HISTORICAL



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THE YORK WATER COMPANY 1816–1966

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Ned Read, 9-year-old star of the York Water Company's new movie, and George S. Schmidt, President, activate the plunger which set off the dynamite blast during ground-breaking ceremonies for the new impounding dam south of York. The new storage lake, which will triple York's water reserve, is scheduled for completion during the 150th year anniversary of the founding of the York Water Company.

COVER

This color reproduction of a pencil drawing created from memory by David Heckert in 1903 represents "Old John Richter at work with his boring apparatus outside the gutter on East Main Street sometime between 1830 and 1836." Logs were bored for pipes until 1840 when the Company converted to cast iron pipes made by a local foundry.

INTRODUCTION

On December 17, 1965, a dynamite blast, set off jointly by a boy and a man, highlighted the ground breaking ceremonies for a new impounding dam to be constructed by the York Water Company on the East Branch of the Codorus Creek, south of York. The resulting reservoir will almost triple York's water reserve and provide for the foreseeable needs of the growing area for the remainder of this century.

This major construction and planning project will be completed during the 150th year anniversary of the founding of the York Water Company. The company's present-day physical plant bears very little resemblance to the rudimentary distribution of spring water through log pipes in 1816. But the basic aims of the York Water Company have remained the same throughout its existence—to provide the citizens of York and environs with a plentiful, uninterrupted supply of pure water.

That the company has been successful in achieving these aims can be a source of pride and reassurance for the entire community, especially now, during a period of critical water problems elsewhere throughout the United States.

Blessed with an early start, the current crises facing other towns and cities were largely solved in York over 50 years ago. The York Water Company began to combat industrial pollution as early as 1896, first by relocating their pumps to a cleaner supply and then by taking active, persistent steps to protect the entire water shed through conservation, reforestation and enforcement. As a result, despite continued industrial growth, York's water supply is not threatened by pollution. As one of the first water companies in the nation to recognize the perils of water contamination, York consumers have benefitted from filtered water since 1899 and chemically purified water since 1910. The consistent quality of the supply has been an important factor in the above average public health rate of the area for many years.

Unusual foresight by the managers, just after the turn of the century, has assured a plentiful supply of water to this date. Since the completion of the first impounding dam in 1913, there have been only two occasions when the Company found it necessary to curtail service due to drought. During 1965 water shortages throughout the Eastern Atlantic States, including drought conditions in York County, caused no hardship to York consumers.

The present management of The York Water Company cannot take credit for the foresight of its predecessors. It is rather our responsibility to continue the tradition of conservative management coupled with enlightened planning and service to the public which has prevailed throughout the life of the Company.

To commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Company's founding, we have prepared this booklet including interesting highlights in the history of the Company and describing the present-day facilities. Also, soon to be released is a movie, which will be available to schools and organizations throughout the area.

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OPENING OF THE YORK WATER COMPANY-1816

This Lewis Miller print from the files of The Historical Society of York County depicts the company's first test for hydrant water in 1816. The artist identified those present as "managers (1) George Small, (2) Peter Small, (3) Abraham Gartman, (4) David Cassat, Attny., (5) George Richter and Weirich, working hands," and then commented, "George Small put a tin pipe in one of the trunks to see how high the water would squirt. George was very attentive which I shall never forget."

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THE START-1816

On February 23, 1816, the Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania issued letters patent incorporating the York Water Company. This was the legal, recorded beginning of the oldest investor-owned water plant in Pennsylvania*. But the idea and planning for a project as ambitious as a public water supply, in a new country where only 25 such plants existed, started a good deal less formally.

In Colonial America, taverns and inns served as meeting places where men of business and enterprise might gather to discuss events and trends of the day. They were, in effect, the nation's first Chambers of Commerce. It was quite natural, therefore, that the founders of the York Water Company first discussed the possibility of a public water supply in a York tavern called the Indian King.

Though there is nothing actually recorded about this planning stage, this early American drama of public service through free enterprise had several obvious motivations. On numerous occasions fire had almost destroyed York. Piped water would not only reduce the threat of fire through greater accessibility, but also provide a source of pressure. The founders certainly appreciated the great convenience a public water supply would provide for the community. And finally, the need established, it no doubt seemed like a venture, which would eventually, at least, pay for itself.

THE STOCKHOLDERS MEET

Since the State had stipulated that 200 shares of stock must be subscribed to by 30 or more persons before the Company could incorporate, the first job of the founders was one of selling. This accomplished, at 25 dollars a share, the 30 new holders of stock in the York Water Company met March 19, 1816 to elect nine managers. At the first meeting of the board of directors, David Cassat was elected president and "it was unaminously resolved that the Directors would not receive or demand any compensation for their work as directors."

And then they got down to business. George Small and John Demuth were appointed to contract for up to 16,000 feet of logs for pipes of different sizes from 20 to 14 inches. About a week later they asked for proposals for boring trunks, logs 12 to 13 feet long and bores 3 to 4 inches in diameter.

It is not known whether the founders called in expert advice on the engineering and construction of a water works, but even if they did, in Pennsylvania at least, they were veritable pioneers in the field of public water supply.

They had decided to use the springs on land owned by Peter Small in an area called Baumgartner's Woods⁺ as the first source of supply. The springs, situated along what is now Rathton Road east of Queen Street, had several advantages. They were elevated, which was important since gravity was to be the prime source of power; the water was pure, and at the time, the supply seemed adequate for the needs of the town. The plan, as executed, was to convey the water from the springs to a reservoir to be built on Mrs. McClean's lot and then, by force of gravity, through wooden pipes down to town.



Sample of first stock certificate issued in 1816.

The logs for the pipes, most of which were transported overland from Wrightsville, were drilled by means of a hand auger, fitted together by driven joints and kept from splitting by metal bands. They were, in reality, large tree trunks, and it is thought that the term "trunk line" originates from the times of wooden piping.

Among the events which York's first chronicler, Lewis Miller, recorded with picture and comments was what might be called the first pressure test conducted by the new water company. According to Mr. Miller, "George Small put a tin pipe in one of the trunks to see how high the water would squirt. George was very attentive, which I shall never forget."

YORK OUTGROWS THE SPRINGS

By the end of 1816, fifty-five persons had water on their premises. Only four years later, the demand for piped water had increased to such an extent that the company purchased additional springs. But in 1849, it became clear that the town was outgrowing the springs, and the Company decided to augment the supply by pumping water from the Codorus Creek. The lot for the new station, situated on the Codorus near the railroad bridge, was bought from George King for \$300. The new building demanded the installation of the latest equipment . . . a steam-powered pump.

According to Water Company legend, the fire in the first boiler was started from the pipe of a workman and burned continuously for 107 years until 1956 when the company converted to electrically powered pumps.



DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM-1816

Map showing location of log pipe lines as originally laid in 1816, with extensions (dotted) laid up to 1840, when the Company started replacing the distribution system with cast iron mains.



This Lewis Miller print depicts the York Water Company's first pumping station, built in 1849 along the Codorus near the railroad bridge.

1851-'BOLD ENTERPRISE ACCOMPLISHED'

Now the company could concern itself with meeting the demands for water service of the people west of the Codorus. How those involved with the project of laying a main across the Codorus felt about their job is best expressed in their report to the company dated July 5, 1851:

"... The great, the perplexing difficulty-the doubtful operation-the tremendous undertaking with all its fearful threatenings is overcome, the bold enterprise is accomplished."

They went on to report an "amazing" coincidence which marked the completion of the work: "Be it remembered that on the 4th of July at 12 o'clock Noon, precisely three quarters of a century after the Declaration of Independence of these United States, this great work was completed, and closed by three hearty cheers by the brave and unflinching workmen, who enacted the work." The report was signed, with obviously a great deal of pride, by Philip Smyser and Henry Ebert.

In 1840, nine years before the need to increase the supply had arisen, the company had faced the limitations of wood piping and had begun to replace the distribution system with cast iron mains made by a local foundry. Since that time, however, remnants of the trunk-line days have been periodically unearthed. As recently as 1964, workmen uncovered one of these log pipes, as sturdy and massive as when it was laid over 100 years previously. York was a booming industrial community in 1896, but prosperity brought a new problem to the Water Company. The increasing discharge of industrial waste into the west branch of the Codorus was polluting the water to such an extent that it was fast becoming unfit for consumption. Without the knowledge of modern day processing, the only solution was to seek out a cleaner source of supply. They decided to abandon the old pumping station and built a new one which was completed in 1897 on the South Branch of the Codorus. They also started what has become a continuing program to protect the entire water shed area from the threat of pollution.

TYPHOID THREATENED SUPPLY

But no sooner had the new pumping station been completed than a typhoid epidemic broke out in the area. A thorough investigation pointed to contaminated wells as the main source of the infection, but some of the bacteria was entering the public water supply. The Company realized that the health of the community demanded the installation of a complete filtration process.

In the early nineties, infiltration galleries had been constructed in the intake to the pumps. These consisted of passages filled with knacked stone through which the water flowed. This process, though removing the heavier suspended matter, did little to control the turbidity after each rain fall, and made no real contribution to purifying the water.

Though isolated communities in Europe had engaged in varying practices of filtering water for 200 years or more, effective filtering of larger quantities of water was still new to this country. Up until this time purity of water was mainly determined by how it looked and tasted. But the advances of medical science were fast proving that even the clearest water contained a great deal more than met the eye. In support of this, the introduction of filters in several New England towns had been found to dramatically reduce the outbreak of typhoid fever.



The immense sedimentation basins, now used as open storage basins for filtered water, were originally built in 1898 in conjunction with the Company's first filter plant.

At 10 a.m., March 13, 1899 the first filtered water was turned into the city. Though York's new mechanical filter plant was the third in Pennsylvania, it was the first to be successfully operated. A New York chemist, bacteriologist, and specialist in water analysis and filtration, Dr. J. M. Caird, considered the results of York's rapid sand filters remarkable. His glowing report, printed in the May 5, 1903 issue of the York Dispatch, stated in summary, "I have never examined a filter plant that gave such a high efficiency when the applied water was so low in bacteria. In fact, I never thought any filter could do such perfect work. I don't know of any city getting results to compare with these."

YORK WATER ACCLAIMED

Man had helped purify York's water, but the excellence of the natural supply was a special bonus. York became somewhat noted for its superior water and visitors to the city invariably commented on it.

One report, printed in the local newspapers in 1907, tells of a Philadelphia businessman, Edward P. Kelly, who so craved a taste of York Water during a prolonged illness that he wrote to his friends here requesting that they send him some. The local men arranged with a druggist to ship him three gallons. Mr. Kelly's condition improved to such an extent after the first shipment that he asked for five gallons more!

While Yorkers were enjoying their water in seemingly unlimited quantity and quality, the Water Company directors began to consider means of increasing the reserve. Although the town had suffered no hardship during the dry spell of 1908 and the drought of 1910, on a number of occasions the water was so low at the pumping station that the pumps could not operate. Unless immediate action was taken, they feared the next drought could be crippling.

The most logical solution was to create a man-made lake by building a dam across the east branch of the Codorus. In this way a reserve could be maintained to meet any conceivable water shortages for years to come. After the site was chosen and land purchased, plans for the construction of a dam were made public. And then came the protests—not only about the cost of such a project, which seemed extravagant to the shortsighted, but also about the danger in the event the dam ever broke.

A disastrous dam burst, which wiped out the town of Austin, Pa. in October of 1911, was poorly timed to reassure the citizens of York. This calamity did, however, prompt the State to take a more active, supervisory part in the construction of all dams in Pennsylvania. So, from the beginning, York's impounding dam was State approved and supervised, which at least helped alleviate the fears of the public.

Detailed thought and planning was given the clearing of the 170 acres to be flooded. All existing fences, buildings and timber were removed and great care was taken to disinfect such places as barnyard areas. The dam itself was built of a concrete core wall to prevent burrowing by animals with an ample spillway to provide a discharge for flood waters.



The vast planting of evergreens surrounding Lake Williams continued to flourish. Today the average height of the trees is over 40 feet.

The entire community followed the construction of the impounding dam with a mixture of fascination, pride, and despite repeated reassurances, uneasiness. When the construction was completed, January 7, 1913, there was a good deal of speculation as to the time and day that the basin would be filled to capacity and the first water would flow over the spillway.

Water company officials, by keeping tab on the daily rise of the water level, planned to be the first witnesses to the event on the morning of February 4, 1913. But two boys from nearby Jacobus beat them to it in an out-and-out race with the team of horses bearing the Company's management.

'DROUGHT DOESN'T EFFECT YORK'

The very next year the new impounding basin, now called Lake Williams, proved its worth. A local headline read "Drought Doesn't Effect York," and suddenly the extravagant, menacing project became a source of pride and reassurance to the community.

As one local editorial writer expressed it in the midst of the 1914 drought, ", . . they sprinkled the streets without thought of waste and it was not even necessary for the authorities to hint at economy of water. The Water Company's long look ahead is responsible for this satisfactory condition. Indeed when water ever becomes scarce in the City of York, conditions elsewhere are going to be indeed critical."

One thing the public hadn't worried about, which immediately became a chief concern of the Water Company, was the best way to protect the water shed and prevent erosion of soil around the impounding basin. The resulting solution is one of the finest examples of reforestation in the world. The 800-acre impounding basin tract contains over a million trees, most of them evergreens. The planting has been so successful as a water conservation project that the York water supply remains one of the cleanest and most bountiful in the country. These pictures taken from 1911 to 1913 show construction progress on the first impounding dam. Below, the completed spillway, still waiting to channel the first overflow from the new basin.

The completed dam as it looked January 7, 1913, stands ready to back up the waters of the Codorus and form Lake Williams. A day lacking four weeks later the basin was full and two boys from Jacobus were the first to see water flow down the spillway.





The bridge over the spillway was one of the first segments of the project completed.

Work progresses on the 90-foot spillway.

'BEST REFORESTING IN THE WORLD'

In 1925 members of The Engineering Society of York decided to make conservationconscious President Coolidge aware of York, Pa.'s exemplary reforestation efforts. It was a blustery mid-November day at the Filter Plant that they sent the message to the White House—via 13 carrier pigeons! The birds battled a lively gale to convey to the President the highlights of the water company's plantings. In the reply, President Coolidge sent hearty congratulations to the group and noted that "the planting of evergreens throughout the York Water Shed area was conceded to be the best reforesting of evergreens in the world."

Since 1929 most people in York identify the York Water Company with the administration building at 130 E. Market Street. At the time the land was purchased for the construction of the hew building, it was discovered that it had originally been owned by John Penn, son of William Penn, and first sold in 1813 for the sum of \$35.00.

The home of Samuel Small occupied the land in 1928 when the water company purchased it for \$75,000. So outstanding was the chandelier in the house, that the company kept it and included it in the foyer of the present filter plant, built in 1932. Also on the grounds of the present filter plant is a Japanese Pagoda, which Mr. Small had acquired from the St. Louis Exposition of 1904. It's interest is now enhanced by the names of young Yorkers laboriously carved into the ancient wood.

These are the main events and anecdotes in the 150-year history of the York Water Company. But since the past, as it nears the present, tends to lose some of the aura of "long ago," we've chosen to end this historical segment in 1929 with the completion of the Company's office. The following description of the present facilities notes the chief improvements made since that time.



Interested groups throughout the State often visited York to view the Water Company's famed reforestation project. Shown here is the Lumberman's Exchange from Philadelphia on October 23, 1926.



The architect's drawing of the proposed new office building gives an idea of how Market Street appeared at the end of the flapper era. Completed in 1929, the building, featuring white Georgia marble, was designed to be a permanent home for the Company. The classic architecture, though dated compared to modern office buildings, still denotes the solidity, endurance and appreciation of quality which characterizes the aims of The York Water Company.





This Japanese Pagoda, now gracing the entrance to the Company's filter plant, was acquired by Mr. Small from the St. Louis Exposition of 1904.



The crystal chandelier in the Small home was kept by the Water Company and now hangs in the foyer of the present filter plant.

The home of Samuel Small as it looked when the Water Company bought it in 1928 as the site for the new office building.



YOUR WATER-A MANUFACTURED PRODUCT

When you turn on a faucet in your home at any time of day or night, winter or summer you can be certain of two things (barring individual plumbing difficulties!) water will come out; it will be safe to drink. So automatic is the result of turning on a tap that it takes a little concentration to realize the methodical 24-hour-a-day process which your water goes through before it appears in your home.

The understanding of York's water system is basic to understanding modern-day processing of water throughout the world. Though each community differs in way and means, four concerns are common to all—obtaining a natural supply; refining the raw water through settling and filtering; sterilization of the water for human consumption; and distribution of the finished product to the public.

Since everything that follows depends on the quality and quantity of the natural supply, a water company also becomes vitally concerned with preventing pollution and water conservation.

The following sections will give you an overall picture of the route your water travels from stream to faucet.

SUPPLY

The East and South branches of the Codorus Creek, the source of York's water supply, drain approximately 117 square miles of Pennsylvania countryside. Because it is more a rural stream than an urban waterway, it is subject to less industrial pollution than many natural supplies. The East branch, which flows into the impounding basin, drains an area of 43 square miles. The York Water Company owns a number of springs on



Here, in picturesque York County countryside, the East branch of the Codorus meets the South branch and flows as one stream toward the pumping station.

this branch and has protected them against contamination through the planting of trees.

As has been mentioned, the Company's first major project to maintain control of the natural supply was the construction of an impounding dam on the East branch in 1913. Originally Lake Williams held 900,000,000 gallons of water. After the drought of 1954, the company increased the capacity by 250,000,000 gallons through the installation of Bascule Gates. These gates, the first of their kind in Pennsylvania, are four feet high and designed to automatically raise or lower according to the amount of water flowing into the lake. They not only succeeded in raising the water level in the reservoir by four feet, expanding the lake to its present 220-acre coverage, but have added to the protection of the dam during floods.

The reforestation surrounding the reservoir covers about 800 acres and includes more than 1,200,000 evergreens. These plantings have effectively prevented soil erosion and the danger of the reservoir being filled with silt.

A 48-inch pipe, extending through the dam at the deepest part of the lake, makes it possible to draw on the reserve during periods of drought.



Installed in 1955 as a means of increasing the reserve in Lake Williams, the Bascule Gates raise or lower automatically according to the water level in the basin. They have also provided an effective means of flood control, and were the first gates of this type to be used in Pennsylvania.



This aerial view of Lake Williams also shows the vast reforestation of the water shed which has helped keep the supply plentiful and clean. Since 1913 over one million evergreens have been set out by the Water Company.

PUMPING STATION

About a half-mile downstream from the impounding dam, the East branch joins with the South branch and flows as one stream to the pumping station, where a small dam is used to deflect the water into the pumping wells. This raw creek water is immediately dosed with chlorine, killing almost all harmful bacteria present even before it undergoes the filtering process.

Current pumping equipment at the station includes two reciprocating steam pumps, two steam turbine driven centrifugal pumps and three electrically driven centrifugal pumps with a combined capacity of 71,000,000 gallons per day. This is more than double the peak requirements on any given day in York but is designed to provide an ample margin of safety in the event of pump or power failure. An added safety feature is that the plant has two sources of electric power and steam can be developed from either an oil-fired or a coal-fired boiler. For instance, in the event of a massive power failure, such as occurred in New York in November of 1965, the Water Company could immediately revert to steam power.

The water is pumped through two 24-inch cast iron water mains and one 36-inch concrete water main to the Filter Plant, approximately two miles away.

FILTER PLANT

The water from the pumping station is received into two mixing basins where alum is added to help settle the water and promote certain chemical reactions. The mixing is performed by two large paddles on the bottom of the basins. These assure the even distribution of the chemicals throughout the water. The quantity of the chemicals added is determined by daily analysis. For instance turbidity is increased after a heavy rain so it is necessary to increase the alum which speeds up the settling process. In the summer of 1965, The Water Company started using a highly effective new chemical, potassium permanganate for control of manganese which will cause discolored water when present in certain quantity. Activated carbon is also added when certain tastes and odors are detected in the raw water.

It is important to understand that these chemicals are chiefly concerned with clearing the water and reducing objectionable odors and tastes, and, since they are introduced prior to filtering (and in very small quantities in proportion to the amount of water) they are all removed by the filtering process.



The pumping station, built in 1897, has been expanded and improved three times since. The small dam in the foreground helps deflect the water into the pumping wells.

SETTLING BASINS

From the mixing basins the water is conducted at a very low velocity to two large settling basins, one of which is underground, situated immediately west of the filter plant. In this process, which takes from four to eight hours, most of the suspended matter settles to the bottom and clear water passes on to the filters.



This aerial view of the Water Company's filter plant, built in 1932, also shows the first filter building (center foreground) completed in 1899. The huge open storage basins, originally constructed as sedimentation basins, now hold 32,000,000 gallons of filtered water.

FILTERS

The filters are concrete basins containing several feet of graduated size stone, and covered with a layer of very fine sand. The water, in seeping through this bed, has all remaining suspended matter removed and the purified water is carried from the bottom of the filters to the open storage basins.

To maintain the efficiency of the filters, it has become Water Company practice to wash the filter beds daily. Though it would actually, in most instances, take several days for the build up of suspended matter to noticeably effect the final product, consistent washing guarantees the standard high efficiency.

The first step in washing a filter is to shut off the flow of water to the top.

After they have been drained sufficiently, filtered water is then forced up through the filters from the bottom, displacing the accumulation of sediment so it can be floated away through sewers to a large underground basin. From this basin, the water is pumped back to the mixing basins and reprocessed.

Finally, chlorine is fed to the water as a sterilizing agent. Lime is added in controlled quantities to maintain a slightly above neutral condition as a corrosion preventative for both company and customer facilities. A small amount of anhydrous ammonia is added to the chlorine which results in a chloramine compound which adds to the safety factor by permitting smaller quantities of chlorine to be used, yet be retained for longer periods.

Bacteriological analyses of samples of water taken from the various steps of the processing, as well as from homes in the city, are made daily to determine the amount of treatment necessary to absolutely sterilize the water and maintain a natural flavor.

The two filtered water reservoirs have a capacity of 32,000,000 gallons and provide another safety factor in case of any mechanical breakdown at the pumping station or the filter plant. Also situated at the filter plant are three electric pumps which supply water to the high areas in Spring Garden and York Townships. They pump to a standpipe in Spry and to an underground reservoir on Shunk's Hill, both of which are approximately 250 feet higher than the Filter Plant.

DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

From the open storage basins on a high hill above Country Club Road, the filtered, purified water starts its travel through a network of approximately 325 miles of cast iron pipe to supply over 113,000 people. (In 1816 a little over two miles of wood piping serviced 321). But interestingly enough, gravity is still the chief force behind the final distribution of water. The pipes, varying in diameter from 3 inches to 24 inches, supply 32,000 service lines. To supply the domestic and industrial needs of the 113,000 plus population requires six billion, two hundred million gallons of water yearly, and from 8-million to 25-million gallons daily, depending largely on the time of the year.

As part of the distribution system, the Company maintains seven booster stations. To safeguard the supply of outlying areas all stations are equipped with duplicate pumps. The maintenance department conducts a continuous inspection of all valves and hydrants in the system to insure that water will be available at all times, whether for a drink or a fire engine's heavy demand.

A control center at the filter plant, which is manned 24 hours a day, monitors the operation of distant booster stations and tanks to afford additional protection against interruption of service.



Each wing of the filter plant houses six rapid sand filters. They are washed daily to maintain peak efficiency and operators are on duty 24 hours a day.





This booster station in Haines Acres is one of seven maintained by the Water Company in outlying areas of its distribution system.

Included in the daily laboratory procedure at the filter plant is the incubation of water samples taken at various steps of the processing. After a specified period of time at a temperature favorable for the rapid growth of bacteria, they are analyzed. Here, Charles Crone, superintendent of the filter plant, explains the procedure to Ned Read.

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COMPANY AND CUSTOMER CONTROLS

An investor-owned, public utility, such as the York Water Company, is a rather unique institution. Because its product (processed water) is vital to the very life and health of the community its first concern, of necessity, is the public welfare.

To guarantee that the company discharge its obligations to the public, and to assist it in doing so, a number of State Departments control and supervise the various phases of its operation.

The State Department of Forests and Waters regulates the use of the present impounding dam (as they will also do with the new reservoir) permitting the Company to withdraw the amount of water from the streams necessary to supply our territory and protects this supply by preventing improper use of water from the streams which may have a tendency to decrease the supply.

The State Department of Health gives careful attention to our treatment of your water and requires that we submit weekly reports showing the daily bacteriological examination and details of all water analyses. This department also assists the company in the elimination of pollution in any part of its watershed area.

To protect the customer against discrimination or unreasonable rates the State has set up a Public Utility Commission. Annual reports in great detail are made to this Commission. It will also intercede, without charge, for any customer who believes himself to be receiving poor service or is unfairly charged. Any change in rates is carefully reviewed by the Commission in the interest of preventing increases which cannot be justified. Rates are customarily computed to provide an income of not more than six per cent annually on the depreciated value of the plant and equipment used by the company in supplying service.

Most industries are able to recover increased costs of materials and labor as they occur by raising the price of their products. This is not true in the case of a public utility where all such increased costs must be borne by the Company until the commission will permit a change in rates and then only when the change is substantiated by facts. The reverse is true when costs of materials and labor decline, and during the thirties, a number of companies, including York's, were required to reduce some rates.

The expense of supporting this Commission is apportioned among all public utility companies, including the York Water Company.

We invite you to inspect our facilities and welcome the opportunity to show you how the water you enjoy daily becomes a "manufactured product." Group tours can be arranged by calling the Company's office and individuals can usually be accommodated at either the filter plant or pumping station at any time during normal working hours.



The ceiling of the main office building is distinctive for its murals depicting the part water has played throughout the history and culture of mankind.

The Water Company office building at 130 East Market Street was completed in 1929. The land on which it stands was owned by John Penn, son of William Penn, and first sold in 1813 for \$35.00.



LOOKING AHEAD

Today a water company has to be modern to do its job. It has to plan and build in light of new knowledge and methods. It has to be able to grow with the community and at the same time provide the means for growth.

In 1950 the company's engineers, Alvord, Burdick and Howson recommended that a new impounding basin be built to increase the reserve supply. They suggested 1965 as the year to start the project. Off and on for the last fifteen years, the Water Company has been attending to the details preliminary to the actual construction and in 1965, as advised, broke ground for the new two billion gallon reservoir.

The new storage lake, which will cover approximately 290 acres, will begin to fill November 1, 1966, scheduled date for the completion of the earth impounding dam. Included in the specifications for the overall project are a reinforced concrete spillway, which will empty into a stilling basin (designed to reduce the speed of water flow into Lake Williams) and a single span bridge for the Susquehanna trail over the spillway. Contractors for the project are the H. J. Williams Company.

At the ground breaking ceremonies last December, 9-year-old Ned Read activated the plunger which set off the dynamite blast.

"Ned represents the next generation," George S. Schmidt, president of the York Water Company said, "the generation that will benefit from what we are doing today."





Excavation for the spillway started the early part of January and proceeded through what is now known as "The Blizzard of '66." In left center is a glimpse of frozen Lake Williams. The H. J. Williams Company is contractor for the project which will triple York's water reserve.



This photo indicates the construction progress on the dam, scheduled for completion November 1, 1966

This snowscape, taken January 1966 from the site of the excavation for the spillway of the new dam, looks north along the Susquehanna Trail. By January 1967 motorists will be able to glance east for a view of the new dam and two billion gallon impounding basin, and will, in fact, travel right over the spillway.

The York Water Company Officers and Directors, 1816–1965

PRESIDENTS

David Cassat Mar. 19, 1816-May 28, 1824
William Barber June 30, 1824-Feb. 6, 1826
George Small Feb. 8, 1826-Feb. 4, 1833
Feb. 11, 1834-Sept. 4, 1838
James Johnson Feb. 12, 1833-Feb. 3, 1834
Christian Lanuis Sept. 29, 1838-Feb. 16, 1847
John Evans Mar. 23, 1847-Feb. 4, 1867
Samuel Small Feb. 8, 1867-Sept. 29, 1882
Jere Carl Oct. 27, 1882-Oct. 26, 1908
Philip A. Small Oct. 26, 1908-Oct. 30, 1911
Charles Kurtz Oct. 30, 1911-Feb. 15, 1927
Charles M. Kerr Feb. 28, 1927-Feb. 19, 1940
W. F. O. Rosenmiller Feb. 26, 1940-
Feb. 17, 1954
Charles M. Kerr, Jr. Feb. 23, 1954-Jan. 29, 1960
Joseph L. Rosenmiller Feb. 8, 1960-
Feb. 3, 1962
George S. Schmidt

VICE-PRESIDENTS

George S. Billmeyer Feb. 22, 1898-Jan. 13, 1917 Samuel Small, Jr. . . Jan. 16, 1917-Feb. 26, 1927 George Hay Kain . . Mar. 28, 1927-Feb. 1, 1958 George S. Schmidt Feb. 17, 1958-Feb. 19, 1962 Horace Keesey . . . Feb. 19, 1962-June 30, 1965 Wilbur C. Beitzel July 26, 1965

SECRETARIES

John Barnitz . . . Mar. 19, 1816-Feb. 1, 1819 Jacob Eichelberger . . Feb. 6, 1819-Jan. 13, 1829 Samuel Small. . . . Jan. 13, 1829-Feb. 2, 1829 Charles A. Morris . . Feb. 7, 1829-Feb. 7, 1853 William S. Roland Feb. 12, 1853-Mar. 13, 1857 George M. Shetter . Mar. 20, 1857-Feb. 5, 1883 Smyser Williams . . Feb. 19, 1883-July 10, 1920 Grier Hersh July 26, 1920-April 23, 1941 Charles M. Kerr, Jr. April 28, 1941-Feb. 23, 1954 Wilbur C. Beitzel . Feb. 23, 1954-July 26, 1965 S. Walter Stauffer. July 26, 1965

ASSISTANT SECRETARIES

John F. Sprenkel . . June 27, 1899-Feb. 5, 1900 Edgar P. Kable Feb. 28, 1900-Feb. 2, 1925 William J. Perry . . . Feb. 1, 1932-May 1, 1964 Richard E. White May 1, 1964

TREASURERS

George Haller Mar. 22, 1816-Feb. 3, 1817
Daniel Heckert Feb. 14, 1817-Jan. 13, 1829
Samuel Small Jan. 13, 1829-Feb. 2, 1829
Charles A. Morris Feb. 7, 1829-Feb. 2, 1852
Charles Weiser Feb. 14, 1852-July 17, 1867
Charles S. Weiser July 26, 1867-Feb: 4, 1889
William H. Griffith Feb. 26, 1889-
Nov. 23, 1896
John J. Frick Nov. 23, 1896-Jan. 30, 1925
Charles M. Kerr Feb. 2, 1925-Feb. 28, 1927
W. F. O. Rosenmiller Feb. 28, 1927-
Feb. 26, 1940

William H. Kurtz Feb. 26, 1940-Nov. 17, 1948 James H. Schall. , . Nov. 29, 1948-Jan. 10, 1959 William H. Baker Jan. 26, 1959

ASSISTANT TREASURERS

William J. Perry . . . Feb. 5, 1934-May 1, 1964 Richard E. White May 1, 1964

SUPERINTENDENTS

Peter Small June 30, 1817-Oct. 20, 1818
Jacob Lowmaster Oct. 20, 1818-Feb. 7, 1820
Jacob Decker Feb. 11, 1820-Feb. 2, 1835
Feb. 2, 1836-Feb. 1, 1841
Henry Stroman Feb 12 1835-Feb 1 1836
Jacob Weiser Feb 2 1841_Mar 2 1850
Charles Raymond Mar 0, 1850 Mar 9, 1850
Lash Vonn Mar. 9, 1850 April 0, 1854
Jacob Kopp Mar. 8, 1834-April 8, 1834
Jacob Bupp April 15, 1854-Mar. 15, 1856
Daniel Hartman Mar. 18, 1856-April 1, 1860
Alexander J. Frey* April 1, 1860-
Feb. 1, 1869
Peter McIntyre* April 1, 1860-
Feb. 1, 1865
Alfred Gartman* April 1, 1860-
Feb. 4, 1861
William S. Roland* April 1, 1860-
Feb. 1, 1864
Emanuel K. Ziegler*, Feb. 8, 1867-
Feb. 1, 1869
Alexander I. Frey Feb. 5, 1869-Mar. 31, 1882
Jacob L. Kuehn April 1, 1882-July 26, 1898
John F. Sprenkel Feb 28 1900-
April 30, 1901
April 50, 1901
GENERAL MANAGERS

Henry Birkinbine	July 26, 1898-
	March 3, 1900
John F. Sprenkel	. April 30, 1901-
	Feb. 13, 1915
William H. C. Ramsey	July 1, 1915-
	June 4, 1917
Edgar P. Kable Sept. 30, 1	1918-Feb. 17, 1954
John G. Redman	Feb. 17, 1954

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COMPTROLLERS

William J. Perry . . . April 7, 1924-May 1, 1964 Richard E. White May 1, 1964

DIRECTORS

David Cassat	Mar. 18, 1816-May 28, 1824
Peter Small	Mar. 18, 1816-Feb. 7, 1820
George Small	Mar. 18, 1816-Feb. 5, 1821
020	Feb. 4, 1822-Feb. 4, 1833
	Feb. 3, 1834-Sept. 4, 1838
Christian Lanius	Mar. 18, 1816-Feb. 6, 1819
	Feb. 4, 1822-Feb. 16, 1847
Abraham Gartman .	Mar. 18, 1816-Feb. 7, 1820
	Feb. 4, 1822-Feb. 4, 1833
	Feb. 3, 1834-Feb. 1, 1847
Martin Danner	Mar. 18, 1816-Feb. 6, 1819
	Feb. 6, 1843-Feb. 21, 1846
George Spanger	.Mar. 18, 1816-Feb. 6, 1819
John Demuth ¹ .	Mar. 18, 1816-Feb. 6, 1826

April 30, 1832—Feb. 3, 18	40
Michael Gardner Feb. 6, 1819-Feb. 4, 18	22
Jacob Eichelberger Feb. 6, 1819-Feb. 2, 18	29
Philip Smyser Feb. 6, 1816-Feb. 6, 18	26
Feb. 16, 1839-Feb. 2, 18	52
Feb. 6, 1854-May 27, 18	54
Thomas Baumgardner	1
Feb 4 18	22
Feb 4 1833-Feb 3 18	40
Lewis Rosenmiller Feb 7 1820-Feb 4 18	22
Ech 1 1047 Ech 2 10	57
Tarra Llinar Eeb 5 1931 Eeb 3 10	24
Jesse Filnes	24
Jacob Upp reb. 5, 1821-reb. 4, 18	22
red. 4, 1855-red. 5, 18	34
Andrew Cramer Feb. 4, 1822-Feb. 6, 18	26
William Jordan Feb. 2, 1824-Feb. 3, 18	34
William Barber June 30, 1824-Feb. 6, 18	26
Henry Ebert Feb. 6, 1826-Feb. 2, 18	32
James Schall Feb. 6, 1826-Feb. 5, 18	27
James Johnson Feb. 6, 1826-Feb. 6, 18	54
George Upp Feb. 6, 1826-Feb. 2, 18	29
Joseph Small Feb. 5, 1827-April 30, 18	32
Feb. 3, 1834-Feb. 11, 18	43
Martin Ebert	40
George F Stine Feb. 2, 1829-Feb. 4, 18	33
Feb 3 1834-Feb 3 18	40
Mar 23 1847—Feb 8 18	51
Daniel Wesver Sr Eeb 4 1933_Eeb 3 19	2.4
Philip A Small Sent 20 1939 Feb 16 19	20
Esh 3 1940 Esh 7 10	10
Teb. 5, 1840-Teb. 7, 18	40
William Wagner Feb. 3, 1840-Feb. 7, 18	12
John Evans	07
Jacob Weiser	55
Peter McIntyre Peb. 21, 1846—Feb. 7, 18	70
Luke Kouse Feb. 7, 1848-Feb. 2, 18	52
Feb. 7, 1853-Feb. 2, 18	57
William S. Wilt Feb. 3, 1851-Feb. 7, 18	53
Daniel Hartman Feb. 2, 1852-Feb. 19, 18	53
Feb. 7, 1855—Feb. 6, 18	60
Edward G. Smyser . Feb. 2, 1852-April 16, 18	53
Alexander Small Feb. 7, 1852-Feb. 6, 18	54
William S. Roland Feb. 2, 1852-Feb. 2, 18	57
Feb. 7, 1859-Mar. 23, 18	66
Charles A. Morris Feb. 7, 1853-Feb. 2, 18	57
Daniel Rudy Mar. 5, 1853-Feb. 5, 18	55
John W. Hetrick April 16, 1853	
June 17, 18	54
Joseph Smyser June 10, 1854-May 26, 18	56
Henry A Hanra June 24 1854-Feb 2 18	57
Alexander I Free May 26 1956 Sept 7 10	07
Alfred Common Ech 2 1957 Ech 7 10	50
Allied Gardman reb. 2, 1837-reb. 7, 18	29
reb. 0, 1800—reb. 19, 18	01
Feb. 3, 1862—Feb. 5, 18	72
Joseph E. Rosenmiller Feb. 2, 1857	-
Feb. 7, 18	59
Feb. 6, 1860-Feb. 3, 18	62
Samuel Small Feb. 2, 1857-Sept. 29, 18	82
Michael Smyser , Feb. 2, 1857-Feb. 4, 18	61
Feb. 3, 1862-Feb. 3, 18	73
David Small Feb. 2, 1857-Feb. 6, 18	60
William H. Kurtz . Feb. 7, 1859-Nov 24 18	391
John F. Spangler	62
Juni 1. spangier 1.1.1. (es. 1, 1001-100.), 10	-

John Barnitz Mar. 18, 1816-Feb. 5, 1821

Emanuel K. Zeigler June 28, 1861-Feb. 3, 1896 Henry Small Mar. 23, 1866-May 18, 1866 David E. Small . . . May 25, 1866-Mar. 25, 1883 Henry D. Schmidt . . Feb. 4, 1867-Feb. 3, 1868 Nov. 25, 1875 A. Hamilton Nes. . . . Feb. 7, 1870-Feb. 3, 1879 William Hay Feb. 3, 1873-May 13, 1883 W. Latimer Small Dec. 31, 1875-May 30, 1899 Mar. 10, 1886 Jacob Buchar Oct. 27, 1882-Sept. 19, 1888 G. Edward Hersh. . Oct. 27, 1882-Sept. 3, 1895 George S. Billmeyer April 27, 1883-Ian. 13, 1917 Jacob Hay May 29, 1883-Oct. 18, 1897 Edward Danner. . . Mar. 30, 1886-Feb. 17, 1894 William Laumaster Oct. 30, 1888-Feb. 6, 1899 Charles Kurtz . . . Nov. 24, 1891-Feb. 15, 1927 Anthony Weaver . . Feb. 27, 1894-Oct. 28, 1905 Grier Hersh. . . . Sept. 24, 1895-April 23, 1941 Silas Forry. Feb. 3, 1896-May 26, 1897 Martin Bender . . . June 29, 1897-Feb. 4, 1901 Oct. 31, 1905-Jan. 5, 1908 John C. Schmidt . . . Oct. 26, 1897-Feb. 4, 1901 July 29, 1902-July 27, 1915 Aug. 24, 1910 Philip A. Small. . . May 30, 1899-June 30, 1913 Feb. 28, 1954 Samuel Gotwalt . . Feb. 4, 1901-June 24, 1902 Edwin Myers Jan. 20, 1908-May 5, 1916 Theodore R. Helb . . Feb. 1, 1909-Feb. 4, 1929 James H. Schall . . Sept. 26, 1910-Jan. 10, 1959 Samuel Small, Jr. . . June 30, 1913-Feb. 26, 1927 George Hay Kain . . Sept. 3, 1915-Feb. 1, 1958 Charles M. Kerr . . May 10, 1916-Feb. 19, 1940 John E. Baker Jan. 16, 1917-June 9, 1941 William H. Kurtz Feb. 26, 1927-Nov. 19, 1948 Charles M. Nes. . . Dec. 30, 1927-Nov. 6, 1937 Chester G. Myers. . Feb. 11, 1929-Oct. 31, 1960 George U. Weiser . Dec. 27, 1937-Dec. 1, 1945 Charles M. Kerr, Jr. Feb. 26, 1940-Jan. 29, 1960 Harry E. Dusman. . April 28, 1941-Mar. 5, 1948 William H. Baker June 30, 1941 William H. Snyder Jan. 28, 1946 George S. Schmidt Nov. 29, 1948 Wilbur C. Beitzel Nov. 29, 1948 Feb. 3, 1962 William H. Kain Feb. 17, 1958 Horace Keesey . . . Jan. 26, 1959-June 30, 1965 Irvin S. Naylor Oct. 31, 1960 W. F. O. Rosenmiller II Feb. 19, 1961 William J. Perry July 26, 1965

*From April 1, 1860, to February 1, 1869, there was no Superintendent. The duties of the office were performed by those Managers who composed the "Water Committee."



Every day, from this hill high above York, up to 25,000,000 gallons of processed water flow down and out through a vast network of pipes, ready, at the turn of a tap, to supply over 113,000 men, women and children with everything from a thirst quenching drink to protection against fires.

