

Andrews. They contracted with Harris & Hawkey, of Springfield, to erect an iron truss bridge, known as Howe's patent, at a cost of \$7,250 for the superstructure. This bridge was opened the following May.

Norwich Water Works.

The city streets were continually torn up for the laying of pipes of the rival private water companies. There were twenty-five reservoirs and cisterns in the city limits.

The yearly revenue from the principal ones was as follows:

Laurel Hill Aqueduct Co.....	\$ 300.00
Norwich Aqueduct Co.....	3,000.00
W. W. Coit reservoir.....	1,800.00
Norwich Plain Aqueduct Co.....	3,500.00
Alba F. Smith.....	50.00
Wm. A. Buckingham.....	50.00
James Bottom	150.00
Dr. E. C. Kinney.....	400.00
Dr. Chas. Osgood.....	175.00
Capt. Edw. Roath.....	250.00
D. B. Miner.....	300.00
Geo. Bottom & Co., West Side.....	250.00

\$10,225.00

Public action was first taken at a special city meeting held in Treadway's Hall, May 7, 1866, upon the petition from citizens to provide Norwich with an adequate supply of pure water.

The mayor and court of common council were instructed to petition the legislature for permission to issue bonds not to exceed \$100,000 for the purpose.

Jedediah Spalding, A. F. Smith and Gardiner Greene were appointed a committee to investigate the subject. Alba F. Smith was one of the leading citizens of the town. One of his notable achievements as superintendent of the Hudson River Railroad was in pushing to completion the railroad bridge over the Hudson at Albany.

In accordance with a vote of the court of common council on May 7th, the mayor and city attorney petitioned the general assembly to amend the city charter and the legislature on June 7th passed the desired act.

The water committee made a report at a special city meeting held December 27th and the same was unanimously accepted. The committee recommended the purchase of the watershed subsequently known as Fairview Reservoir and estimated the expense of developing the same and laying the necessary pipes at \$150,000. One other source was considered at Trading Cove brook, to utilize which it was necessary to impound the water and lay pipes 2½ miles to Central

Wharf and from this level lift it by pumps to a distributing reservoir of half an acre in extent and ten feet deep located near the summit of Jail Hill. The estimated cost of the pumps was \$15,000 and of the distributing reservoir about the same amount. On the 29th day of December, 1866, the amendment to the city charter authorizing the construction of water works, was accepted by vote in city meeting. On the 19th day of January, 1867, a city meeting authorized the court of common council to issue bonds to the amount of \$100,000.

On the 21st of January, the court of common council appointed Alba F. Smith, Jedediah Spalding, Gardiner Greene, James S. Carew and Nathan S. Gilbert, a board of water commissioners, to serve until the next city election, when the entire board was continued in office with the exception of Gardiner Greene, who was succeeded by Henry L. Clark. Mr. J. T. Fanning was appointed secretary and engineer of the board.

The commissioners formulated a plan for the impounding of the water in a natural basin about one mile easterly from the Norwich Town Green. The proposed location consisted of about sixty-six acres of pasturage, wood and mowing lands, which it was proposed to thoroughly clear of all vegetation and inclose with a bank wall of rough masonry. The dam was to be 35 feet high and 468 feet long. The elevation of the reservoir overflow would be 253 feet above the surface of the Thames river, at low tide, 216 feet above the surface of Main street at the Wauregan house corner and 19 feet above the highest point of Jail Hill. The storage capacity would be about 333,000,000 gallons of water.

This plan was submitted to the court of common council Sept. 13th, 1867, and the estimated cost for reservoir and mains was put at \$185,000. A few days later considerable excitement was caused by anonymous letters in the newspapers condemning the project and declaring the whole scheme impracticable and absurd. A petition was circulated for a city meeting to rescind the votes authorizing the construction of the new water works. This meeting was held October 18th and a resolution was introduced disapproving the plan as proposed, ordering its abandonment and rescinding all contracts entered into by the commissioners. A vote on this motion was postponed until November 8th, when the result was as follows:

Whole number of votes cast.....	793
For water	443
Against water	350
Majority in favor of water.....	93

The Norwich Savings Society took the whole of the first issue of bonds, the city paying 6% interest on the same. Subsequently, on July 25, 1868, \$50,000 additional bonds were issued and taken by

the Chelsea Savings Bank at par. The court of common council subsequently authorized the sale of additional bonds to the amount of \$100,000 to complete the water works. The length of the reservoir constructed was $1\frac{1}{8}$ miles; the average width about 480 feet and the average depth $16\frac{1}{2}$ feet. About $12\frac{1}{2}$ miles of cement lined and coated wrought iron pipe was laid by contract. The reservoir was built by day work under the management of the water commissioners and the supervision of Morey B. Cole. Eighty teams and 400 men were set at work in the spring of 1868. About 20,000 stumps from 4 to 36 inches in diameter were removed, burned on the ground and the ashes carted away. Three hundred thousand cart loads of material were excavated from the bed of the lake.

No fatal accident occurred during the entire construction of the reservoir nor was a death recorded of any one connected with the work during its progress. The reservoir gate was closed for filling the reservoir Oct. 23, 1868, and the water began to overflow the wasteway Jan. 16, 1870.

The first public test of the fire hydrants was made by Chief Engineer Wm. M. Williams, Jan. 8, 1869. The pressure on Franklin Square was $95\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. to the square inch and was sufficient to force a stream over a five-story building, through 400 feet of hose attached to a hydrant.

The original cost of construction of the water supply was as follows:

Land and damages.....	\$ 5,664.88
Water pipes, gates, etc.....	121,375.55
Labor and machinery at reservoir.....	135,859.87
Engineers, office expenses.....	3,744.05
Other expenses	1,024.77
	\$267,669.12

It is interesting to note that the commissioners effected a saving of over \$30,000 by constructing the reservoir by day labor as the lowest bid for the same submitted in response to advertisement was \$167,750.25. There were seven other bids, the highest being \$394,471.25.

The City in 1868.

In 1868 while the vast expenditures were being made by the city for water works, other equally important public improvements were not neglected, especially was the cause of education advanced by the erection of new schoolhouses. One district vied with another in this respect. It seems incredible that in one year five new school buildings