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A HISTORY
OF
GUILDHALL, VT.,

CONTAINING
SOME ACCOUNT OF THE PLACE—OF
ITS FIRST SETTLEMENT IN 1764, AND THE
PRINCIPLE IMPROVEMENTS MADE, AND E-
VENTS WHICH HAVE OCCURRED DOWN TO
1886—A PERIOD OF ONE HUNDRED
AND TWENTY TWO YEARS.

WITH
VARIOUS GENEALOGICAL RECORDS, AND BIOGRAPHICAL
SKETCHES OF FAMILIES AND INDIVIDUALS, SOME
DECEASED, AND OTHERS STILL LIVING.

TOGETHER WITH A BRIEF SKETCH OF
ESSEX COUNTY, VERMONT.

By **EVERETT CHAMBERLIN BENTON,**
A NATIVE OF GUILDHALL.

W[✓]AVERLEY, MASS.:
EVERETT C. BENTON, PUBLISHER.
1886.

THE GUILDHALL AQUEDUCT COMPANY.

Originally the people of the village had to content themselves with wells from which to obtain their water, but frequently some drew it from different places in barrels. This was a very inconvenient way, and the larger the village grew, the more the necessity pressed itself upon the people to have some different method of obtaining their water. It was about the year 1841, that Allen Gould and John S. Nelson laid the first aqueduct; their plans were to lay logs from the spring near the Maidstone line to the village, but when it was completed they found it would not work; owing to the fact that the spring itself was at about the same altitude as the village. They did not give up, however, although they had been to a heavy expense, and the same year laid logs from a spring upon the hill opposite the village, in N. H. Upon its completion they found it worked to great satisfaction. This successful aqueduct was laid across the bridge, and when the cold weather came, it froze up, and it was found necessary to devise some plan to surmount this obstacle, and the next spring they laid a pipe across the river letting it rest upon the bottom of the stream. About 1850, Mr. Geo. Hubbard and Mr. Wm. Heywood got possession of the property and managed it up to 1857, at which time Mr. Nathaniel Shaw became owner and run it up to Sep. 1872, when Mr. Frank Hall and Mr. E. G. Richardson bought it and relaid the logs.

June 1st. 1874, Mr. Charles E. Benton bought out half interest and Mess. Hall and Benton managed it until Sep. 1st. 1883, at which time the Guildhall Aqueduct Co. was formed by J. B. Parker, Geo. Hubbard, Robt. Chase, Mrs. S. A. Hall, H. E. Hubbard, P. R. Follansby, A. W. Grow, R. K. Poole, O. D. Crawford, David Kent, C. E. Benton, A. D. Benjamin, W. H. Hartshorn, Dr. N. S. Boyce and the M. E. Church ; they organized under the following act of Legislature :—*It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont.*

SEC. 1. Such persons as shall hereafter become stockholders are hereby constituted a body corporate by the name of the Guildhall Aqueduct Co., with powers incident to corporations and may hold real and personal estate not exceeding \$10000. in value for the purpose of constructing and maintaining an aqueduct for the purpose of supplying the inhabitants of the village of Guildhall with water for domestic and other purposes.

SEC. 2. Said corporation may at any annual or other meeting legally notified make, alter and repeal such by-laws, rules and regulations as may be thought necessary, not repugnant to the laws of this State.

SEC. 3. The capital stock of said Co., shall consist of 100 shares at \$100. each which stock may be increased by said corporation to an amount sufficient to carry into effect the object of this act, and said corporation may provide for the sale and mode of transfer thereof as said corporation may from time to time deem expedient, and may levy & collect assessments on such shares according to law, & fix the rates on the same at pleasure, and shall have the power to sue for and collect said water-rents when necessary.

SEC. 4. Said corporation may dig or open any street, common or highway, for the purpose of constructing, laying down or repairing such aqueduct, as may be found desirable; provided, the same may be done in such a manner as not to injure or disfigure said street, common or highway; and in all cases when said corporation shall lay or repair said aqueduct in any enclosed field, they shall pay all damages done to crops thereon, and leave the surface of said lands, as near as may be, in as good condition as before laying or repairing said aqueduct.

SEC. 5. The said corporation may enter upon and use any enclosure or land through which it may be necessary for said aqueduct to pass, on the most practical route from where its water may be taken, for the purpose of placing reservoirs and pipes as may be necessary for constructing, completing and repairing said aqueduct, and may agree with the owner or owners thereof for the use of the same; but in case of disagreement, or if any owner thereof be a minor, insane, or out of the state, or otherwise incapacitated to sell and convey, said corporation, or the owner or owners, or persons interested in lands so entered upon may apply to the judges of the county court for the county of Essex, by petition, who shall appoint forthwith three disinterested persons to view the premises and assess the damages sustained by the owners or occupants of said land by the construction of said aqueduct, and said committee shall appraise said damages on oath, and report the same to the county court for the county aforesaid, at its first session thereafter, and if their report shall be accepted by said court, the court shall render judgement thereon, and may issue an execution therefor with costs.

Sec. 6. Any person who shall maliciously disturb or injure said aqueduct, or any works or enclosures connected with the same shall be liable to be prosecuted by information, complaint, or indictment, and on conviction thereof shall be fined not less than \$5. nor more than \$20. and costs of prosecution, and shall also be liable to said corporation for all damages.

Sec. 7. This act shall be subject to the provisions of chapter eighty six of the general statutes, entitled of private corporations, and may be altered amended or repealed as the public good may require.

Sec. 8 This act shall take effect from its passage.

Approved, Nov. 23, 1874.