

THE
HISTORY
"
OF
MUSCATINE COUNTY,
IOWA,

CONTAINING

A History of the County, its Cities, Towns, &c.,

Biographical Sketches of Citizens, War Record of its Volunteers
in the late Rebellion, General and Local Statistics, Portraits
of Early Settlers and Prominent Men, History of the
Northwest, History of Iowa, Map of Muscatine
County, Constitution of the United States,
Miscellaneous Matters, &c., &c.

ILLUSTRATED.

CHICAGO:
WESTERN HISTORICAL COMPANY,
1879.

M. J. Fahey; Secretary, J. H. Cosgrove; Treasurer F. P. Anson; 1878—Foreman, P. Murphy; First Assistant, D. Burke; Second Assistant, M. J. Fahey; Secretary, C. P. Neff; Treasurer, F. P. Anson; 1879—Foreman, P. Murphy; First Assistant, D. Burke; Second Assistant, J. Pfeiffer; Secretary, C. P. Neff; Treasurer, J. W. O'Brien. Present membership, forty-two.

Relief Hook and Ladder Company No. 1.—This Company was organized April 12, 1877, with a membership of twenty-eight, and went into active service on the arrival of their truck, the 1st of May. The officers of the Company, to April 1, 1878, were: Foreman, Lyman Banks; Assistant Foreman, W. S. Halstead; Recording Secretary, A. N. Garlock; Financial Secretary, W. C. Kegel; Treasurer, J. E. Coe; Steward, R. C. Williams; Standing Committee, James Mayes, F. W. Swan and Julius Molis. Officers to April 1, 1879: Foreman, Lyman Banks, First Assistant Foreman, H. W. Hanson; Second Assistant Foreman, F. W. Swan; Recording Secretary, A. N. Garlock; Financial Secretary, W. L. Mull; Treasurer, J. E. Coe; Steward, C. C. Smith; Standing Committee, H. J. Lauder, F. W. Swan, J. H. St. John. The membership at present is forty-five. Company quarters, rear room, under City Hall. Truck first-class; made by G. W. Hannis, Chicago.

Muscatine has, happily, escaped, thus far, from serious loss by fire. The most extensive one which has occurred was August 23, 1851, at which time Joseph Bennett's sash and blind factory was destroyed, with several adjoining cheaper buildings. The loss was estimated at about \$40,000. Other minor fires have occurred, as might naturally be expected.

WATER-WORKS.

The admirable system of water-works now in operation in this city was first suggested by Mr. William C. Wier, now deceased. That gentleman visited Muscatine, in the summer of 1875, with the view of enlisting the capitalists in such an enterprise. In the fall of that year, a stock company was organized, and in December the Muscatine Water Works Company was authorized by the City Council to become incorporated under the laws of the State. The leading men in the undertaking were J. A. Bishop, G. W. Dillaway, S. and L. Cohn, W. W. Webster, W. S. Robertson, R. M. Burnett, W. C. Wier, R. Musser, R. M. Baker, J. T. Kreke, S. G. Stein, L. W. Olds, H. Funck, J. Rußelmann, and P. Stein. The charter was for twenty-five years, and covered all points essential to the completion of the works. On the 6th day of November, 1875, the Company was organized, and, on the 12th of that month, the following provisional Board of Directors was chosen: G. W. Dillaway, R. Musser, J. A. Bishop, A. Jackson, H. W. Moore, R. M. Burnett, J. Carskadden, G. A. Garrettson and W. S. Robertson. In 1876, the Board chose G. W. Dillaway, President; R. Musser, Vice President; H. W. Moore, Treasurer; J. Carskadden, Secretary.

In order to give a sketch of the detailed progress of the work, we here insert the Secretary's report to the corporation, submitted May 2, 1876. Mr. Carskadden said:

"To the Stockholders of the Muscatine Water Works Company:

"The Provisional Board of Directors of said company respectfully submit the following report: On the 3d of December, 1875, and shortly after the organization of this company, an ordinance was passed by the City Council of Muscatine, granting to this company the exclusive right to construct and maintain water works for protection from fire, and domestic use, and containing

guards, provisions and restrictions, which were deemed necessary for the preservation alike of the rights of the city and company. The ordinance was formally accepted by the company on the 6th of December, 1875, and by its terms became a contract between the parties.

"It was considered advisable by the directors, and by the stockholders, and the public generally, that the works should be commenced and pushed to completion as soon as possible, and in order to gain some practical knowledge of the subject, a committee of the Board visited the works at Davenport, Rock Island, Lyons and Clinton. This committee was very favorably impressed with the style and operation of the works at Clinton, and especially with the merits of the pumping machinery there used; and it was finally determined to model our own on a similar though greatly cheaper plan.

"On the 22d of December, 1875, a meeting of the Board was held for the purpose of considering bids and propositions for the construction of the works. Several propositions were submitted and considered, but that of William C. Wier, the engineer who had drawn various plans and speculations for the works, was deemed the best, and it was also the lowest bid submitted for the construction of the entire works without the reservoir; and the contract was awarded to him, the contract price being \$31,138, provided piston-pumps were used, and \$32,138, if plunger-pumps were selected. The plunger-pump was decided to be preferable, and the latter adopted at the contract price. Subsequently, the contract was executed between the company and Messrs. William C. Wier and T. Cowell, as contractors, the latter-named gentleman being associated with Mr. Wier, and joining in the contract subsequent to the letting. The contract bears date, December 29, 1875, and the contractors executed a bond for the faithful performance of their contract, in the penal sum of \$5,000, with Mr. J. R. Maxwell, of the Cope & Maxwell Manufacturing Company, of Hamilton, Ohio, as surety.

"The contract provides, in brief, for the sinking and anchoring in the bed of the Mississippi River, for a distance of 700 feet from the shore between the elevator and Northern Line warehouse, of a wooden conduit similar to that adopted at Clinton, to convey the water from the channel of the river, and where, it is believed, the water will be free from the impurities of the shore, to the works—the construction of a water-tight well directly at the shore, in which a filter is to be placed, and into which water will be drawn from the conduit, and from which the water will be drawn to the pumps—the construction of a pumping-house and smoke-stack on the levee about eighty feet from the shore with the necessary pumps, boilers and machinery therein, and the laying of a twelve-inch street-main or water-pipe from the pumping-house across the levee and up Chestnut to Second street, and there connecting with the circuit of street-mains which extends from Broadway on the west to Oak street on the east, and includes main lines on Second and Fifth streets, and the necessary connections by cross streets, and the setting of a hydrant for fire purposes at each street-crossing, with several valves or gates by means of which the water can be shut off from any given section of the pipe for purpose of tapping, repairs, etc.; in short, the contract covers and includes all the main work and material necessary for furnishing water by direct pressure, and by its terms the contractors undertook to furnish all the material and do the work.

"The work of trenching and laying the pipe was begun immediately after the execution of the contract and was pushed forward as fast as the frequent rains and storms of the past winter would permit. Some delay in that respect,

and also in setting hydrants, was caused by the non-arrival of material at as early a date as it was expected.

"The open winter, which in some respects interfered with the progress of the work, enabled the contractors to build the brick pumping-house and smoke-stack sooner than was anticipated.

"The continuous high water prevented the placing of the filter in the pump well, and the same cause, with the additional fact that the river was not frozen over during the winter, made it impossible to lay a great part of the conduit; neither of these things could be properly done until low water in the river.

"The street mains and special castings were furnished by the celebrated iron house of Dennis Long & Co., of Louisville, Ky., and are believed to be of excellent quality. The fire hydrants and valves are from the house of S. Cummings & Son, of Cincinnati, Ohio, who have a well established reputation as manufacturers of these articles. The boilers were made by John Baker & Co., of Muscatine, and that is believed to be a sufficient guaranty of their quality.

"The pumping machinery was built, placed in position and connected with the pipes, ready for use, by the Cope & Maxwell Manufacturing Company, of Hamilton, Ohio. The pumps are similar to those of the Clinton Water Works, and are beautiful specimens of that class of machinery. Having a capacity of 1,500,000 gallons in twenty-four hours.

"The public test and trial of the works had on the 12th of April, demonstrated the entire efficiency of the pumping machinery, the strength of the pipes and the thoroughness of the manner in which all the work has been done. Upon the strength of that test, the pumping machinery was formally accepted by the Directors.

"In order that the city might be ready to avail itself of the benefit of the Water Works at as early a moment as possible, the City Council has provided hose and carts, and at the public test before mentioned, a powerful stream of water, sufficient for all ordinary fire purposes, was thrown through 1,050 feet of hose affixed to a hydrant on the east end of Fifth street, being the hydrant farthest from the pumping-house. This stream was played on the roof and tower of Schoolhouse No. 1, on the west side of Seventh street, and on a high elevation of ground. This severe test convinced all who witnessed it that the territorial extent of the protection afforded by the works is limited only by the length and strength of the hose in use.

"The throwing of two, three and four streams simultaneously, at the same trial, proved the ability of the works to concentrate a great mass of water at the same time upon any one point, and that the protection from fire which our citizens have been so anxious to obtain for years, has at last been accomplished.

"At a special meeting of the City Council, held on the 15th of April, the Council was formally notified by the Board that the Water Works were so far completed as to enable the company to afford the necessary fire protection, and that the rental of fire hydrants, as provided by the city ordinance should begin at that date. This communication was referred to the Council as a committee of the whole, and at a subsequent meeting was approved and assented to. The rental here referred to is the sum of \$1,000 per year for the hydrants on the present line of pipe, being thirty in all.

"The works have not yet been accepted from the contractors, for the contract is still unfinished. About five hundred feet of the conduit is yet to be laid in the river; the filter is to be made and placed in the well, and some work remains to be done on the streets in back-filling the trenches and repla-

cing the macadam along the line in Second street. With these exceptions, the work of the contractors is substantially performed.

"In the progress of work, some additions have been made to the original plan, and these have, of course, increased the cost of construction. Two hydrants have been set in addition to the number called for by the contract; the addition of a mud-settler was made to the boilers, and an arrangement of pipes, by which the water can be forced back in order to scour the conduit, in case it should be obstructed by sand; the size and capacity of the smoke-stack were increased, and various minor changes and modifications of the original plans.

"The subscriptions to the capital stock of this company amount, in round numbers, to \$44,000. The Directors have made four calls or assessments upon the stock—one of 10 per cent and three of 20 per cent, making 70 per cent called for in all.

"With but few exceptions, the calls have been met by the stockholders with commendable promptness, as appears by the report of H. W. Moore, Esq., Treasurer of the company, made to the Board April 29, 1876, there had been collected in cash on the stock subscriptions to that date the sum of \$24,504.75, and expended in cash the sum of \$24,493.01.

"The system of water works contemplated by this organization includes the construction of a reservoir capable of holding 1,000,000 gallons, upon the westerly hill of the city—either on the public square or on property to be purchased or condemned for that purpose—the pressure from which shall be sufficient to afford fire protection and supply for domestic use to all lower parts of the town without the aid of direct pressure from the pumps, and, when this is done, the cost of maintaining and running the works will be greatly lessened, as it will not then be necessary to keep up steam constantly.

"In conclusion, the Board beg leave to congratulate you and your fellow-citizens generally upon the fact that this important enterprise has been carried so far toward completion, and with so little delay and loss. When you called upon us to do this work, we knew absolutely nothing about it, and were compelled to rely upon conclusions drawn by hasty observation of other works, and upon such information as we could gather from outside sources. We had to depend, in a great measure, upon the advice and suggestions of the contractors, and especially of Mr. Wier, at and before the commencement of the work, and it is but justice to them to say that they have (as we believe) fairly and honorably given us and you and the city the benefit of their knowledge and experience. We should also remind you that this is a work that cannot be built and then let alone, like a house, until time and the elements make repairs necessary. It will not run itself. It requires now, and always will require, constant and careful supervision, and economy and thoroughness in its management and future extension to make it either creditable or profitable to the Company. But we feel confident that the same liberality and enterprise which led to the construction of our Water Works, will sustain and extend them in the future."

In the summer of 1876, the reservoir was completed, with a capacity of 1,500,000 gallons. It is located on the public square on the southeast part of town. From 1876 to 1879, there were several extensions to main pipe laid, making in all three and a half miles of pipe now in use. Other improvements were made, including the grading, fencing, sodding and planting of trees and shrubbery on the public square, making it one of the finest pleasure resorts in the city. The reservoir is situated about three-fourths of a mile from the pumping works and at a height of 185 feet from pumps, giving the city a

pressure of sixty-five to eighty pounds, which is used for all domestic and fire purposes. The company has located on the line forty double-discharge hydrants for fire purposes. The supply of water is obtained from the Mississippi River through an eighteen-inch cast iron pipe, running into the river 700 feet. The quality of water is as good as any in the State. The engine-house has been inclosed within a yard 130x75 feet, trees and shrubbery planted, and a beautiful fountain in the center.

The present Directors of the company, elected in May, 1878, consist of G. W. Dillaway, J. A. Bishop, H. W. Moore, A. Jackson, J. Carskadden, R. Musser, G. A. Garrettson, Samuel Cohn and L. W. Olds, with the following officers: G. W. Dillaway, President; J. A. Bishop, Vice President; H. W. Moore, Treasurer; J. Carskadden, Secretary; William Molis, Engineer and General Superintendent; Charles Molis, Assistant.

THE POST OFFICE.

The first post office in the limits of Muscatine County was established in 1836, with Arthur Washburn as Postmaster. The office was called Iowa. The second post office was at Geneva, in 1838. The name then used was Vanderpool and S. C. Comstock, father of Mrs. W. A. Drury, was the official in charge. Amos Walton, father of J. P. Walton, was Deputy, and, subsequently, Postmaster. The name was then changed to Geneva.

Although Bloomington claimed to be a town in 1836, no post office was established until 1839 at this point. The settlers of "town" and "county" were compelled to go to Geneva for their mail. The first commission was issued to a Postmaster at Bloomington, in 1839, but a most unaccountable spirit animated the man who was honored by the appointment, Mr. Stowell, for, before the commission arrived, he left the village for parts unknown. He may have been appalled at the thought of acquiring wealth so suddenly, for, at that time, the office was worth about \$4 a year. At all events, he retired from view, and the citizens discussed the merits of those who were more staid, with a view to selecting an officer. Finally, Edward E. Fay was induced to accept the trust, and his name was duly enrolled on the list of appointments. Mr. Fay was not trammelled with any of the modern ideas of a Postmaster's duties. The citizens did not wait about the general delivery and clamor for their mail, or grumble when he was five minutes too long in distributing the same. The reason was obvious: Mr. Fay carried his office in his hat! It was not an extraordinary hat, either. It had no lock-boxes or numbered drawers; but it created a system which has since been abandoned in this city—the carrier system.

Mr. Fay died in 1840, and was succeeded in office by his brother, Pliny Fay, who removed to California. The latter held office under the Harrison regime. During most of that time, the office was in a small frame building on Second street, where Union Block stands. The business had so increased as to require a local office.

When Polk's administration came in, the policy of the Government was one of change, and, in 1844, George Earll became Postmaster. He established his office in a small frame building, on the site of the old Tremont Hall. Mr. Earll soon died of consumption, and his daughter Lucy became first the Deputy and then the appointed officer in charge. Miss Earll became a general favorite, through her efficient and agreeable management. She subsequently married Mr. O. H. Kelly, of National Grange fame, and died in 1850, in Minnesota.