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HISTORY

OF

FRANKLIN COUNTY,

PENNSYLVANIA,

CONTAINING A HISTORY OF THE COUNTY, ITS TOWNSHIPS, TOWNS, VILLAGES, SCHOOLS, CHURCHES, INDUSTRIES, ETC.; PORTRAITS OF EARLY SETTLERS AND PROMINENT MEN; BIOGRAPHIES; HISTORY OF PENNSYLVANIA, STATISTICAL AND MISCELLANEOUS MATTER, ETC., ETC.

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CHICAGO:
WARNER, BEERS & CO.,
1887.

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WATER-WORKS.

One of the first wants felt by the town after it had assumed the dignity of a corporate borough, was an abundant supply of good water. In 1818 a company was formed under the title of the Chambersburg Water Company, which erected water-works about one-half mile east of the town, the reservoir, or cistern, being located on the site of the present residence of Samuel Myers, Esq., and the force pump at the nearest point on the Falling Spring. The water was conveyed from the pump to the reservoir, and from thence to town in wooden pipes, which must very soon have proven their unfitness, for we have a list of thirty-seven subscribers, representing fifty-six and one-half shares of stock, agreeing to give $12.50 for each half share subscribed by them "it being expressly stipulated by the managers that the sums raised by this subscription shall be applied to, and for no other purpose than to procure cast-iron pipes to convey the water from the force pump to the cistern." "On the 21st of March, 1818, Philip Seibert and Son agree to build the house over the reservoir, according to the old bill of rates, from which they are to throw off eight per cent and are to take one other share of water stock in addition to the seven shares which they have already subscribed for, and are not to demand any money until it be ascertained that the completion of the work shall exceed $200." On the 30th of January, 1819, at a meeting of the town council, it was "*Resolved*, that the corporation enter into an article of agreement with the Chambersburg Water Company to pay them $100 per annum, payable semi-annually, from 1st of July, 1819, in consideration of said company putting up and keeping in repair eight fire plugs, as agreed upon; and if any others shall be deemed necessary that they will put them also up and keep in repair at the same proportion and on the same terms." The article of agreement is dated January 30, 1819, and is signed by Patrick Campbell, burgess of the borough of Chambersburg, and James Riddle, president of the Chambersburg Water Company. The signatures are witnessed by M. St. Clair Clarke, and a copy of the article is recorded in the minute book of the town council by Henry Reges, clerk. On the 1st of September, 1820, there were fifty-five consumers. These works lasted but a few years—the records stop at 1823—when they were discontinued, and the town had no regular supply of water, other than from wells and cisterns, until 1875, when the town council of the borough erected the present water-works, which have been a decided success from the first day they have been operated. They were erected by H. P. M. Birkinbine, contractor, of Philadelphia, for the sum of $55,000. The reservoir is situated on Federal Hill, a short distance northwest of the borough, and has a capacity of 1,200,000 gallons of water. The engine and pump are at the base of the hill on the west bank of the Conococheague Creek, opposite Heyser's straw board mill, and have a capacity for pumping 35,000 gallons of water per hour. The water can be forced through the pipe to town, by either direct pressure from the engine and pumps, or through the reservoir, and is supplied to the consumers through six and one-quarter miles of cast-iron main pipes of the best quality. The present number of consumers is 270, and is rapidly increasing. We take pleasure in recording the names of the burgess and town council through whose energy and perseverance the present complete system of water-works was erected: Burgess, George W. Nitterhouse; town council, W. B. Gilmore, J. B. Miller, Samuel M. Worley, J. P. Culbertson, John C. Gerbig, Dr. J. L. Suesserott, Thomas Cook and Daniel Harmony. The first superintendent for six years was Wilber F. Eyster, who assisted in securing them. A. C. McGrath was his successor, and is the present incumbent.

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