

STANDARD HISTORY
OF
KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE

WITH FULL OUTLINE OF THE NATURAL ADVANTAGES, EARLY
SETTLEMENT, TERRITORIAL GOVERNMENT, INDIAN
TROUBLES, AND GENERAL AND PAR-
TICULAR HISTORY OF THE
CITY DOWN TO THE
PRESENT TIME

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was to consist of more than fifty persons, and the engineer of the steam fire engine was to be elected by the board of mayor and aldermen, and should continue in office during their pleasure.

On August 25, 1871, when the sale of the Knoxville and Kentucky railroad was imminent, the mayor and the members of the finance committee were appointed a committee to confer with the officials of Knox and Anderson counties, and if possible prevent the loss of the stock in said railroad being lost. The sale occurred at Nashville a short time afterward, and the mayor received the thanks of the board of aldermen for the prompt action he had taken, which resulted so favorably to the city.

On May 30, 1873, the board of mayor and aldermen ordained that bonds should be issued to the amount of \$125,000 for the purpose of establishing a system of waterworks, provided the citizens at an election to be held should approve. This election came off on June 12, and resulted in a vote being cast in favor of the works of 205 and against them of 191.

Early in 1873 Mayor Rule caused the erection of a house in a retired spot outside the limits of the city, to be used as a smallpox hospital, and ordered the removal of all persons afflicted with that disease to be removed thereto, appointing Dr. Swan M. Burnett to take charge of the hospital. He also appointed a board of health, with Dr. F. K. Bailey as health officer.

On December 15, 1873, a proposition was made to the "United States" to unite in the construction of a sewer along Prince street from the custom house or government building down to the river, the sewer to be 14x21 inches in diameter, to be egg-shaped, and about 1,900 feet long, except that a sewer previously built by the city from the north side of Front street south to the wharf should be connected with the proposed sewer and made a part thereof, the city to pay \$772 toward the construction of the new sewer. On the next day this prop-

osition was accepted on the part of the United States by Gen. J. H. Holman; superintendent of construction.

On February 6, 1874, an ordinance provided for the election of a city physician, at an annual salary of \$300, and on the same day the board elected Dr. A. B. Tadlock to that position. On March 6, 1874, an ordinance providing that the mayor should receive for his services \$1,000 for the year 1874 was passed, which also provided that each alderman should receive \$75 per annum. Dr. Tadlock resigned as city physician May 5, 1876, and was succeeded by Dr. S. B. Boyd, on the 19th of the same month. John M. Brooks was elected chief of the fire department February 19, 1875, and resigned that position January 23, 1876, being succeeded by William Coffman.

July 31, 1875, the board of mayor and aldermen took appropriate action regarding the death of Andrew Johnson, eulogizing him as a man of the people, as against being a partisan.

After repeated attempts to secure the construction of a bridge across the railroad tracks at the foot of Gay street, an effort was made in 1876 which was a success. Then the East Tennessee, Virginia and Georgia railroad company offered to pay \$5,000 toward the construction of such a bridge, and a contract was made with the Louisville Bridge and Iron Co., on September 25, to build such a bridge as was needed for \$13,030, the bridge to consist of four spans, each 42½ feet, two spans, each 80 feet, and two spans 56½ feet in length. On the west side was to be a foot-walk six feet in the clear, and the carriageway was to be twenty feet in the clear. The city set the masonry pedestals on which rest trusses and iron piers, and the entire structure was completed by January 1, 1877.

The proceedings of the board of mayor and aldermen in securing the construction of a reservoir and establishing a system of waterworks is of more than passing interest, hence some considerable space is devoted thereto. On April 11, 1879, a proposition was received by J. J. Fitzpatrick and W. B. McDonough to establish such a system in Knoxville, this

proposition being submitted to a special committee of four aldermen and eight citizens, afterward, however, the mayor was added to the committee so as to make the number thirteen. The aldermen appointed on this committee were Scales, Allison, Lyon and Sullivan, and the private citizens, Samuel McKinney, Joseph Jaques, J. B. Hoxsie, John S. Van Gilder, W. W. Woodruff, E. J. Sanford, Charles J. McClung, and George W. Albers.

On June 6 this committee reported through Alderman Scales, chairman of a sub-committee, that the Tennessee river was a good, unfailing and healthful source of supply, all that was necessary being a reservoir of sufficient capacity to allow the water to settle after being pumped into it. Two sites were under consideration—Mabry hill and Fahnestock hill, the former being 132 feet above the junction of Gay and Clinch streets, and the latter 97 feet above said junction. Fahnestock hill, 300x220 feet, could be obtained together with a right of way to the river and a station on the river bank for \$3,100, while Mabry hill, 300x100 feet, together with right of way and station for pumping station on the bluff, would cost about \$8,000. Mabry hill was 263 feet above the Tennessee, while Fahnestock hill was only 228 feet above it. Mabry hill would allow the tapping of the river above White Spring branch, the other site below that branch, and it was thought that on the whole Mabry hill would effect a saving to the city through the greater effectiveness of the fire department because of the greater pressure it would give.

The result of the discussions and reflections on the whole subject was that the board of mayor and aldermen would, provided a two-thirds vote of the qualified voters would give their consent thereto at a special election to be held for the purpose, issue \$75,000 in city bonds, for the purpose of constructing the works. This decision was arrived at on June 6, 1879, by a vote of eleven for the bonds to four against them, but even these four were in favor of the works, only preferring some other means of securing their erection. On the same

day a standing committee on waterworks was appointed, consisting of Aldermen Scales, Sullivan, Allison and Lyon, and Citizens Col. A. Terry, Charles J. McClung and Peter Kern, and on the 20th of the same month a board of waterworks trustees consisting of five citizens was provided for and appointed to have full control of the erection of said works, the members of the committee being Peter Kern, Charles J. McClung, S. B. Boyd, Peter Staub and Adrian Terry. Afterward Mr. McClung and S. B. Boyd declined to serve, and their places were filled by the appointment of Samuel McKinney and John S. Van Gilder.

The election to determine the sense of the voters was held on June 28, 1879, resulting in a vote for the bonds of 387 and against them of 170, more than a two-thirds vote in the affirmative.

August 7 the board of waterworks trustees, named above, reported that they had made an agreement with Moses Lane of Milwaukee, and were awaiting his report on the comparative advantages of the two sites, Mabry hill and Fahnestock hill, before making a final selection of a site for the reservoir and route to the river, etc. Moses Lane soon afterward made an elaborate report, which it is not deemed necessary to present here in full, showing to the trustees all the elements of advantage possessed by the Fahnestock hill over the Mabry hill, and favored the construction of a reservoir on the former, together with a standpipe thirty feet above the water level in the reservoir thus constructed. The elevation of the two hills, according to Mr. Lane was: Mabry hill, 263 feet above the Tennessee at low water, and of Fahnestock hill, 228 feet, the difference in the height to which the water would have to be pumped if Mabry hill were selected tending largely to determine him in favor of the lower hill. Fahnestock hill was therefore unanimously selected by the board.

It had already been determined that the income from the waterworks should be divided into three parts—one part to be devoted to the running expenses of the works themselves; a

second part to be devoted to paying the interest on the bonds, and the third part to be set aside as a sinking fund to pay off the bonds. On September 12, 1879, a waterworks sinking fund board of trustees was appointed, consisting of Peter Staub for three years, Peter Kern for two years, and H. B. Branner for one year. On September 26 John S. Van Gilder resigned from the construction trustees and was succeeded by H. B. Branner. And on this same day the committee reported that they had made a contract with Messrs. McDonough & Co. for the erection of the waterworks, the price to be paid being \$64,000, either in money or bonds of the city.

But notwithstanding the making of this contract there was difficulty ahead not then foreseen. On April 9, 1880, Samuel McKinney, chairman of the waterworks commission, stated that in accordance with instructions received from the council the commissioners had employed eminent counsel in the persons of Judge George Andrews, Judge H. H. Ingersoll, and Judge J. B. Cook, the latter of Chattanooga, to pass upon the validity of the waterworks bonds, the issue of which had been provided for, and that these gentlemen had made an exhaustive investigation of the whole matter. The conclusion to which they had arrived was as follows:

“We are of the opinion that the statute under which the bonds are to be issued is valid under the constitution of the state, and that the two-thirds vote given for the issuance of the bonds is sufficient if the election had been held upon sufficient notice to authorize their issue. We think, however, that by reason of the failure to give the full notice of ten days as required by the statute, the election as actually held was void, and that the bonds would be void in the hands of any person taking them from the city with notice of that fact, and that while the bonds would be valid in the hands of an innocent purchaser without notice, any tax-payer might upon promptly filing a bill for that purpose, have the issuance of the bonds enjoined by the courts.”

On June 3, 1881, it was ordered that the \$75,000 worth of

bonds which the board had on hand, but which had not been filled out, were ordered burned, and they were afterward thus destroyed.

Captain John M. Brooks, a member of the waterworks commission, then reminded the council that his commission were without funds and without authority, and said he thought the people should have another opportunity of voting on the question. Alderman McCroskey thereupon offered a series of preambles and resolution to the effect that inasmuch as the preceding proceedings had failed because of their irregularity, therefore there should be issued \$100,000 in bonds for the object sought, provided the people at an election held for the purpose, should approve, and April 24, 1880, was chosen as the day on which the people should again express their will and pleasure on the subject.

On February 13, 1880, a resolution was introduced to the effect that for the year 1880 the salary of the mayor should be \$300, and that of each of the aldermen \$50. This resolution was vetoed by the mayor, who was in favor of the mayor of the city and the councilmen serving without any compensation for that year. A resolution was almost immediately introduced by Alderman Atkin protesting against the vetoing of the resolution granting compensation, which was as follows:

"That it is the sense of this board of mayor and aldermen that the mayor of this city is devoid of the power to veto any of the proceedings of this council, and we hereby protest against the assumption of the power by H. B. Branner, mayor, and it is further resolved that the recorder is hereby required to obey the instructions of this board at its last meeting in reference to the payment of any bills or salaries at that meeting."

This resolution was declared by the mayor to be out of order, and upon an appeal from the mayor's decision, Aldermen Atkin, Burger, Boyd, Caldwell, Dickson, Irwin, Hudiburg, McAffry, McCroskey and Michaels voted in favor of the appeal, while Aldermen Allison, Hockenjos, McLemore,

Murphy, O'Connor and Sullivan voted nay. Not having received a two-thirds vote the appeal was lost.

On September 10 following this same matter came up again, and a resolution was adopted allowing the mayor \$1,000 for the year and each alderman \$75, no protest being made, except that four of the aldermen voted against the resolution, seven voting for it.

The subject of waterworks still occupied the attention of the people and of the board of mayor and aldermen, notwithstanding the bad luck and failures to which the cause had been doomed in the past, and on May 6, 1881, the mayor, Peter Staub, delivered an address to the council in which he stated that inasmuch as it was not desirable for the city to undertake the building of a system of waterworks, he thought the privilege of constructing such a system should be granted to some private company, and suggested that he be authorized to appoint a committee to receive bids and to report from time to time. A special committee was therefore authorized and appointed, consisting of Messrs. Nelson and McLemore, but Mr. McLemore, not wishing to serve, Alderman Brooks was appointed, the two members thus appointed to act in conjunction with the mayor; but at length, on June 20, the committee consisted of Peter Staub, the mayor, and Thomas A. R. Nelson and John M. Brooks. They reported bids from Charles E. Robinson of New York and from R. D. Woods & Co. of Philadelphia, the latter firm agreeing to erect waterworks according to the specifications of Moses Lane for \$95,000. Then a proposition made by Charles E. Robinson and H. A. Church was read and an agreement made between these parties and the city attorney was approved by the board by a vote of 11 to 4, and the mayor and recorder were authorized to sign the contract by a vote of 13 to 2. Next, on October 1, 1881, still another contract was submitted by F. M. Lawrence of Red Bank, N. J., and William Runkle of New York, which the committee recommended for adoption, the citizen members of the committee, J. A. Rayl and J. W. Gaut,

being satisfied with it, and thereupon the following resolution was adopted:

“Whereas, The special committee on waterworks have received a proposition from F. M. Lawrence and William Runkle; therefore be it resolved that the mayor and recorder be and they are hereby authorized to execute a contract as soon as the said contractors shall have signed the same.”

Then on December 30, 1881, came a suggestion which resulted in the successful construction of a system of waterworks which had so long and so persistently been sought, this suggestion being in the form of an application to the board of mayor and aldermen by several of the citizens for a charter for the Knoxville Water Company, who stated that neither Mayor Staub nor any of the applicants, except Mr. Lawrence, the contractor, had a particle of interest financially in the matter. The mayor and the recorder were then required to sign the charter of this company and to affix the official seal of the corporation. The Knoxville Water Company, on July 1, 1882, gave bond in the sum of \$25,000 to construct a system of waterworks in accordance with the plans and specifications of Moses Lane, to be completed within twelve months, this plan contemplating the use of eight and a half miles of pipes to weigh 1,221 tons, and the system to supply 2,000,000 gallons of water each twenty-four hours. The president of the Knoxville Water Company at that time was S. E. Cooke, and the secretary, A. Barton. The city agreed to pay at the rate of fifty dollars per year for each hydrant that it used.

August 8, 1884, a board of health was established by ordinance to consist of one lawyer, one commercial man and three physicians, regular graduates in medicine. The members were to be selected by the city council, and to serve one for one year, one for two years, one for three, one for four and one for five years, afterward one member to be appointed each year.

Among other things this board was required to keep an