HISTORY OF WEYMOUTH MASSACHUSETTS

IN FOUR VOLUMES

Vol. 1

HISTORICAL

Published by the WEYMOUTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY HOWARD H. JOY, President Under Direction of the Town

1923

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HISTORY OF THE WEYMOUTH WATER WORKS

By FRED O. STEVENS

Back in the days of the post road and the stage coach, before the invention of the telegraph, before even the building of the first locomotive in this country, Weymouth had a water system.

It was not, as one might presume, the type of water system most common in those days, having a windlass or sweep for raising the water and numerous pairs of strong legs and arms for transporting it to its destination, but a real system of pipes for conveying water from a common source to the dwellings of various inhabitants.

About 1820 Micah Raymond lived in a large one-story house "near the smelt brock" on land now owned by Russell B. Worster on what is now Commercial Street. Owing to proximity to salt water Mr. Raymond was unable to obtain a suitable supply from wells at this point, and so "built an aqueduct" (stoned up and covered in a spring) on his land on Washington Street and laid pipes therefrom to supply his own house and such others as desired to use the water.

This aqueduct, so called, was located at the southwesterly corner of the land now owned by Ella C. Richards and Hattie B. Batchelder, directly across the street from Dr. Virgins.

It must have been built prior to 1825, for on February 24 of that year the Weymouth Aqueduct Corporation was incorporated for the purpose of maintaining and extending an aqueduct already constructed. The incorporators were Abraham Thayer, Ezra Leach and Micah Raymond, and the company was authorized to hold real estate to the value of \$2,000 and personal estate not exceeding \$3,000. Leach had charge of operation and repairs, and Thayer collected the water rents which were based on a charge of \$5 for a single faucet.

Other springs were added to the system which seems to have supplied a considerable number of customers until about 1855, when some of the pipes were taken up and the water shut off.

The lead pipes of this system are frequently encountered by the present water department when making excavations on Washington Street hill.

This corporation was dissolved by an act of the Legislature passed June 2, 1873. It seems to have been the only real public water supply in actual operation in Weymouth up to the time of the construction of the present municipally owned system in 1885, although several attempts were made to supply water from Great Pond through the agency of a private company.

Although few at the present day will dispute the fact that an

adequate supply of pure water is absolutely essential to the health and safety of any community, the first efforts toward the introduction of a municipal water system invariably meet with stubborn opposition.

With changes only in names and figures, the story of one town is that of all the others. A small group of far-sighted citizens, realizing the need of water supply, go enthusiastically to work to obtain it. They immediately encounter determined opposition from another, also small, group, which habitually opposes on general principles any movement fostered by the "progressives." Then the "war" begins, and while each side gathers some recruits, the majority of the general public remains indifferent until aroused by some loss of life or property, or by some extreme inconvenience which a proper water supply might have prevented.

So it was with Weymouth. Previous to 1880 the town had relied for its water supply upon private wells and springs, and while there had undoubtedly been some agitation for a public system, the first definite step toward securing one was taken by Mr. A. J. Richards, who caused to be inserted in the warrant for a special town meeting held in August, 1880, an article "To see if the town will appoint a committee to petition the legislature for the right to take the water of Great Pond. . . . "

It was voted that the selectmen be instructed to petition for this right, but an article to see if the town would choose a committee to investigate the question of water supply and employ an engineer for that purpose was laid on the table till the next annual meeting.

At the annual meeting held March 7, 1881, the sentiment for a town system was evidently not strong, as it was voted that the town would not incur any expense for taking water, but was willing that a stock company should take the waters of Great Pond.

The General Court of 1881 passed the act (chapter 174, Acts of 1881) enabling the citizens of Weymouth to issue bonds for the construction of a water system, and vesting the management of that system in a Board of Water Commissioners, to be elected after the acceptance of the act. The passage of this act seems to have marked a change in the attitude of the voters toward the water question, for at an adjourned meeting held April 4, 1881, it was voted that the selectmen, together with three from each ward, be a committee to obtain surveys and estimate of cost, and that not exceeding \$500 be appropriated for that purpose.

The moderator appointed the following committee:

Ward 1.	Elias S. Bea	ls, Henry A	. Nash, F	rank H.	Torrey.

- Z. L. Bicknell, Dr. Geo. W. Fay, Douglass M. Éaston. Thomas B. Porter, Erastus Nash, John W. Hart. S. S. Spear, James Munroe, A. Raymond, Jr. Ward 2.
- Ward 3.
- Ward 4.
- Ward 5. Josiah Reed, Noah Vining, John S. Fogg.

It is interesting to note that one member of this committee, Mr. F. H. Torrey, is chairman of the present Board of Water Commis-

sioners, while another, the late Douglass M. Easton, held the office as late as 1913.

The committee immediately engaged M. M. Tidd, a prominent water supply engineer, to make a preliminary report. This report was presented to the annual town meeting held March 6, 1882, which accepted it, but voted to lay the entire matter of water supply on the table. It is evident, however, that the voters already had their subsequent action quite clearly in mind, for it was voted to "indefinitely postpone" on an article to see if the town would grant a franchise to a private corporation.

Following is the first official report of the survey made for the Weymouth Water Works:

The survey of the pond was made about the middle of February, 1881. At that time the pond was just two feet below high-water mark, and from six to ten inches below the original high-water mark, previous to the flowage by the Weymouth Iron Company, giving an opportunity to investigate the whole of the pond proper, its slope along the shore, and a more correct idea of the area of swamp which is covered at high-water mark, and altogether was one of the most favorable times for making the survey that had been for years. This pond appears to be a great shallow basin of surface water, without any springs directly in it, fed and supplied wholly from the adjacent swamps. There are six streams emptying into it in the spring of the year from these swamps, three of them at the head or southerly end, and three on the westerly and northwesterly sides. Among these three streams on the southerly end, two of them take their rise in the swamps lying southeasterly of the pond and Thicket Street, the other, which appears to be much the largest, in the swamps lying southwesterly of the pond. The other three, two of which are much smaller, take their rise in the swamps westerly of Randolph Street. The watershed for these six streams covers an area of considerable magnitude.

The area of the pond proper is two hundred and sixty-eight acres; adding twenty-two acres for outlying swamps and other points which are covered at high water, makes the whole area covered at high-water mark, two hundred and ninety acres. The bottom of the pond, with the exception of the ledges, is a very even surface, and from ten to twenty rods from the shore the depth of water is eight to ten feet, according to the boldness of the shore, and retains about that depth, with the exception of the center of the northerly half of the pond, where a depth of twenty feet is found. Around the shore the bottom is gravelly, but in the deeper water is muddy. Iron ore exists, and at one time, not far from 1800, was taken out in considerable quantities for some of the foundries at points south. The depth of water in the pond proper, near the mouth of the outlet, at high-water mark is nine feet. At the mouth of the outlet, or channel, the depth of water at high-water mark is five feet. This five feet is the depth of water that can be drawn from the pond in its present condition at high-water mark. Taking a line of mean around the pond of three feet of bottom and two feet of top would give an area of two hundred and forty-six acres, five feet in depth, which could be drawn from the pond at high-water mark in its present condition, at the outlet, which would give four hundred million gallons of water. Tapping the pond at the depth of nine feet below high-water mark, or four feet deeper than the present outlet, would give an additional amount of water of about two hundred million gallons, but if drawn to that point would drain nearly the whole pond, which would perhaps not be of much advantage, as there would be doubts about the pond filling in one season, and it probably would not.

The height of the pond above tidewater, from the bottom of the outlet to high-water mark, is 152.523. The highest point of land at Weymouth Landing, which is the Richmond Street hill, is 32.259 lower than the bottom of the outlet of the pond. The high point of land westerly of the almshouse is very nearly on a level with the Richmond Street hill. The elevation of King Oak Hill at its highest point is above the pond. The level of the pond would intersect a point not far from forty feet above the highest point of Commercial Street, near the house of Elnathan Bates. Weymouth Great Hill is a very little lower than the level of the pond. All other points in the north part of the town are lower than these prominent points, and the natural flow of the water would intersect almost any point desired, and in the thickly settled portion of the villages, with sufficient head to give it great force. At the south part of the town, all points on Front, Main and Middle Streets, south of Nash's Corner, or along about midway of the hill just northerly of the corner and south of Pleasant Street, at the junction of Park Avenue, would have to be supplied through high service by pumping, either into a reservoir or standpipe. If by reservoir, the territory is so level there does not appear to be any point of elevation sufficient to give the water any very great force. In conducting the water from the pond to the northerly part of the town by a main, the natural flow of the water from the pond would be along through the lowlands, intersecting a point on Main Street near the junction of Park Avenue, at which point the road is 8.421 lower than the bottom of the outlet of the pond, and is the first point reached in any of the streets from the pond sufficiently low to conduct the water through to the north part of the town, thence along Park Avenue, all points of which are still lower, through Pleasant Street to East Weymouth, thence along Commercial Street to King Oak Hill, thence to North Weymouth and Weymouth Landing; or it could be conducted from this point of junction of Park Avenue and Main Street along Front Street or a little westerly of Front Street, following Front Street, intersecting Main or Middle Streets, but in that case would make expense of some considerable length

of pipe with but very little settlement. The whole length of streets in the town of Weymouth is about sixty-four miles. The whole length of pipe of all sizes necessary for the town would be about thirtynine miles, or about two hundred and six thousand feet, fifty-five thousand feet of which would be necessary for the southern part of the town through high service. All of which is respectfully submitted.

> QUINCY L. REED. NOAH VINING.

The annual meeting of 1883 voted to instruct the selectmen to insert in the warrant, for the next March meeting, two articles on the matter of water supply; but the summer of 1883 was a dry one, and the month of August the driest ever recorded in this locality, so quite naturally we find the voters of Weymouth assembled in special meeting on September 18, to vote on the acceptance of chapter 174 of the Acts of 1881, entitled "An Act to Supply the Town of Weymouth with Pure Water."

The vote was taken by ballot and resulted in the acceptance of the act on the first ballot, the vote being Yes, 356; No, 114. The moderator was instructed to appoint a committee of three persons from each ward to nominate three candidates for Water Commissioners, "and to report to an adjournment of this meeting, a careful analysis of the waters of Great Pond." At an adjourned meeting, held on Sept. 25, 1883, the committee proposed the following candidates for Water Commissioners, who were duly elected: Augustus J. Richards for three years, Josiah Reed for two years, and Henry A. Nash for one year. These three men, whose names and works stand out so prominently in that period of Weymouth history, need no introduction. The new undertaking was in capable hands.

The committee also presented two independent analyses of samples of water taken from two different places in Great Pond.

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Because of their bearing upon the somewhat prevalent idea that these waters have deteriorated, and since they do not appear in any of the Water Commissioners reports, it seems worth while to incorporate them in this history. The following are exact copies as found in the clerk's report of the meeting:

No. 4496.	OFFICE OF THE STATE ASSAYER,
	114 STATE STREET, ROOM 9,
in the state of the state	BOSTON, MASS., Sept. 24, 1883.

TO JOHN W. WHITCOMB.

1

The sample of water marked No. 1, S. B. received from you, submitted to me for examination, contains in 100,000 parts -

norganic matter										1.50
Organic matter	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	2.50
Total residue	212	°F.								4.00

Ammonia, free, .0020; ammonia, albuminoid, .0210; nitrates, none; chlorine in chlorides, present; sulphate of lime, traces; quality, good.

No. 4497. Marked No. 2, H.

	•								1.00
			•						3.50
at 2	212°F.								4.50
	: at 2	: : at 212°F.	at 212°F.						

Ammonia, free, trace; ammonia, albuminoid, .0270; chlorine in chlorides, trace; sulphate of lime, trace; quality, good.

Respectfully,

S. P. SHARPLES, State Assayer.

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HARVARD MEDICAL COLLEGE, CHEMICAL LABORATORY, Sept. 24, 1883.

WATER ANALYSIS

Figures express parts per 100,000 of water. Water from Weymouth Water Board.

Location, South Boston Ice House. Reception, Sept. 23, 1883.

Free amm	onia						0.0000
Albumino	id an	monia	۱.				0.0186
Chlorine							0.60

Residue, fixed, 1.40; volatile, 3.20; total, 4.60. Hardness English degree, $\frac{1}{2}$; transparency, clear; color, light yellow. Odor, none; characteristics on ignition; considerable blackening. Nitrates absent by ferrous sulphate test.

Location, Hollis Ice House. Reception, September 22, 1883.

Free amm	ionia						0.0000
Albumino	id an	nmon	ia .				0.0202
Chlorine							0.60

Residue, fixed, 1.40; volatile, 2.90; total, 4.30. Hardness English degree, ½; transparency, clear; color, light yellow. Odor, none; characteristics on ignition; considerable blackening. Nitrates absent by ferrous sulphate test.

Remarks

These waters are much better than the Boston or Cambridge waters at the present time. Both have essentially the same composition and I think that they would both be suitable as sources of water supply, especially as at the present time, on account of the very dry season, all surface waters are much poorer than usual at this season. Both of these waters compare very favorably with other sources of supply which I have examined this season.

Very respectfully,

EDWARD D. WOOD.

At this meeting the Commissioners were authorized to procure all data and rights necessary to proceed with the construction, and \$1,000 was appropriated for that purpose.

The Board organized with Josiah Reed as chairman and Henry A. Nash as secretary, and secured the services of M. M. Tidd as engineer.

In this last step the Board builded perhaps better than they knew. As one of the same calling, but of another generation, who has come in intimate contact with many of Mr. Tidd's works after a lapse of from thirty to forty years, the present writer wishes to pay a tribute to this man, who by a rare combination of technical ability, infinite attention to detail, and sound judgment, earned the title of engineer in its broadest sense. To his common sense the town of Weymouth owes the fact that its water distribution system is constructed of cast iron, good for one hundred years more, rather than of cement pipe, which, on account of its relative cheapness, was adopted by so many towns of that time, to their subsequent sorrow.

Early in 1884 Mr. Tidd reported in favor of Great Pond as a source of supply, and estimated the cost of the system at \$300,000. At the annual meeting held March 3, 1884, after agreeing that "each speaker on the water question be limited to five minutes," it was finally voted:

 That the Board of Water Commissioners be authorized to take all necessary action for the taking and holding by the town of all lands, waters and rights deemed essential to the use of Great Pond as a water supply, and to construct a system for that purpose.

 That the town raise by bond issue the sum of \$300,000 for the purpose of constructing a water system.
That the Town Treasurer be authorized to issue bonds of the town to the

3. That the Town Treasurer be authorized to issue bonds of the town to the amount of \$300,000, and that the form, denomination, time and place of payment, and rate of interest, not to exceed 4 per cent per annum be determined by the Board of Water Commissioners.

The ballot on the above vote (3) was, Yes 227, No 131, which was less than the two-thirds required by law for the issue of bonds. This evidently was not clearly understood at the time of the meeting, as the clerk recorded the measure as passed; but according to the records Hon. James Humphrey, Josiah Reed, Augustus J. Richards

and others petitioned for, and secured, a special meeting called at 3 P.M. on March 24, at which, by a vote of 529 to 231, the treasurer was authorized to issue bonds to the extent of \$300,000, and the Board of Water Commissioners to contract for the construction of the system.

Thus the preliminary struggle ended in a victory for the proponents of pure water. The ground was cleared for constructive work, and the remaining history of the Weymouth water system is one of construction, growth and service.

CONSTRUCTION

Early in the season the Commissioners let the contract for about thirty-five miles of cast-iron pipe to A. H. McNeal of Burlington, N. J., and the general contract for pipe laying, screen house, pumping station and standpipe to W. C. McLallan of Boston, who sublet the standpipe to Cunningham Iron Works of Boston, and the standpipe foundations to B. F. Richards of Weymouth.

Valves and hydrants were furnished by the Chapman Valve Manufacturing Company, and the original pump, which is doing the greater part of the pumping to-day, by the Geo. F. Blake Manufacturing Company of Cambridge.

Construction work under the supervision of Mr. Tidd was commenced in the fall of 1884, suspended during the winter, resumed with full force in the spring of 1885, and carried on with such speed that on September 19 the work of laying house connections was commenced, and on December 5 the works were turned over to the town, the test by the insurance inspectors being made later in the same month.

If "the proof of a pudding is in the eating," surely the supreme test of water works construction is in its condition and behavior after thirty-five years of use, and the present management of the Weymouth system cannot refrain from commenting on the consistent excellence of all the work performed by Mr. McLallan, under Mr. Tidd's supervision.

Among those who had a part in the work of engineering and inspection were the late George J. Reis, who was afterwards for many years superintendent; Harry A. Nash, now engineer with the Bethlehem Shipbuilding Corporation; and D. N. Tower, superintendent of the Cohasset Water Works. The late Edward ("Big Ned") Curran was one of McLallan's force who remained with the works, and was for many years a familiar figure about the town.

During the years 1886 to 1888, inclusive, a considerable amount of new construction work was performed by the Board's own forces, so that at the end of 1888, what may be designated as the original system was completed at a total cost of \$362,000. Since that time new construction has been added year by year as required, to the amount of \$260,260, making the total book value of the plant on Dec. 31, 1919, \$622,260.

OPERATION

One of the outstanding features in the history of this plant is the length of service of its officials and operating force.

In a period of thirty-six years but twelve persons have served as Water Commissioners, or exactly four full boards, Augustus J. Richards and Henry A. Nash of the first board serving for seventeen consecutive years.

The late Charlotte E. Briggs constituted the entire office force from 1891 to the time of her death in 1919.

Geo. W. Sargent has served as chief engineer at the pumping plant for a total of about twenty-eight years, and it is due in no small measure to his faithful care that the original equipment is supplying Weymouth with water to-day, with the unusual record of thirty-five years of continuous service.

To servants like the above mentioned the town owes a debt of gratitude which cannot be expressed in dollars and cents. Their duties were exacting and nerve racking; their accomplishments unseen and little appreciated; they had no hours of labor as we understand the term to-day; their work must be done, regardless of hours and regardless of fatigue. Their only reward was the satisfaction in their own hearts of a duty well performed. The present writer hopes that he may in a measure enhance that reward by making the fact of "duty well performed" a matter of history.

Other engineers at the pumping station have been Elisha Phillips, 1885–86, and Charles B. Klingmann, 1902–08.

The general supervision of the works has been in the hands of three superintendents, George J. Reis, 1885–1900, Ivers M. Low, 1902–13, and Fred O. Stevens, 1914–.

The operation of the plant has not been without its difficulties. Several localities on the gravity portion of the system are so little below the source that difficulty in serving them at times of heavy draft was early encountered. This was partly overcome by changing some of these localities on to the "high service" system. Others, by reason of their geographical situation, could not be so changed, and continued to have trouble until 1914, when, after many years of effort by the Water Commissioners, the town voted for the general installation of water meters.

The first 1,500 meters were placed on the gravity system, greatly reducing the flow in that system, and practically eliminating the old trouble. That it is not entirely eliminated must be admitted, as it is bound to occur when abnormal and unsuspected drafts on the system are made by the manufacturing companies.

Previous to 1903 Great Pond was used to a considerable extent as a pleasure resort; boating, gunning and fishing were permitted apparently without any restriction, and the letting of boats was an established business. Realizing the danger in these conditions, the State Board of Health, in 1903, made certain rules and regulations for the protection of the waters of the pond, among them one prohibiting boating, fishing or ice cutting without special permit from the Board of Water Commissioners.

After the adoption of this order, and down to Jan. 1, 1911, permits to boat and fish were issued by the Commissioners with little or no restrictions to such taxpayers of the town as applied for them. No letting of boats was allowed and permits were not transferable. During this time, however, there was considerable discussion regarding conditions around the pond, a large faction arguing for stricter regulations, while another faction wished greater freedom for pleasure purposes. As a result of this controversy the warrant for the annual town meeting of 1910 contained an article to empower the Water Commissioners to purchase land bordering on the pond, and one to instruct them not to issue permits for boating and fishing. Both motions were lost, as was the second motion at special meetings held Dec. 3 and Dec. 9, 1910.

On May 11, 1911, the Water Commissioners voted as follows: "All boating or entering on Great Pond is hereby strictly prohibited." Since this date they have declined to issue permits for boating or fishing.

Out of this action came the suit of Alvin Hollis *et als. v.* Douglass M. Easton *et als.*, brought in 1911. Lest there be any misunderstanding of Mr. Hollis' motives in this matter it is well to quote the following from the report of the auditor in the case, appointed by the Supreme Judicial Court.

In August, 1911, the petitioner, Alvin Hollis, who is a respected and lawabiding citizen, solely for the purpose of raising the question of the validity of the Commissioners' action, and actuated by no other motive, went upon the pond and permitted himself to be arrested for violating the regulations. He was convicted and sentenced to pay a fine of twenty-five dollars in the District Court. He appealed to the Superior Court and was again convicted in December, 1911.

No sentence was imposed and the case was carried on exceptions to the Supreme Judicial Court, which on Oct. 29, 1912, refused to grant a writ of mandamus to the petitioners. Exceptions were then filed as a basis for taking the case to the full bench of the Supreme Court, and during 1913 the case was pending on the exceptions. Early in 1914 the town moved that the court order the exceptions to be further prosecuted or waived, and after several hearings on the matter the court on April 18, 1914, entered a final decree dismissing the petition.

It is to be hoped that this once vexing question has been settled for all time.

THE WORKS AT THE PRESENT TIME

It is interesting and fitting, after a lapse of thirty-six years, to review briefly the material results of the decision of the inhabitants of Weymouth to operate their own water system.

After supplying water for domestic use at rates much lower than

those charged by any private water company in this vicinity, and after furnishing free of charge for the last ten years fire service which at the lowest pre-war rates of private companies would amount to \$5,500 per year, the town has in its water system to-day the following assets:

1. A source of supply sufficient in quantity to take care of the growth of the town for many years, and in quality perfectly safe and healthful as attested by its constant supervision and approval by the State Board of Health. (This water is subject to some criticism at times on account of its color, which is due to the swampy nature of a part of its drainage area, but while this color may be displeasing to the eye, it has no effect whatever on its sanitary fitness. Eventually, no doubt, as the tastes of the people become more and more refined, it will become necessary to provide artificial means for removing this color, but the fact remains that the quality of the water is the same to-day as when given the unqualified indorsement of the experts in 1883.)

2. A pumping and distribution system, having a book value as of Dec. 31, 1919, of \$622,260.64.

Taking into consideration the increased values of labor and material, the amount of replacement work that has been done under the maintenance account, and the fact that the greater part of the book value is in cast-iron pipe, upon which depreciation is light, it is a very conservative estimate that places the reproduction cost less depreciation at one-half million dollars.

Outstanding against this are bonds to the amount of \$134,000, offset by a sinking fund of \$55,000, leaving a net debt of \$79,000 and net assets, after all debts are retired, of at least \$400,000, or \$100,000 more than the original bond issue which seemed so large to the voters of 1883.

WEYMOUTH AQUEDUCT CORPORATION

About the year 1820 Micah Richmond, a currier by trade, owned a large tract of land on the turnpike, now called Washington Street, including land fronting on that street (now owned by the George S. Baker estate, William K. Baker, Jeremiah Bailey, A. G. Nye, Washington Merritt, Edward T. Jordan and Albion Hall) and extending back on Richmond Hill, so called. Micah Raymond lived in a large one-story house near the smelt brook (on land now owned by Russell B. Worster). By reason of the land adjoining the house being so near the salt water the wells were affected thereby, and for the purpose of supplying himself and the neighbors with pure water he built an aqueduct upon his land on Washington Street, and ran pipes therefrom to his own house and such others as desired to use the water. The aqueduct was located upon the southwesterly corner of land now owned by the George S. Baker estate. It must have been built previous to 1825, for in an act incorporating the Weymouth Aqueduct Corporation it is stated that the purpose was

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to maintain and extend an aqueduct already constructed. The date of incorporation is Feb. 24, 1825, and Abraham Thayer, Ezra Leach and Micah Raymond are named as the corporators. The corporation had power to hold real estate not exceeding \$2.000 and personal estate not exceeding \$3,000. As the water from the original aqueduct was not sufficient to supply all those who used it, pipes were afterwards connected with a spring on the land of Cotton Tufts opposite the estate of Samuel Reed on Washington Street: also with a spring upon the land of Asa Webb opposite the stable of Elzeard Bourke on Tremont Street near the house of Mrs. Humphrey. This last spring furnished water for the house of Asa Webb who lived where the Cowing family now live. The corporation does not seem to have held any real estate. Besides Micah Ravmond the water was used by Ezra Leach who lived in the house now occupied by Elias Richards; Peter H. Cushing, who lived upon the opposite side of the street; Abraham Thayer, who kept the hotel afterwards occupied by Asa B. Wales; Ezra W. Sampson. who lived upon the place now occupied by Alden Bowditch; and Ezekiel Worster, who lived upon the place now occupied by Mrs. John G. Worster. The water was also used in the house of Ezekiel Worster, occupied at one time by Abraham Thaver: also in the old Arnold house, afterwards occupied by Silas Binney, and at the steam mill in the rear of Ezekiel Worster's house. The main aqueduct seems to have been in operation until about 1855, when some of the pipes were taken up and the water cut off. Ezra W. Leach seems to have had charge of the operating and repairing of the aqueduct, although Abraham Thaver had to do with collecting the water rates. The price asked for water was \$5 per faucet. The corporation was dissolved by an act of the Legislature passed June 2, 1873. (Statutes 1873, chapter 327.)

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