

Historical and Pictorial Review

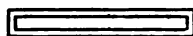
of the

City of Lexington

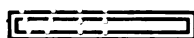
and

Police and Fire

Departments



EDITED BY
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LEXINGTON, KY.



By Authority of
Waller B. Hunt,
Commissioner of Public Safety.

Compiled By
E. B. Roberts.

The Lexington Water Company



The corporate name of the Lexington Water Company is "The Lexington Hydraulic and Manufacturing Company." It is at once the pride and the safeguard of the health of the community. Its water needs no boiling for the destruction of bacteria as in respect to the presence of such animakulae it is as pure as the milk from the dairy which is furnished for household needs.

The company obtained its charter from the Kentucky Legislature in 1882, the incorporators being "William Preston, Gilbert H. King, and R. H. S. Thompson," a civil engineer, and their present and future associates, their successors and assigns under the name of "The President and Directors of the Lexington Hydraulic and Manufacturing Company."

The capital stock was fixed at \$200,000.00, at \$100 per share and the corporation was to continue in existence for ever. The Gilbert H. King mentioned as one of the incorporators was a brother-in-law of Robert King, the local insurance agent and R. H. Thompson was a civil engineer, with local connections by marriage, who investigated the possibilities of a water supply for Lexington, and settled upon the site of the present lake Ellerstie, as being the most advantageous for the purpose. The ground was owned by General Wm. Preston, and rented by the late Timothy Anglin. A pond stood on the place, which, after a heavy rain, spread out to considerable proportions, being fed also by a big spring on the old Henry Clay place, known as "Mansfield." From this pond Mr. Anglin gathered large quantities of ice, in the winter time, which he sold to the city housekeepers.

In 1883, the Board of Directors consisted of R. H. S. Thompson, Gilbert H. King and C. G. Hildreth, the latter being president. He was also the president of the Holly Manufacturing Company, of Lockport, New York, which installed the first pumping machinery at the works. Mr. F. A. Cramer, an erecting engineer for the Holly Company came here to set up the first pump, which is still in operation. He was accompanied by his two sons, W. S. Cramer and Fred Cramer as his assistants. After the Water Company had become a go-

ing concern, F. A. Cramer left it, to go into other business. W. S. Cramer then became engineer in chief in charge of the Station, his brother Fred being assistant. In 1907, in recognition of his long and valuable service to the Company and his conspicuous ability as a practical engineer, he was appointed chief engineer and General Manager, his place in charge of the pumping station being taken by Mr. Fred Cramer, who had had experience enough to make him thoroughly competent.

The first reservoir was constructed on an area of thirty-five acres. Today there are four reservoirs, covering four hundred and twenty-five acres, made possible by the purchase of over nineteen hundred acres of land.

The corporation did not have easy sailing at first. It encountered much trouble in coming to terms with the city as to the rental price of fire hydrants, and the charges to consumers. A contract was at length entered into after much public discussion, which seemed to be fair to all parties, and insured to the inhabitants, a plentiful supply of wholesome water.

The pumps were started at the first reservoir on January 1st, 1885, and have never stopped since, except for unavoidable causes, and then for only a matter of hours. The company went into the hands of a receiver in 1893, but was lifted out in 1896, when a local syndicate secured possession of the property and increased its capital stock to \$300,000. The new owners began at once to make improvements and the corporate indebtedness increased from \$600,000 to \$930,000 by an additional bond issue. Later, the R. P. Stoll interests purchased the stock of Messrs. Alex Pearson, of this city and L. C. King, an eastern capitalist, and took over the property, and is still in their control. Charles H. Stoll was president from 1904 to 1907.

In 1904, there were 2315 "taps" or water connections; now there are 6563, which is one of the sure signs of the city's growth which, in the residential districts has been extraordinary. In 1904, there were only forty miles of main, now with larger mains, there are seventy-six miles. In 1904, the number of fire hydrants paid for by the city was 369; now it is 629.

On the first watershed selected, there are three reservoirs, only separated by huge dams, and one on the new site, some miles further east, connected with the pumping station by a pipe of great capacity. The first three are estimated to contain 810,000,000 gallons and No. 4, to contain 550,000,000 gallons. The ordinary supply to the city is 2,650,000 gallons daily. So there is no danger of a water famine as the present stock on hand would last for more than a year without any rainfall. As a matter of fact, the water in No. 4 reservoir fell only two inches during the recent severe drouth, and its capacity can be increased to hold 1,750,000,000 gallons and will be so increased before ever the necessity arises, for the company aims to keep far ahead of any possible demand upon its resources.

The water that is supplied to the people of Lexington is used by them without refiltering, for as it comes from the pumping station it is as pure as can be made. No expense has been spared to bring about this result. Only recently there was constructed under the supervision of an expert, a large settling basin, of reinforced concrete, two hundred feet square, eleven feet deep and holding 12,000,000 gallons of water in constant motion. It is divided into two sections which may be used alternately. Two twenty-four inch pipes pour the water from the lake, over an iron shelving into the basin, making a cascade, this being a process of aeration. The next operation is the filtering, which is done in ten huge tanks, the floors of which are constructed of diminutive sieves through which hardly any matter can pass but liquid, and these are covered with a heavy layer of white sand. The use of the settling basin is to give foreign matter in the water time for effective precipitation, before it reaches the filter, so that the process of filtration may be cleaner and better. When the water leaves the filter for the cistern, where the finished product is stored, it is ready to be pumped to the city for instant use.

The machinery at the pumping station has been greatly improved by the addition of costly new pumps, of extraordinary power, capable of delivering in the city 12,000,000 gallons every twenty-four hours.

The general satisfactory condition of the public health is in large measure, due to the pure quality of water, which the people drink, and for which they are no doubt, or ought to be, extremely thankful.

The present Board of Directors consists of John G. Stoll, President; E. B. Ellis, Vice-President; Rudolph R. Harting, Secretary and Treasurer; Mr. J. W. Stoll, Dr. David Barrow, Mr. H. F. Hillenmeyer and Mr. Joseph M. Skain. Under the wise direction of these gentlemen, the company and the city authorities, are working in entire harmony to the great satisfaction of the public.