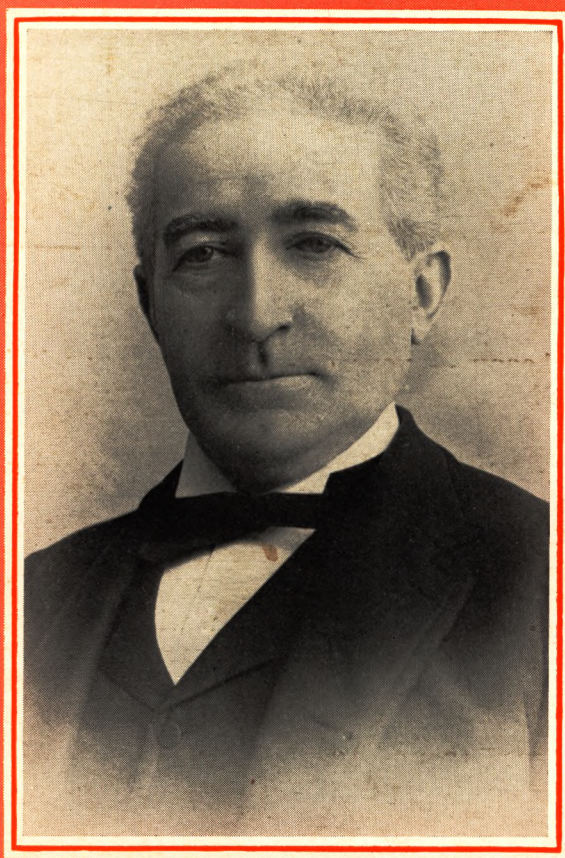


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WALLACE C. ANDREWS

Wallace C. Andrews

Pioneer in District Heating*

WALLACE C. ANDREWS was the organizer and first President of the New York Steam Company. His father, Norman Andrews, moved from Connecticut to a farm on the Western Reserve in Ohio in 1816. He was born upon the farm near Youngstown on June 17, 1833, and there thru the wholesome life of the country and by inheritance, he acquired a strong body, which permitted him to perform great labors later in life. At once he showed a talent for business.

By strict economy he saved a little capital and when coal was discovered in the Mahoning Valley, with his brother, Chauncey H. Andrews he invested in coal exploration and mines of which he developed a large number.

They were engaged in many other enterprises. They became operators in the petroleum industry. They built furnaces and rolling mills in Ohio and some small railroads. They became the principal stockholders in a railroad between Cleveland and Pittsburgh. They bought and sold coal mining companies at a profit. They became the largest miners of coal in Ohio.

Later they bought the bed of one of the old Ohio canals and thereon built a new railroad from Cleveland to Pittsburgh rivaling the one they had already built. With other capitalists they bought a large area of coal lands in the Hocking Valley in Ohio. They purchased an interest in the Hocking Valley Railroad and connecting lines and consolidated them.

Mr. Andrews usually started his schemes with little capital. He threw his whole energy into developing them. He interested others in investing. He made his organizations profitable and finally often sold his interests. He re-invested rapidly, borrowed money and amassed a fortune.

He was an associate in Cleveland of John D. Rockefeller in the original Standard Oil Company, was a large stock holder in that

company and a member of the Board of Directors.

Mr. Andrews was a handsome man with an impressive bearing emphasized by certain peculiarities of dress. He wore suits with fancy waistcoats, beaver hats in winter and high gray felts in summer. He used a carriage to go from place to place in his business. But it should not be thought that he was 'high-hat' for if he had been he would not have succeeded with his many associates.

Thus at 46, when he heard of the success of Birdsill Holly in Lockport in supplying district steam service in that town Mr. Andrews, already an achiever, a pioneer, a developer of practical ideas and a man of courage, was quite ready to undertake the stupendous job of supplying the metropolis whose paved streets already had beneath them sewer, gas and water systems, with steam for heating, cooking and power.

He went at once to Lockport to inspect the development. He followed this up by sending a technical expert. He was convinced of the practicability of the enterprise.

In 1878 Francis B. Spinola and others had been granted permission by the City to lay pipes to supply steam under the Holly Steam Combination System. Mr. Andrews acquired the Spinola franchise. He next acquired an exclusive license for the use of of the Holly Steam Combination System in New York City. In 1879 he incorporated the Steam Heating and Power Company of New York with a capital of \$5,000,000.

In 1880 a second company, The New York Steam Company, obtained a broader franchise from the city. Mr. Andrews obtained a controlling interest, consolidated the two companies and called the new company the New York Steam Company.

Forced by circumstances during the development of the Steam Company to choose

between his holdings in the Standard Oil Company and his interest in the New York Steam Company, he chose the latter and for nearly three years is said to have sold Standard Oil stock at the rate of \$1000 per day to put the money into the steam company.

Later, no longer being a big stock holder in Standard Oil, he resigned from the Board of Directors of that Company and because of his determination to make a success of the Steam Company and other enterprises he missed becoming an enormously wealthy man along with other organizers of the Standard Oil Company.

Mr. Andrews organized and was President of one of the first artificial ice manufacturing companies of New York. He was President and largest stock holder of the Standard Gas Light Company of New York City. He was a Director of the Safety Car Heating and Lighting Company, of the Standard Coupler Company, of the New York Yacht, Launch and Engine Company, and of other organizations.

About 1885 he devised a process of pumping coal through pipes by which he believed the fuel could be delivered more economically from the mines to the consumer. A patent was granted in 1891.

By the process coal was ground to fine powder and mixed with water in portions from 50 to 80%. It could be pumped at 5 miles per hour for any distance regardless of varying altitudes. He figured on locating pumping stations 20 to 30 miles apart and that with a pressure of 1200 pounds per square inch 28,000 tons of coal per day could be moved through a 24" pipe. For months he experimented with a pump, a pipe line and a settling basin on a large plot of ground on Madison Avenue at 58th Street. He intended to use the powdered coal to make gas, coke and briquettes and to burn it under boilers.

Intending to have the New York Steam Company use powdered coal or in the briquette form, he bought land in the New Jersey Meadows for settling basins.

Attention to his many interests and his untimely death prevented completion of the enterprise. On the night of April 17, 1899, Mr. Andrews met death tragically, as did his wife; her sister-in-law, Mrs. G. C. St. John, three St. John children and 7 other persons when their home at 2 East 67th Street was destroyed by fire of unknown origin. Mr. Andrews' will provided a large endowment for establishing a school for girls at Willoughby, Ohio.

* This article has been prepared from data in "America's Successful Men of Affairs" published by the New York Herald Tribune and from information in "50 Years of New York Steam Service", a book published by the New York Steam Corporation. Mr. Robert D. Martin of that company arranged for us to receive the picture of Mr. Andrews appearing on the front cover.—Ed.

MEETINGS

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF HEATING and VENTILATING ENGINEERS

50th Annual Meeting, Hotel Pennsylvania, New York, N. Y.

January 31st and February 1st and 2nd, 1944

AMERICAN SOCIETY of MECHANICAL ENGINEERS

Semi-Annual Meeting

Hotel William Penn, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

June 19, 20, 21, 22, 1944

NATIONAL DISTRICT HEATING ASSOCIATION

35th Annual Meeting

Hotel William Penn, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

June 20 and 21, 1944