doing a public service business in the eastern part of Pennsylvania, dates its beginning as a chartered service company with the founding of the borough of Berwick, within the territory of which it has carried on its operations—a contemporary indeed of the borough; for the town of Berwick settled in 1786 was incorporated as a borough by act of Assembly Jan. 29, 1818, while the Berwick Water Company was incorporated Jan. 27, 1818.

Following the passage of the act providing for the incorporation of the company the promoters of the enterprise began to secure subscriptions to its capital. "A suitable book," as directed in the act, was provided and is still in existence among the archives of the company, in which the subscriptions of some sixty persons are recorded in the original handwriting. Among the names appears those of many of the progenitors of the citizens of this vicinity, for example: John Brown, Samuel Headley, Thomas, Jesse and Christopher Bowman, Samuel Jackson, Robert McCurdy, Thomas C. Foster, Amassa Burlingame, John Cooper, Hugh Thompson, Evan Owen, George Mack, Samuel Herrin.

The incorporators early set about putting

in operation their corporate privilege, namely: that of "introducing water into the borough by means of pipes, trunks or aqueducts." A water main constructed of good-sized logs, bored with a four-inch diameter opening, fitted and coupled with iron bands, was laid from the town out Market street along the road to a stream near the little village of Foundryville, the water from this stream entering Briar creek, impounded and tapped and thus conveyed into the town. For several years this system of supply was kept in operation, but as the population increased it eventually proved inadequate, for according to the testimony of older citizens who recall this pipe line the logs would become clogged or obstructed. The pipe itself became rotten, the different kinds of logs used at times making repairs difficult and unsatisfactory. This condition probably contributed to the need for securing water elsewhere, for it is also a matter of history that children of that day were frequently sent to the springs in the river below the old dug road and carried the water therefrom to supply the family needs. The quality and quantity of water in these springs being of the best, the use evidently was very early suggested to the citizens of that time, and they early became the property of the Berwick Water Company. The water was pumped into the mains by means of waterpower at the waste-weir at the locks at Berwick. "The Works" were thus established prior to the year 1848.

In 1852 the Legislature extended to the Berwick Water Company the right previously granted the Hydraulic Company of the borough of Berwick to use the waterpower at this waste-weir. This old method of pumping water by means of an old-type turbine or water-wheel was continued with more or less change and improvement until the late seventies; for "water wheel and pumping machinery" appears in the balance sheets of that day as one of the valued assets of the company.

Some time prior to the Civil war, on land still owned by the company on Second and Chestnut streets, a reservoir was constructed for storage. In 1883 a seven and a half foot standpipe was added to this reservoir, and its use was continued until about 1890, when the reservoir at Glen Brook was completed. Following the era in which log pipe was used the company constructed other conduits or pipe lines of cement, and in late years these old log and cement pipes have been at times excavated by the company's workmen. It is interesting to know the manner of construc-

tion of this old cement pipe: A 2-inch wrought pipe was covered with a layer of cement of the thickness of two or more inches, and over this cement covering a layer of sheet iron was placed and secured by bands of iron. When this cement had hardened sufficiently the 2-inch pipe was withdrawn and the cement construction was in condition for laying.

Cast iron pipe in varying sizes, 2, 3, 4 and 6-inch, succeeded this old log and cement pipe. In 1883, when the late George Depew became superintendent of the company, an inventory submitted by him to the board of managers established the fact that the company had four and three quarters miles of pipe lines, all sizes.

The car and manufacturing business located in the borough developed with great strides after the Civil war and with this growth in business the demands upon the water company's capacity to supply water became acute, and in turn the company was put to the necessity of meeting the increased demands for water. Some time in 1884 and 1885 a standpipe was erected at Market and Third streets, primarily to accommodate the Jackson & Woodin Company. In 1899 and 1900 a reservoir was constructed on property located in Briarcreek and Salem townships, at the junction of the Wolfinger and Cope creeks, which gave capacity for the storage of 15,000,000 gallons of water. This is now known as the Glen Brook reservoir. The reservoirs at Glen Brook were known as No. 1 and No. 2. This in turn was followed by the construction of another reservoir in Salem township, on the Varner creek, in 1895, known as the Salem reservoir, No. 3, having a capacity of some 3,000,000 gallons.

The pumping equipment had always been kept in proper condition to operate in conjunction with the storage supply at Glen Brook and Salem reservoirs, and for a period of approximately fifteen years had met the demands of a growing population.

In 1899, the large manufacturing interests of the town having been incorporated in the American Car and Foundry Company and a boom in general business following, Berwick experienced a great increase in population. The new steel car plant, new foundries, machine shops and mills provided work for from five thousand to six thousand men, with a dependent population of twenty thousand to twenty-five thousand people in the boroughs of Berwick, West Berwick and Nescopeck. In 1908 and 1909 a very large addition to the storage capacity at Glen Brook was construct-

ed, the old reservoirs excavated and enlarged, and a new reservoir built to impound a quantity of 75,000,000 to 80,000,000 gallons. In 1906 a 20-inch main was laid from the reservoirs some three miles, connecting with mains at the north end of Market street and Freas avenue. This provided the requisite pressure for fire protection and distribution of the increased supply. Upon the building of the steel plant at the west end of the borough limits, and extending into Briarcreek township, the new borough of West Berwick came into corporate existence. In 1892, prior to the beginning of the new borough, the West Berwick Water Supply Company was incorporated and pipe lines laid throughout the town of West Berwick. Increase of population to the east and north of the old borough limits of Berwick made further demands upon the company's water supply, and at that time the supply companies were organized: West Salem Water Supply Company and Briar Creek Water Supply Company were incorporated in 1903 and 1904, respectively. The Nescopeck Water Supply Company was incorporated to supply water to the inhabitants of Nescopeck in March, 1894, the water mains from Berwick being connected by a line through the Susquehanna river, approximately 1,300 feet in length. These supply companies are controlled and operated by the Berwick Water Company.

The erection of a new filter plant on the property of the company alongside of the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western Railroad Company's tracks at the foot of Market street was begun in 1913 and at this date (1914) is in operation and is furnishing filtered water for the boroughs. The pumping equipment is undergoing changes, the pumping capacity is more than doubled, and is to be operated by electricity. The company has its own laboratory, and frequent examinations of water in compliance with the present day demands are made.

The company has always been well financed. From the earliest to the present dividends have been paid with regularity upon the capital invested, while the fixed interest charge on the bonded indebtedness of the Berwick and West Berwick companies has always been paid with punctuality. The tangible assets of the company are easily twice the amount of the indebtedness. From the report made to the Water Commission of Pennsylvania the pipe mileage exceeds thirty-two miles. Water pressure is from eighty-five to ninety pounds, and affords ample fire protection.

Prominent citizens of this section have in

the past been identified with the upbuilding of the property, and we find mention in the old records of: Morrison E. Jackson, Jesse Bowman, Mordecai W. Jackson, Seth B. Bowman, F. Nicely, William H. Woodin, Sr., H. C. Freas, John W. Evans, G. L. Reagan, C. H. Zehnder, S. P. Hanly, S. C. Jayne, Frederick H. Eaton, Wm. H. Hager, W. H. Woodin, Jr., C. D. Eaton, W. W. Hanly, Capt. F. E. Brockway.

The present board of managers consists of: Clarence G. Crispin, vice president of the First National Bank of Berwick; Hon. Chas. C. Evans, president judge of the Twenty-sixth Pennsylvania Judicial district; W. S. Johnson, general superintendent of the American Car and Foundry Company at Berwick; Howard C. Wick, and M. J. Crispin.

The officers of the company are: C. G. Crispin, president; C. C. Evans, vice president; F. A. Witman, secretary and treasurer.

J. S. Hicks, who succeeded George Depew, referred to elsewhere in this article, is the very efficient superintendent of the company's operations.

From log and cement pipes to 24-inch cast iron mains and laterals extending over thirty-two to thirty-five miles of territory and equipped with controlling valves; from the old-style turbine water-wheel to electrically driven centrifugal pumps; from simple diversion of a stream into a log pipe line to the modern reservoirs constructed to impound upwards of a hundred million gallons, as well as other conditions that might be contrasted, measures the activities of a company whose history lacks only three years of reaching the century mark.

FIRE PROTECTION

The first fire company of Berwick was the Fearless, organized May 20, 1880, as a volunteer company. They purchased a hand engine, two hose carriages and 350 feet of hose. The officers were: R. W. Oswald, president; S. W. Dickson, treasurer; J. W. Fry, secretary; W. M. Boyles, foreman. This company was disbanded in a few years, the Rangers inheriting the fire apparatus. In 1914 there are three fire companies in the borough.

The Rangers have a handsome club house on East Front street, and use the old frame Lutheran church as an engine house. Their improvements upon the property have increased its valuation to over \$9,000.

The Reliance Fire Company has a fine brick building on South Mulberry street, erected in 1903.