

HISTORY  
OF THE  
VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT  
OF THE  
CITY OF WATERTOWN.

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CHARTER, BY-LAWS, ETC.,  
OF THE  
WATERTOWN VOLUNTEER EXEMPT FIRE DEPARTMENT.

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WATERTOWN, N. Y.  
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History of the  
**Volunteer Fire Department**  
Of the City of Watertown.

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The village of Watertown was first incorporated by an Act of the Legislature, passed April 5th, 1816. In the charter the freeholders of the village were authorized to elect five fire wardens; and on the first Monday of May, 1816, they elected Jabez Foster, Samuel Watson, Jr., Rufus Backus, William Fletcher and Joseph Hersey, the first Fire Wardens.

On the 13th day of May, 1816, the Trustees divided the village into five wards, and passed the following laws:

"There shall be assigned to each ward one Fire Warden, who shall have charge of all property belonging to the corporation for the extinguishment of fire.

There shall be furnished forthwith, for each ward in said village, four good and sufficient ladders, which ladders shall be housed; and any person or persons who shall remove or make use of said ladders, or either of them, unless on an alarm of fire, shall be fined in the sum of five dollars for each offense.

"That within three months from the date hereof, it shall be the duty of each owner or occupant of any house, store, office, factory or workshop in said village, to furnish themselves with good leather buckets, each bucket to contain not less than 10 quarts. For every house, store, office, factory or workshop, of one story high, one bucket; if

two or more stories high, two buckets, which buckets shall have the owner's name on them, and kept in some convenient place for use. And if any person or persons shall not provide himself or themselves with suitable fire buckets to the acceptance of the Fire Warden of his ward, within the time specified in this law, then each person so neglecting shall be fined two dollars for each month he or she shall be so unprovided."

On the 20th of September, 1816, the following by-laws were passed:

"Be it ordained, that on an alarm or cry of fire in said village, it shall be the duty of every male inhabitant, of fifteen years and upwards, to repair forthwith to the place of fire, and there to take directions from the Fire Wardens during the time the fire shall continue; and any person disobeying the orders of a Fire Warden, during the continuance of such fire, shall be fined one dollar for each offense.

"It shall be the duty of each Fire Warden, in such village, to furnish himself with a white staff, seven feet in length, that he may be distinguished in time of fire.

"When a fire shall break out in any ward of said village, the Fire Warden of such ward shall have the principal direction of such fire."

At the annual meeting of the inhabitants, held May 5th, 1817, they elected Rufus Backus, Henry Brown, Jonathan Cowan, Samuel Watson, Jr., and Micah Sterling, Fire Wardens.

#### FIRST FIRE COMPANY.

At a meeting of the Board of Trustees, holden the 28th of May, 1817, voted—That a Fire Company be formed in this village, conformable to the 10th section of the Act of the Incorporation. And, whereas, the following persons have petitioned the Board to be organized into a Fire Company for the village of Watertown, voted, That William Tanner, Abraham T. Dygert, Marenus W. Gilbert, Orville Hungerford, Martin W. Symonds, Daniel Lee,

Jonathan B. Burton, Edwin M. Surm, Thomas Baker, Solomon White, Dyer Huntington, Adriel Ely, Andrew Newall, Samuel Paddock, Silas Marwin, James Stone, Jr., David W. Bucklin, Horatio Shumway, George Smith and Butler Ranney, be constituting a Fire Company in the village of Wauertown.

At a meeting of the Trustees held September 27th, 1817, voted—That, whenever the Fire Company of this village shall have purchased a first-rate fire engine, such as shall be accepted by a majority of the Trustees and Fire Company collectively, then it shall be the duty of the Board of Trustees to give their order on the Treasurer of this village to pay to the treasurer of said Fire Company two hundred dollars on demand, to apply on payment then due for said engine.

This engine was paid for by the village and the Fire Company, each paying one-half, and was known as the Cataract.

Resolved, That William Smith, Esq., be requested to enlist a sufficient number of persons, not exceeding fifteen, who, with himself, shall form a Hook and Ladder Company in this village.

This company was then formed, with William Smith as captain, but there is no record of its first members.

In 1832, there was a double engine house, one story high, of wood, built on Stone street, the place where Freman's Hall now stands. It was built under the superintendence of Isaac Day, carpenter.

## SECOND ENGINE COMPANY.

At a meeting of the Trustees, August 6, 1832, Resolved, That the following persons, to wit: W. T. Beebee, L. W. Holmes, J. S. Young, J. H. Allen, J. H. Lawton, James Brown, George M. Cline, Stephen Harrison, Henry Harrison, Richard Perkins, George Bigelow, John Ashley, Daniel C. Collins, Benjamin F. Doolittle, A. J. Porter, Myron Beebee, Lucius Hubbard, and Robert Hunter, con-

stitute a Fire Company, and be attached to the fire engine belonging to the Jefferson Cotton Mills.

### FIRST ENGINEER.

At the same meeting, August 6th, 1832, Resolved, That Dyer Huntington is hereby appointed Chief Engineer, and Adriel Ely is hereby appointed Assistant Engineer of the Fire Department of this village. And at the same meeting they numbered the companies No. 1 and 2.

The hand machine of the Cotton Mills and the last formed, was called No. 1, and the one on the south side of Stone street was called Cataract No. 2. This same machine, before it was called No. 2, occupied a small house where Arcade street now enters Stone street.

In April, 1835, Engine Neptune Company No. 3, was, with the first break engine used in town, organized and located in the first ward, near Factory Square and the first members were: John C. Lasher, Nathaniel Wiley, A. P. Sigourney, Liberty Comins, Alexander Comins, Samuel R. Stedman, Levi Palmer, John Sigourney, George Goulding, R. M. Comins, George W. Tripp, D. D. Hustis, Linus W. Clark, Hiram Herring, George Burr, Milton Clark, Milton Carpenter, F. B. Fisher, Richard Monkhouse, J. H. Armstrong, G. W. Lawrence, Otis Colwell, Augustus Remington, Archibald Porter, Lampsing Hildreth, Thomas Snow, A. I. Cratsenberg, Conrad Lasher.

August 24, 1835, Engine Company No. 1 was disbanded.

January 25, 1836, Dyer Huntington, who had held the office of Chief Engineer three years, five months and nineteen days without re-appointment, tendered to the Trustees his resignation. The Trustees accepted his resignation, with a vote of thanks for past services, and appointed Asher N. Corss his successor.

April 10, 1837, at Trustees meeting, Resolved, That Charles Perkins be appointed Captain of the

Hook and Ladder Company, and that he be requested to organize a company of fifteen able-bodied members as soon as possible. This was a re-organization of Hook and Ladder Company, the former company having slowly died, and there is no record of the members of this company.

In the fall of 1837, Neptune Company No. 3 was changed to Neptune No. 1; and on the 21st of April, 1838, the Department was composed of the following companies:

Asher N. Corss, Chief Engineer.

Neptune Engine Company No. 1.—G. W. Tripp, Foreman; George Burr, Assistant; C. B. Lasher, Clerk; thirty-three members.

Cataract Engine Company No. 2—W. H. Robinson, Foreman; D. D. Otis, Assistant; D. C. Gridley, Clerk; twenty-three members.

Hook and Ladder No. 1.—C. Perkins, Foreman; eight members.

In January, 1839, the following notice was issued by the Trustees:

The members of Neptune Fire Engine Company No. 1, of Cataract Company No. 2 and of Hook and Ladder Company No. 1, are requested to meet at the inn of F. R. Lamon on Monday evening, the 7th day of January inst., at 7 o'clock, for the purpose of electing a Chief Engineer, and for a perfect organization of the Fire Department. The companies are requested to furnish a complete list of the officers and members.

In accordance with the above notice, the firemen of the several companies met at the time and place in said notice invited, and D. Huntington was called to the chair, and P. Mundy chosen clerk, and W. H. Robinson was chosen Chief Engineer, John Sigourney and Charles Perkins, Assistants, which was reported to the Trustees, together with the following list of members, to wit:

Neptune Engine Co. No. 1.—George Burr, Foreman; S. R. Stedman, Assistant Foreman; John T. Jenison, Clerk; John C. Lasher, Nathaniel Wiley, A. P. Sigourney, Liberty Comins, Alexander Com-

ins, Levi Palmer, R. M. Comins, George W. Tripp, Milton Carpenter, Milton Clark, F. B. Fisher, G. W. Lawrence, Otis Colwell, Augustus Remington, Lampson Hildreth, T. C. Snow, A. I. Cratsenberg, C. B. Lasher, Anson Jeffers, Edwin Sackett, Reuben E. Bacon, Josiah Huckins, Chas. North, Andrus Edwards, John G. Harbottle, Franklin Burt, Julius Wheeler, James Hazen, A. D. Button, A. D. Penney, John Matthews, Anthony LaFleure, Charles Burt, Thomas W. Wheeler and Solon Kimball.

Cataract No. 2.—D. D. Otis, Foreman; William Y. Buck, Assistant Foreman; P. Mundy, Clerk; D. C. Gridley, B. F. Hotchkin, M. H. Stanley, W. K. Hawks, A. J. Hough, Charles F. Hubbard, J. M. DeLong, Avery Thomas, Oscar Paddock, J. W. Peck, Charles West, M. E. Turner, Silas Bacon, E. Barber, Nelson Jones, A. W. Parmiter, B. F. Berry, Curtis Patridge, E. Fairbanks, George Smith, Henry Floyd.

Hook and Ladder No. 1.—Charles Perkins, Foreman; Benjamin Gibbs, Assistant Foreman; Lucius Hannahs, Clerk; Levi Comins, 1st Ax-Man; William Elwood, 2d Ax-Man; John Avery, William Clark, Peter Horr, J. L. St. Johns, Charles P. Phillips, Franklin Outterson, Hubbard Betts, Alonzo Towner, Noah A. Perkins, Lysander H. Brown, George W. Hungerford, Thomas Robinson, Joseph Way, O. C. Utley and Rodney Case.

Trustees meeting May 2, 1840, Resolved, That Benjamin F. Hotchkin be appointed Assistant Engineer in the place of Charles Perkins, resigned.

In July, 1842, the following persons organized themselves into a company called Volunteer Company No. 3; James S. Wood, Dickerson T. Day, Henry Skinner, Austin R. Skinner, Wm. Graham, Samuel Reed, James H. Ryther, J. M. Sigourney, Solon Kimball, William B. Kimball, M. S. Day, Augustus Murray, and were so organized by the Trustees, and took into their charge the little hand engine formerly belonging to the Jefferson Cotton Mills, and occupied the house with Neptune, No. 1, and did good service for about three years. James

H. Ryther was the first Foreman. They disbanded in 1845, and in the same year, a new engine having been purchased, a new company was organized, and called Jefferson, No. 3, with William Y. Buck as Foreman, and was located in the Stone street house. Cataract No. 2, having been damaged, and being a crank engine, was abandoned, and the company about this time disbanded.

There are no records from 1839 to 1848.

In January, 1848, Norris M. Woodruff was elected Chief Engineer, and B. F. Hotchkin and E. C. Lewis, Assistant Engineers.

In June, 1848, a new engine was purchased for No 1 company, and in July of the same year, Central Hose No. 2, was organized, with N. Farnham for Foreman, and Peter Hobson for Secretary. They took the old machine of No. 1, calling it Rough and Ready, and were located in barns and sheds, as they could find a place.

On the 10th day of April, 1850, the Department was chartered by an Act of the Legislature, with N. M. Woodruff, Chief Engineer, B. F. Hotchkin and E. C. Lewis, Assistant Engineers. On the 18th of June, 1850, the directors named in the charter met and organized, and appointed L. Ingalls, secretary.

January 11. 1851, the first annual election fixed by the charter, was held in a room in the Woodruff Block, and Norris M. Woodruff was unanimously re-elected Chief Engineer, and he re-appointed B. F. Hotchkin and E. C. Lewis Assistants. In the annual report of 1851, after referring to the financial affairs, is the following: Which would leave a balance now at interest of \$600. By the Treasurer's report it further appears that the department has on hand in the treasury \$18.37, and in the collector's hands \$9.11. The Department is indebted to their secretary \$15; and when the repairs on Engine House No. 1 are completed, there will be due to the builder (over and above his indebted-

ness by note to the Department) \$13.04, leaving the department in debt \$0.56.

L. INGALLS, Sec'y."

January 10, 1852, the annual meeting was held in the lecture room of the Universalist Church, and Nathaniel Farnham was elected Chief Engineer, and he appointed E. C. Lewis and Peter Horr, Assistant Engineers; and a resolution of thanks was voted to the late Chief Engineer and First Assistant for past services. January 13, the new board met and elected John L. Baker, secretary. August 4th, 1852, John L. Baker's resignation as Secretary and Director was accepted, and Fred Emerson was elected Secretary in his place.

January 8th, 1853, the annual meeting was held in the basement of the Universalist Church, and N. Farnham was re-elected Chief Engineer, and he re-appointed E. C. Lewis and Peter Horr assistants. January 15, the new board re-elected Fred Emerson Secretary. On the 15th day of September, 1853, the whole Department, at the annual review, after adopting preambles and resolutions, (which will be found on the minutes of that date) delivered up to the village Trustees the whole fire apparatus in their hands, and delivered a copy of the preambles and resolutions, together with the keys to the engine house, to the President of the village. On the 30th day of October, 1853, at the solicitation of the Trustees and citizens, and after making satisfactory arrangements (see minutes of October 31, 1853,) the firemen accepted the keys to the Engine House, and again took possession of the fire apparatus.

January 14, 1854, the annual meeting was held in the basement of the Universalist Church, and Fred Emerson was elected Chief Engineer, and he appointed A. N. Wilson and F. B. Sigourney Assistants. The new board met January 16, and elected John H. Rice, secretary.

In 1854, Fireman's Hall, on Stone street, was built by the village, under the superintendence of the Trustees; and in accordance with the under-

standing between the Board of Directors of the Fire Department and the Trustees of the village, October 13, 1853.

January 13, 1855, the annual meeting was held at Apollo Hall, and Fred Emerson was re-elected Chief Engineer, and he appointed A. N. Wilson and Peter Horr Assistants; at a meeting of the new Board the same evening, J. H. Rice was elected Secretary.

On the 26th day of February, 1855, Fireman's Hall on Stone street, was passed over to the Department, by resolution of the Trustees, as follows:

Regular meeting February 26, 1855—Present, R. Barnes, President, and Messrs. Babcock, Streeter, Woodruff and Bradford.

Resolved, That the new engine house, on Stone street, be and the same is hereby tendered to the Fire Department of the Village of Watertown, to be used and occupied by them for fire purposes, in such manner as the Chief Engineer and Board of Directors of said Department may direct.

On the 3rd day of March, 1855, the Board of Directors accepted the same by the following resolution:

Resolved, That this Department accept the new Engine House, on Stone street, under the resolution of the Board of Trustees.

No. 3 moved into the west side and Hook and Ladder, No. 1, into the east side, by direction of the Chief Engineer, and on the 8th of December, 1855, the Board passed the following resolution:

Resolved, That the hall and upper rooms of the Engine House, on Stone street, be and are hereby appropriated for the use of Hose Co. No. 3 and Hook and Ladder No. 1, and for general meetings of the Department. That the west ante-room be appropriated to Hose Co. No. 3, and that the east ante-room be appropriated to Hook and Ladder Co. No. 1, to be occupied for company meetings exclusively for those companies, and nothing else, unless with consent of Chief Engineer.

January 12, 1856, the annual meeting was held at Fireman's Hall, on Stone street, and Fred Emerson was again re-elected Chief Engineer, and he reappointed A. N. Wilson and P. Horr Assistants. At a meeting of the new Board January 15th, Ward E. Massey was elected Secretary. May 17, 1856, the Directors equalized the appropriations that had been made to the different companies, and passed a resolution that no more appropriations should be made for uniforms for five years.

On the 23rd day of November, 1853, the Water Works were completed, and water, for the first time, was pumped into the reservoir, and in the fall of that year it became apparent that the village needed, for immediate use, new hose carriages, hose, etc., as engines were no longer of use in the heart of the village, and at the repeated soliciting of the Trustees, (the village at that time being considerably in debt, and not having power under the charter to raise money sufficient to purchase these absolutely necessary things, and pay the necessary expenses of the village and interest on debt) the Board of Directors advanced the money and purchased the hose, carriages and necessary articles, such as the village could not otherwise arrange for, and this matter, with others, ran in an account until July, 1856, at which time the Directors appointed a committee to settle with the village, and on the 9th of August, 1856, the committee reported a settlement, whereby the village was found indebted to the department, on account—including three notes of \$200 each—in the sum of \$1,675, and the Trustees to settle the same, gave three bonds of \$500 each, payable in five, seven or ten years, with interest annally from July 1, 1856, and a draft on the Treasurer for \$175.

On the 13th of December, 1856, W. E. Massey resigned the office of Secretary and W. A. Loomis was elected in his place.

No. 2 Company having no permanent house or home, their apparatus being sometimes under the

Union Mills shed and sometimes in a barn, and some times in the street, and the village not being able to procure a suitable place permanently, for the reason above stated in reference to hose carriages, etc., and at the particular request of the Trustees, the Directors, on the 20th of September, 1856, appointed a committee to look around and see if they could purchase a suitable place, and after hearing and approving of the report of the committee, the Department, on the 15th day of December, 1856, purchased of Mr. Edmund Davis the shop and lot on the south side of Public Square, which deed is duly recorded in the Clerk's Office, and in part payment for same, the Department executed to Skinner and Davis a mortgage for \$1,000, payable in five equal annual payments (this mortgage was paid and discharged of record in December, 1859,) and the Directors fixed the building on said lot suitable for an engine house, and it has since been occupied by No. 2.

January 10, 1857, the annual meeting was held at Fireman's Hall, and Fred Emerson was again re-elected Chief Engineer, and he re-appointed A. N. Wilson and P. Horr Assistants. At a meeting of the new Board January 13, William A. Loomis was re-elected Secretary. In September, 1857, the Directors expelled most of the members of No. 1 and 3, and some of No. 2, for conduct not becoming firemen, and commenced a re-organization of those companies. October 26th, 1857, the Directors received a petition from John E. Dodge, and 37 others, asking to be formed into an engine and hose company and attached to this department, and located at or near Hoard & Sons shop in North Watertown, and the company was so organized with John E. Dodge as foreman.

January 9, 1858, annual meeting at Fireman's Hall, Fred Emerson was again re-elected chief, and he appointed A. N. Wilson and Norris Winslow Assistants. At a meeting of the Board, the same night, Wm. A. Loomis was elected Secretary. In August, 1858, Mr. Jason Fairbanks complained

to the Directors that he had rented the lot on Factory street to the village, for an engine house, for about thirty years, and that he had not been paid but one year's rent, and threatened to commence proceedings to dispossess. The Directors therefore negotiated with him and purchased the premises (they having previously built the whole upper part of the house) and received a deed from Mary M. Fairbanks and Jason Fairbanks, August 18, 1858, (which is recorded in the Clerk's office). October 5th, 1858, William A. Loomis resigned the office of Secretary, and John E. Dodge was elected in his place.

January 8th, 1859, annual meeting in Fireman's Hall, Fred Emerson was again re-elected Chief, and he appointed A. N. Wilson and N. Winslow Assistants. At meeting of the new board, same night, John E. Dodge was re-elected Secretary. April 14, 1859, the Legislature altered the charter of the Department. January 9th, 1860, Mechanics Company, No. 4, by resolution, requested to be disbanded, and the request was granted, to take effect at the next annual meeting.

January 14, 1860, annual meeting in Fireman's Hall, Fred Emerson was re-elected Chief, and he re-appointed A. N. Wilson and N. Winslow Assistants. At a meeting of the new board, L. F. Lytle was elected Secretary. On the 28th day of May, 1860, the Directors purchased of "The Wauertown Cemetery Association," lots Nos. 34 to 47 inclusive in Section A, and the walks connected therewith for a fireman's burial lot. It is a beautiful lot, on the rise of the hill, on the left as you pass into the Brookside grounds, and its purchase reflects great credit upon the firemen, and it will be a lasting monument to their taste and foresight. The original shape was a half circle, but the firemen have changed it into a perfect circle. The deed is recorded in the Clerk's Office of Jefferson County.

On the 15th day of December, 1860, the individual members of the Department presented to Fred

Emerson, their Chief Engineer, as a token of their friendship, respect and esteem for him, a beautiful silver trumpet. The presentation was made at Fireman's Hall, by L. F. Lyttle, with appropriate remarks, and was appropriately responded to by the Chief.

January 12, 1861, annual meeting held at Fireman's Hall, and Fred Emerson was again re-elected Chief, and he appointed Norris Winslow and John C. Lewis Assistants, A. N. Wilson having requested not to be re-appointed. At a meeting of the new board January 17, 1861, Peter Hobson was elected Secretary. April 4, 1861, the Legislature again amended the charter. On the 18th of June, 1861, the Directors passed a resolution that there should be no more appropriations for uniforms from the Department, every company or individual fireman to procure his own uniform.

January 11, 1862, annual meeting held at Fireman's Hall, Fred Emerson was again re-elected Chief Engineer, and he appointed Norris Winslow and Solon B. Hart Assistants. At a meeting of the new board, held the same evening, Charles H. Van Brackle was elected Secretary, F. D. Sherman, Treasurer, and William Howard, Collector. During this year was organized the Watertown Fire Department Band, under the leadership of Thomas N. Forester.

January 10th, 1863, annual meeting held at Fireman's hall, Fred Emerson was again re-elected Chief Engineer, and he re-appointed Norris Winslow and Solon B. Hart Assistants. At a meeting of the new board January 12th, 1863, Charles H. Van Brackle was chosen Secretary; F. D. Sherman, Treasurer; and Wm. W. Wright, Collector. At a meeting of the board held November 16, 1863, John H. McKay was elected Secretary, Charles H. Van Brackle having resigned.

January 9th, 1864, annual meeting held at Fireman's Hall, Fred Emerson was again re-elected Chief Engineer, and he re-appointed Norris Winslow and Solon B. Hart Assistants. At a meeting

of the new board, held the same evening, John H. McKay was elected Secretary, T. C. Chittenden, Jr., Treasurer, and T. Farnham, Collector. At a meeting held on the 11th of January, 1864, William W. Wright was elected Secretary, in place of John H. McKay resigned.

January 14th, 1865, annual meeting held at Fireman's Hall, Fred Emerson was again reelected Chief Engineer, and he appointed Solon B. Hart and F. R. Farwell, Assistants. At a meeting of the new board, held the same evening, L. F. Lyttle was chosen Secretary, T. C. Chittenden, Jr., Treasurer, and Chauncey Patterson, Collector. At a meeting of the board held September 11th, 1865, Ross C. Scott was chosen Secretary, in place of L. F. Lyttle, resigned.

January 13th, 1866, annual meeting held at Fireman's Hall. Meeting called to order by Solon B. Hart, 1st Assistant Engineer. Secretary then read a communication from Fred Emerson, Chief Engineer, by which he declined a re-election as Chief Engineer of the Department.

The following resolution was presented and on motion it was unanimously adopted:

"Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to draft a series of resolutions expressive of the sentiments of the department, and that the committee be authorized to have the same properly engrossed, published in the village papers, and presented to Mr. Emerson."

Committee, C. H. VanBrackle, Wm. G. Williams, and Fred R. Farwell.

In pursuance of said action, the committee caused to be prepared and engrossed and presented to ex-Chief Engineer Fred Emerson a set of resolutions, expressing in words, as far as possible, the esteem of the individual members of the department for Mr. Emerson, and their appreciation of his long service as Chief Engineer, and his labors in perfecting the organization and in making the Volunteer Fire Department of Watertown a success. At this meeting Solon B. Hart was

elected Chief Engineer, and he appointed Chauncey Patterson and C. A. Holden Assistants. At a meeting of the new board, held the same evening, Ross C. Scott was elected Secretary, T. C. Chittenden, Jr., Treasurer, and C. A. Holden, Collector. At a meeting of the board held May 14, 1866, Henry W. Shead was appointed 1st Assistant, in place of Chauncey Patterson, resigned.

January 9th, 1862, Exempt Company "A" was organized by the Board of Directors, and Fred Emerson and Foster M. Ferrin were honorably discharged by the Board of Directors, and made life members of the Department and attached to the Exempt branch, Company A.

Mr. Emerson served as Chief Engineer from 1854 to 1866, in which latter year he declined a re-election. He was a most potential factor in building up our organization and has well been styled "the father of the department." He died April 20th, 1891.

Foster M. Ferrin, the second member to join the Exempt branch, is still living, hale and hearty, and bids fair to stay with us for many years to come. As he is the oldest living fireman in the department, he is deserving of a passing notice upon the pages of this history. Mr. Ferrin was born at Wallingford, Vt., June 8, 1828. He joined Jefferson Engine Co. No. 3 in 1843. After a service of nine years and eight months, he withdrew from that company, and on May 14, 1853, joined John Hancock Hook and Ladder Co., in which company he served until he was honorably discharged, in all eight years and ten months. Mr. Ferrin is the only surviving fireman of the great fire of 1849, and possesses a most vivid recollection of that great conflagration.

January 12th, 1867, annual meeting held at Fireman's Hall, Solon B. Hart was re-elected Chief Engineer, and he appointed Henry W. Shead and Christopher A. Holden, Assistants. At a meeting of the new board, held the 14th day of January,

Ross C. Scott was re-elected Secretary and Thomas C. Chittenden, Treasurer.

January 11th, 1838, annual meeting held at Fireman's Hall, Thomas C. Chittenden was elected Chief Engineer and he appointed John M. Carpenter and Wilbur F. Porter Assistants. At a meeting of the new board, held the same evening, Ross C. Scott was elected Secretary and George B. Massey Treasurer. During this year there was not a fire, or an alarm.

January 9th, 1839, annual meeting held at Fireman's Hall, Thomas C. Chittenden was reelected Chief Engineer, and he re-appointed John M. Carpenter and Wilbur F. Porter Assistants. At a meeting of the new board, held the same evening, Ross C. Scott was elected Secretary and George B. Massey, Treasurer.

January 8th, 1870, annual meeting held at Fireman's Hall, George L. Davis was elected Chief Engineer, and he appointed John F. Wakefield and Almon Parker Assistants. At a meeting of the new board, held the same evening, Ross C. Scott was elected Secretary and Louis C. Greenleaf, Treasurer.

January 14, 1871, annual meeting held at Fireman's hall, George L. Davis was re-elected Chief Engineer, and he re-appointed Almon Parker and John F. Wakefield Assistants. At a meeting of the new board, held the same evening, Ross C. Scott was elected Secretary, and Louis C. Greenleaf, Treasurer. At a meeting of the board held May 8, 1871, Pardon C. Williams was elected Treasurer in place of Louis C. Greenleaf, previously honorably discharged from the department.

January 13th, 1872, annual meeting held in Firemen's Hall, John M. Carpenter was elected Chief Engineer and he appointed Anson E. York and Pardon C. Williams Assistants. At a meeting of the new board, held the same evening, Ross C. Scott was elected Secretary and Pardon C. Williams, Treasurer.

July 8th, 1872, the real estate owned by the department on the south side of Public Square, occupied by Central Hose Company No. 2, was sold, in pursuance of a resolution of the Board of Directors to Norris Winslow for the sum of \$7,500. At the December meeting of the Board of Directors, Chief Engineer Carpenter was authorized by resolution duly adopted, to purchase the house and lot owned by Eliza J. Lee, on the west side of Goodale street, for the sum of \$2,200, and when deeded to the department to cause the house to be put in proper repair to be occupied by Central Hose Co. No. 2, and when so repaired to rent the same to the city for a term of years, at a reasonable sum to be paid annually. Deed of Eliza J. Lee to department, recorded in Jefferson County Clerk's Office December 13th, 1872, in Liber 194 of Deeds, page 430.

January 11th, 1873, annual meeting held at Fireman's Hall, John M. Carpenter was elected Chief Engineer, and he appointed Anson E. York and Benjamin Birdsall Assistants. At a meeting of the new board, held the same evening, Ross C. Scott was elected Secretary and Jerome Bushnell Treasurer. During the summer the department built two brick engine houses, one on the lot owned by the department on Goodale street, to be occupied by Central Hose Company No. 2, and one on the lot owned by the department on Factory street, to be occupied by Neptune Engine and Hose Company No. 1. Said engine houses were rented by the city for the term of five years, the building occupied by Company No. 2 for \$350 per year, and the building occupied by Company No. 1 for \$250 per year.

January 10th, 1874, annual meeting held at Fireman's Hall, William S. Carlisle was elected Chief Engineer, and he appointed Robert L. Utley and Miles Guest Assistants. At a meeting of the new board, held the same evening, Ross C. Scott was elected Secretary, and Jerome Bushnell, Treasurer.

January 9th, 1875, annual meeting held at Fire-

man's Hall, William S. Carlisle was elected Chief Engineer, and he appointed Robert L. Utley and Bradley S. Hallack, Assistants. At a meeting of the new board, held the same evening, Ross C. Scott was elected Secretary and Charles R. Skinner Treasurer. During this year the department purchased of Silsby & Co., of Seneca Falls, N. Y., the steam fire engine Watertown, being the first steamer ever owned in Watertown. The steamer was placed in the care of Company No. 2, and the name of the company changed to Central Hose and Steamer Company No. 2. This steamer was purchased by the department, and use of the same given to the city, in consideration of the purchase by the city of a suitable fire alarm bell, which was subsequently purchased by the city and placed in the Court House tower. The steamer proved to be all that its builders claimed for it, and during the first year was the means of saving to the manufacturing interests of the city more than ten times its cost. By resolution, adopted by Board of Directors, May 10, 1875, the Old Band instruments which were purchased some years ago by individual subscription of citizens, and turned over to the department in 1862 for the use of the Watertown Fire Department Band, were loaned to Colonel Casse, of 35th Battalion National Guards, same to be returned to the department when called for. This action was taken in view of the fact that the band connected with the department at the time the instruments were received had ceased to be a part of the department, and the instruments were of no further use to the department, and were in need of repairs.

January 8th. 1876, annual meeting held at Fireman's Hall, Robert L. Utley was elected Chief Engineer, and he appointed Henry A. Smith and John E. Bergevin Assistants. At a meeting of the new board, held the same evening, Ross C. Scott was elected Secretary and Charles R. Skinner, Treasurer. The attention of the department at the annual meeting being called to the fact that this

year was the one hundredth anniversary of the Independence of the United States, a resolution was passed authorizing the Board of Directors to appropriate the sum of \$500 for properly celebrating our national holiday, and that the department join with our citizens in the festivities of the 4th of July. Thereafter, and in pursuance of said resolution, the Board of Directors appropriated the sum of \$500 for celebrating the centennial of our National Independence, and on the 4th of July joined with the citizens of Watertown in all the varied pleasures of the grandest gala day ever known in Watertown. On this occasion the Fire Brigade of Brockville, Canada, visited Watertown as the guests of the department, and were given a banquet in the Skating Rink on Winslow street, and after the dinner, toasts and songs and visiting made everybody happy for hours. The Ex-empts joined the actives on this occasion, and thereby we had a re-union long to be treasured in the hearts of all who participated as the happiest day in the history of the Fire Department of the City of Watertown.

January 13th, 1877, annual meeting held at Clark & Scripture's Hall, Henry A. Smith was elected Chief Engineer, and he appointed Egbert W. Knapp and Orvis F. Graves, Assistants. At a meeting of the new board, held the same evening, Ross C. Scott was elected Secretary and George H. Babcock Treasurer. At the March meeting of the board Charles R. Skinner was elected Treasurer in place of George H. Babcock, who had failed to qualify as treasurer, owing to the pressure of private business, and who, on his own application had been honorably discharged from the department. During the summer additions to No. 1 and No. 2 engine houses were constructed to meet the necessities of said companies for storing the property in their possession belonging to the city and the department. These additions were built under an arrangement with the Common Council to pay such additional rent as warranted the in-

vestment of the money of the department in the construction of said additions.

January 12th, 1878, annual meeting held at Clark & Scripture's Hall, Henry A. Smith was elected Chief Engineer, and he appointed Egbert W. Knapp and Orvis F. Graves Assistants. At a meeting of the new board held the same evening Ross C. Scott was elected Secretary and Edgar C. Emerson, Treasurer. March 25th, 1878, special meeting was held at Clark & Scripture's Hall for the purpose of electing a Chief Engineer in the place of Henry A. Smith, who had resigned on March 18th the position of Chief Engineer, for the reason that his business as an employe of the Rome, Watertown & Ogdensburg Railroad Co., required him to reside in Oswego part of the time. John E. Bergevin was elected Chief Engineer, and he appointed Alonson D. Seaver and Eugene C. Van Namee Assistants.

January 11, 1879, annual meeting held at Clark & Scripture's Hall, John E. Bergevin was elected Chief Engineer, and he appointed Eugene C. Van Namee and Andrew J. Moore Assistants. At a meeting of the new board held the same evening Ross C. Scott was elected Secretary and Edgar C. Emerson Treasurer. During this year the Board of Directors adopted a new badge, and the new badges were furnished the members of the department without any expense to those who were able to present their old badges for such exchange.

January 10th, 1880, annual meeting held at Clark & Scripture's Hall, Eugene C. Van Namee was elected Chief Engineer and he appointed Andrew J. Moore and Sherman D. Waite Assistants. At a meeting of the new board held the same evening Ross C. Scott was elected Secretary and Edgar C. Emerson Treasurer. During the summer the Common Council caused the engine house on Stone street to be thoroughly repaired and enlarged, thereby giving Jefferson Hose Company No. 3 and John Hancock Hook and Ladder Company large and convenient rooms for meetings and for the

proper storage and care of the fire apparatus in their possession. At the November meeting of the Board of Directors an appropriation out of the general fund of \$150 to each of the four active companies was made to aid them in purchasing suitable furniture for the parlors connected with their meeting rooms.

January 8th, 1881, annual meeting held at Clark & Scripture's Hall, Eugene C. Van Namee was elected Chief Engineer, and he appointed Andrew J. Moore and Sherman D. Wait Assistants. At a meeting of the new board held the same evening Ross C. Scott was elected Secretary and Edgar C. Emerson Treasurer. At the October meeting of the Board of Directors Mr. William H. Sigourney, of New York City, formerly of this city, and once a foreman of Jefferson Hose Company No. 3, through Chief Engineer Van Namee, presented to the department a silver trumpet which was presented to Mr. Sigourney 28 years ago by members of No. 3, and accompanied the gift was a request that the trumpet be kept in the department. A vote of thanks was tendered Mr. Sigourney for the present, and said trumpet was, on motion, placed in the possession of No. 3.

January 14th, 1882, annual meeting held at Clark & Scripture's Hall, Egbert W. Knapp was elected Chief Engineer, and he appointed Martin J. Brennan and William E. Hart Assistants. At a meeting of the new board, held the same evening, Ross C. Scott was elected Secretary, and at the March meeting of the Board of Directors E. C. Emerson was elected Treasurer. No. 1 and No. 2 Engine houses rented to the city for five years from January 1st, 1883, for the sum of \$700 per year.

January 13th, 1883, annual meeting held at Clark & Scripture's Hall, Egbert W. Knapp was elected Chief Engineer, and he appointed Martin J. Brennan and Wm. E. Hart Assistants. At a meeting of the new board, held the same evening, Ross C. Scott was elected Secretary and E. C. Emerson Treasurer. At the February meeting of the Board

of Directors the sum of \$50 was appropriated for the purchase of fire literature for the use of the active companies. At a special meeting of the Board of Directors held July 13th, a resolution was adopted that the department join the State Association of Volunteer Firemen, and Chief Engineer Knapp was elected delegate to the annual meeting of the State Firemen's Association, to be held at Kingston, on the Hudson. At the annual review of the department held August 13th, 1883, the fire department of Brockville and Prescott were entertained by the active companies, dinner was served in Washington Hall, a number of citizen friends of the department were present, and a pleasant hour was passed in listening to after dinner speeches by friends from Brockville and Prescott, and the mayor and others representing the business interests of Watertown.

January 12th, 1884, annual meeting held at Clark & Scripture's Hall, William H. Cole, was elected Chief Engineer, and he appointed William Clark and Edward E. Kennedy Assistants. At a meeting of the new board, held the same evening, Ross C. Scott was elected Secretary and E. C. Emerson Treasurer. For the better protection of the large manufacturing interests, located at or near Factory Square, the department joined with the city in the purchase of a new steamer of Silsby Manufacturing Company, at a cost of \$4,100, one-half of purchase price being paid by the department and the department and the city being joint owners of said steamer. Said steamer was named "R. P. Flower," thereby recognizing an old member of the department, the Hon. Roswell P. Flower, now of New York City, whose interest in the good name and success of the fire department of the city of Watertown is as lively as when years ago he run with the boys of Jefferson Hose Company No. 3. The steamer when delivered in February was placed in the care of Neptune Engine and Steamer Company No. 1. In consideration of said investment by the department the city agreed to keep

the two steamers, "Watertown" and "R. P. Flower" in perfect repair. At the annual review on the 26th day of September, through the efforts of Chief Engineer Cole, the "Logans," of Auburn, a company composed of gentlemen and every man a true fireman, were present, and the citizens of our beautiful city were entertained with the most varied and complete as well as semi-military firemen's parade ever seen in Watertown, the exercises of the day closing with a banquet in Washington Hall, furnished by our business men who gave evidence of their appreciation of the work of the department by their presence and eloquent words of cheer. The year 1884 was marked by the lively interest taken by our best citizens in the prosperity of the department, and by the good appearance and gentlemanly deportment of the members of the department on all public occasions, and in the particularly good management of the numerous fires that occurred during that year.

January 10th, 1885, annual meeting held at Washington Hall, Silas L. George was elected Chief Engineer, and he appointed as Assistants Phillip H. Hickey and John R. Giblin. At a meeting of the new board, held the same evening, Ross C. Scott was elected Secretary and Edgar C. Emerson Treasurer. On this occasion retiring Chief Engineer Cole was presented with a valuable gold watch as a recognition by citizen friends and members of the department of his services as Chief Engineer and as a souvenir of warm friendship.

During this year badges were purchased for the Fire Patrol, and also for Chief Engineer, his assistants, Secretary and Treasurer. One thousand copies of the history, charter and by-laws were printed in book form, at a cost of \$100.00.

January 9th, 1886, annual meeting held at Democratic Hall, Silas L. George was re-elected Chief Engineer, and he appointed Phillip H. Hickey and John L. McCarty, Assistants. At a meeting of the new board, held the same evening, Ross C. Scott

was elected Secretary and Edgar C. Emerson Treasurer.

January 8th, 1887, annual meeting held at Democratic Hall, John L. McCarty was elected Chief Engineer, and he appointed William Haley and John A. Smith, Assistants. At a meeting of the new board, held the same evening, Ross C. Scott was elected Secretary and Edgar C. Emerson Treasurer. The question of the liability of the department to pay the assessment for sewer on Goodale street, was examined by Treasurer Emerson, and he decided that the department was liable for local assessments. At a regular meeting in May the Secretary called the attention of the board to the law requiring firemen to file certificates in County Clerk's Office in order to be relieved from jury duty. No action was taken.

January 14th, 1888, annual meeting held at Democratic Hall, John L. McCarty was re-elected Chief Engineer, and he re-appointed William Haley and John A. Smith Assistants. At a meeting of the new board, held the same evening, Ross C. Scott was elected Secretary and Edgar C. Emerson Treasurer.

January 12th, 1889, annual meeting held at Democratic Hall, William Clark was elected Chief Engineer, and he appointed William J. Brennan and Fred H. Dean Assistants. At a meeting of the new board, held the same evening, Ross C. Scott was elected Secretary and Edgar C. Emerson Treasurer.

During this year 300 mourning badges were purchased at a cost of \$32.50. Number of members of active companies reduced from 56 to 40 by resolution passed at June meeting. Upon the request in writing of the Common Council, preliminary action was taken in matter of organizing a fire company to be located on the north side of the river.

Pursuant to a resolution offered by Justus Chase, of Company D, a committee consisting of Secretary and Treasurer was appointed to procure and submit to the board plans and specifications of a

suitable monument, to be placed on the lot of the department in Brookside Cemetery.

Appropriations of \$100.00 were made to Companies No. 2 and 3 towards the purchase of dress uniforms, such uniforms to be the property of the companies.

January 11th, 1890, annual meeting held at Washington Hall, Charles E. McClare was elected Chief Engineer, and he appointed John E. Gray and Bradley C. Bauter Assistants. At an adjourned meeting of the new board held January 13th Ross C. Scott was elected Secretary and Edgar C. Emerson Treasurer. At an adjourned meeting of the board held January 20th, Star Hose Company No. 4 was organized with ten members. An appropriation of \$100.00 was made to No. 1 and H. & L. to aid in purchase of dress uniforms. New caps and belts were purchased for Chief Engineer, his Assistants, and Secretary and Treasurer. At the June meeting an appropriation of \$50 was made, payable to Colonel J. R. Miller, treasurer of Citizen's Committee, matter of procuring a leader for Citizen's Band.

At the August meeting a contract was completed with George Van Vleck to erect a monument on the lot of the department in Brookside Cemetery for the sum of \$1,650, pursuant to a design previously presented by said Van Vleck, and adopted.

At the December meeting an amendment to section 2, of article 1st, of the by-laws, was adopted, regulating the manner of electing Chief Engineer.

In August, the annual meeting of the State Volunteer Firemen's Association was held in this city. It was a notable gathering of the warm-hearted, social, pleasure-loving, valiant volunteer firemen of the State of New York.

Annual meeting January 10th, 1891, held in Washington Hall, Charles E. McClare was re-elected Chief Engineer, and he re-appointed as his Assistants John E. Gray and Bradley C. Bauter. At a meeting of the new board held the same evening

Ross C. Scott was elected Secretary and Edgar C. Emerson Treasurer.

At the June meeting the Firemen's Monument Committee reported that Mr. George Van Vleck had erected the monument in accordance with the contract, and on motion, the monument was accepted, and a draft was ordered drawn to the order of George Van Vleck, for the sum of \$1,650, in payment for said monument. The proceedings and ceremonies connected with the unveiling of said monument as taken from the Watertown Daily Times appears hereinafter in this book. The total expense connected with the purchase and dedication of the monument was less than \$350.

At the September meeting Charles E. McClare was removed from the office of Chief Engineer and dishonorably discharged from the department for neglecting to pay over to the department treasurer, or to the members entitled thereto, the monies received by him from the authorities of the villages of Theresa and Evans Mills for services of members of the department at fires in said villages. John E. Gray, First Assistant Engineer, acted as Chief Engineer for the balance of the year by common consent, as it was not deemed necessary to call a meeting of the department for election of Chief Engineer.

At the December meeting, the small lot of the department in Brookside Cemetery, outside of the circular lot, was sold to George Seiple for \$150.00.

Annual meeting held in Washington Hall, January 9th, 1892, Fred Morrison was elected Chief Engineer, and he appointed as Assistants John E. Clough and James M. Dorsey. At a special meeting of the new board held the same evening Ross C. Scott was elected Secretary and Edgar C. Emerson Treasurer.

An appropriation of \$62.50 was made to Chief Morrison in payment of expenses of band attending the annual meeting of State Association at Niagara Falls, with a large number of actives and exempts.

Annual meeting held in Washington Hall, January 14th, 1893. Fred Morrison was re-elected Chief Engineer, and he re-appointed as Assistants John E. Clough and James M. Dorsey. At a meeting of the new board held the same evening Ross C. Scott was elected Secretary and Edgar C. Emerson Treasurer. At November meeting the sum of \$29.60 was voted to pay expenses of band accompanying the active companies on the occasion of their recent visit to Carthage.

Annual meeting held in Washington Hall January 13th, 1894, John W. Phippin was elected Chief Engineer. He appointed as his Assistants Robert E. Cahill and Henry C. Bundy. At the meeting of the new board held the same evening Ross C. Scott was elected Secretary and Edgar C. Emerson Treasurer.

At the annual meeting held in Washington Hall January 12, 1895, George H. Sharlow was elected Chief Engineer, and he appointed as his Assistants John H. Barry and Fred C. Budlong. At meeting of new board held the same evening Ross C. Scott was elected Secretary and Edgar C. Emerson Treasurer.

At the September meeting the board appropriated \$50 to aid the actives in securing the City band to go with them to Adams on the occasion of the first meeting of Jefferson County Volunteer Firemen's Association. At same meeting in pursuance of a request from the Common Council a committee composed of Chief Sharlow, Fred B. Deventorf, Bradley C. Bauter and Edgar C. Emerson, was appointed to confer with the fire department committee of said Council, with regard to improving the efficiency of the department.

At the annual meeting held in Washington Hall, January 11th, 1896, George H. Sharlow was re-elected Chief Engineer, and he re-appointed John H. Barry and Fred C. Budlong Assistants. At the meeting of the new board held the same evening Ross C. Scott was elected Secretary and Edgar C. Emerson Treasurer.

At February meeting Chief Sharlow read a letter received by him from Silas L. George, Esq., in behalf of Mrs. Roswell P. Flower, with check of \$200, to be divided equally between the five active companies in recognition of the services of the department at recent fire in Flower Building. A resolution was unanimously adopted tendering the thanks of the department to Mrs. Flower for her generous gift.

At March meeting a draft was ordered drawn in favor of the Treasurer of the Volunteer Firemen's Home Association of the State of New York, to aid in the care of the aged and infirm firemen, inmates of said home. At the October meeting the sum of \$150.00 was given to Star Hose Company No. 4 to aid in purchasing suitable furniture for the parlor in the engine house occupied by said company.

At the annual meeting held in Washington Hall January 9th, 1897, George H. Sharlow was re-elected Chief Engineer, and he appointed as his assistants John H. Barry and Adam H. Munk. At a meeting of the new board held the same evening Ross C. Scott was elected Secretary and Edgar C. Emerson Treasurer.

At the annual meeting held in Washington Hall January 8, 1898, George H. Sharlow was again re-elected Chief Engineer and he re-appointed John H. Barry First Assistant, and also appointed Robert J. Hale as Second Assistant. At a meeting of the new board held the same evening Ross C. Scott was elected Secretary and Edgar C. Emerson Treasurer.

On September 20, 1898, the Fire Department met with a severe loss in the death of its veteran secretary, Hon. Ross C. Scott. Judge Scott had served as Secretary of the Department for thirty-three years, with the most pronounced satisfaction. He always manifested the deepest interest in the welfare of our volunteer firemen, and devoted much of his time to the advancement of their material interests. His counsel and advice was eagerly sought

and was always valuable and timely. He was a man of rare clerical abilities and possessed of a rugged and invincible integrity. Whether as secretary of our Department, as a lawyer at the bar, or upon the bench of our Probate Court, which he so many years adorned and honored, his work was performed with the most distinguished ability. For years he had been the victim of an incurable disease, which was slowly and insidiously sapping his life's blood. From early spring he had been unable to leave his house, and when finally the hour of dissolution came every member of the Department mourned his loss as that of a devoted friend and brother.

The rare beauty and excellence of his life and character are modestly set forth in the memorial resolutions adopted by the Board of Directors upon his decease, as follows:

#### IN MEMORIAM.

DIED—At the City of Watertown, on the 20th day of September, 1898, Ross C. Scott, aged fifty-nine years, eleven months and one day.

The deceased had resided in this city ever since attaining manhood, was prominently connected with our public enterprises and had for many years held high public offices of trust and responsibility.

He joined Neptune Hose and Steamer Company No. 1 on Sept. 24th, 1864, when twenty-six years of age, and on January 14th, 1865, he was unanimously elected a director by that company.

He continued an active fireman and was thereafter successively elected a director each year until the day of his death.

On Sept. 11th, 1865, he was elected by the Board of Directors Secretary of the Watertown Fire Department, in place of LaFayette F. Lyttle, resigned, and he was thereafter re-elected each year by that board until the time of his decease. He served as an active fireman for thirty-four years

and was Secretary of the Department almost thirty-three years of that time.

He was a familiar figure at the meetings of our Board, rarely if ever being absent therefrom except in case of sickness. He was an ardent friend and supporter of the Volunteer Fire Department of our City, in the service of which he never tired, and to advance the interests of which he devoted almost a lifetime.

He was a man of rare clerical skill, and he performed the duties of Secretary, which office he filled so many years, with most exceptional ability.

He was genial and pleasant, easily approached, of hearty companionship, and a true and zealous friend. His actions upon our Board were intelligent and conservative, and his advice and counsel was always for the best interests of the Department.

In the office of Surrogate of our County, which he so long and honorably filled, he exhibited conspicuous ability and performed his duties in a most honorable and impartial manner.

In his death the Volunteer Fire Department of our City are bereft of their oldest member, and of one who from his long service in its cause, his great interest in its behalf and the invaluable labor performed in the furtherance of its best interests, may well be called the Father of our present Fire Department.

The Board of Directors desire to place on record an enduring memorial to his memory and worth. It is therefore,

Resolved, That in the death of Ross C. Scott, the Volunteer Fire Department of the City of Watertown is called upon to mourn the loss of one who was its oldest member; whose life was spent in the service of the Department; and who by his labors in its behalf has been a chief factor in its growth and material prosperity.

He was a kind and indulgent husband and father, a reputable and upright citizen and an honest, capable and efficient public servant.

We profoundly lament his decease and join with the community at large in tendering to his bereaved family our most heartfelt condolence at the loss they have sustained.

Resolved, That this memorial be spread upon the Department records and that a copy be suitably engrossed and presented to the family of the deceased.

Further Resolved, That the Secretary transmit copies hereof to each active company of the Department, and that the same be read at the next company meetings, and that the Secretary also transmit suitably engrossed copies to the Secretaries of the State Firemen's Association, and Jefferson Co. Volunteer Firemen's Association, and that our representatives in those bodies be instructed to present the matter at their next annual meetings, to the end that suitable and appropriate action may be had thereon.

At a regular meeting of the Board of Directors, held October 10th, 1898, Bradley C. Bauter was elected Secretary in place of Ross C. Scott, deceased.

Company F, of the Exempt Branch was organized by the Board of Directors on December 12, 1898.

At the annual meeting of the Department held at Washington Hall January 14, 1899, John H. Barry was elected Chief Engineer, and he appointed as his assistants George Scharch and Edward J. O'Connor. At a meeting of the new board held the same evening Bradley C. Bauter was elected Secretary and Edgar C. Emerson Treasurer.

On June 8th and 9th, 1899, the Jefferson County Volunteer Firemen's Association held its annual meeting in the city of Watertown as guests of our Department. It was a most successful gathering and added much to the fraternal relations of the volunteer firemen of our county.

On September 15, 1899, the Department pur-

chased and presented to the Watertown City Hospital an ambulance at an expense of \$632.50, subject only to the condition that it should be used free of charge for disabled firemen and other charity cases, when not in use for the other purposes of the hospital.

At the annual meeting of the Department held at Music Hall January 13, 1900, John H. Barry was re-elected Chief Engineer, and he re-appointed George Scharch First Assistant, and also appointed Herman M. Darby Second Assistant.

At a meeting of the new board held the same evening Bradley C. Bauter was elected Secretary and Edgar C. Emerson Treasurer.

On March 12, 1900, the Department was notified by the City Clerk, pursuant to the provisions of the Revised City Charter, that on and after March 15, 1900, the members of the Department would not be obliged to attend fires and their duties as active firemen would cease.

At the annual meeting of the Department held at the City Hall on January 12, 1901, John H. Barry was again re-elected Chief Engineer, and George Scharch and Herman M. Darby were also elected First and Second Assistants.

At this meeting a resolution was adopted, by a vote of 154 to 8, in favor of creating a firemen's death benefit of \$100. At a meeting of the new board, held the same evening Bradley C. Bauter was re-elected as Secretary and Edgar C. Emerson Treasurer.

Pursuant to the amended Charter of the Department, permitting the disbanding of the active branch of the department, the Board of Directors on June 10, 1901, by resolution provided for their disbanding, and at a special meeting of the Board held on June 24, 1901, the active companies were mustered out of service and the members thereof discharged. Many of the members of the active companies were present at this meeting and joined the Exempt Branch, and upon the adjournment of

this meeting manned the ropes of the steamer "Watertown" and preceded by the band, with a display of fireworks and red fire, marched around Public Square for one last parade of our volunteer firemen. On their return to the engine house a lunch was served and several impromptu speeches were made apropos of the occasion.

At the meeting of the board Co. G of the Ex-empt Branch was organized.

On August 12, 1901, the revised by-laws of the Department were adopted, and pursuant to the provisions of the amended Charter a death benefit of \$100 was ordained, payable to the family of each member of the Department; and on October 10, 1901, the first death benefit under this by-law was ordered paid to Anna S. Peck, as administrator of Henry S. Williams, a former member of the Department.

On October 14, 1901, the corporate name of the Department was changed, by order of the Supreme Court, to the "Watertown Volunteer Ex-empt Fire Department."

At the annual meeting of the Department held at Washington Hall January 11, 1902, John H. Barry was again re-elected Chief Engineer and George Scharch and Robert J. Hale First and Second Assistants respectively.

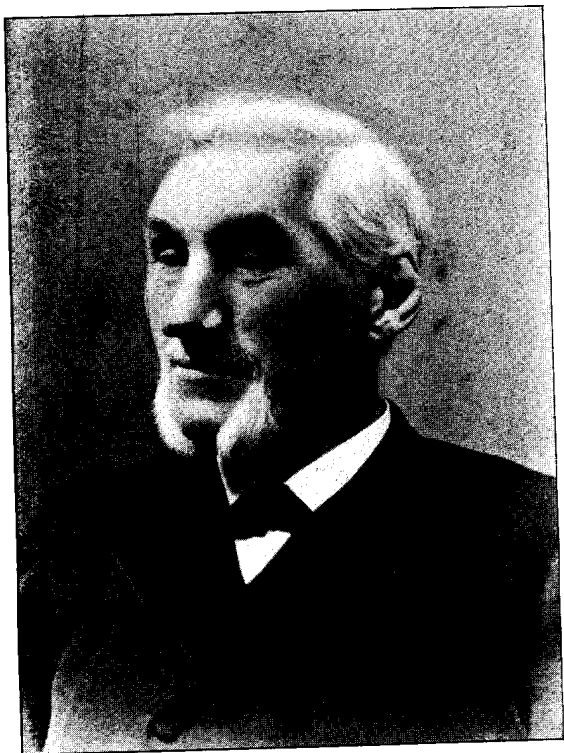
At a meeting of the new board, held the same evening, Bradley C. Bauter was re-elected Secretary and Edgar C. Emerson was re-elected Treasurer, making twenty-five years in which he has served in that capacity.

Thus concludes the history of the active services of the Volunteer Firemen of our City. It has had a corporate existence for over half a century and has existed as an organized body of firemen for over eighty-five years. It has been a most potential factor in the building up of our city; and the prosperity of our municipality has in no small de-

gree depended upon the labors of our volunteer firemen.

The Department throughout its existence has been the pride of our city, and composed of our most prominent and representative citizens. It leaves behind it a record of noble deeds and of duties well performed, and its memory should be an inspiration to heroic action and unselfish devotion to duty.





**FRED EMERSON**  
(Deceased)  
**CHIEF ENGINEER 1854--1866**



**ROSS C. SCOTT**  
(Deceased)  
**SECRETARY 1865--1898**

Charter of the

# Watertown Volunteer Exempt Fire Department.

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AN ACT to Incorporate the Fire Department of  
the City of Watertown.

Passed April 10, 1850.

The People of the State of New York, represented  
in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

§ 1. All persons who now are or hereafter shall  
become members of the fire engine, hook and lad-  
der and hose companies, not exceeding fifty-six in  
number to each company, in the City of Water-  
town, Jefferson County, in conformity with the or-  
dinances of the corporate authorities of said City  
shall be and are hereby ordained and constituted  
a body politic and corporate in fact and in name,  
by the name and style of "The Fire Department  
of the City of Watertown," and by that name they  
and their successors shall have perpetual succes-  
sion, and shall have a common seal, and shall be  
persons in law, capable of suing and being sued in  
all the courts of this state, by or in the name of the  
office of the Chief Engineer as President of the  
said Fire Department, and also that they and their  
successors by the name of the Fire Department of  
the City of Watertown, shall be in law capable of  
purchasing, holding and conveying any estate, real  
or personal, for the use of said corporation, provid-  
ed the amount of real and personal estate so held  
shall not exceed the sum of fifty thousand dollars.  
(As amended by act of Legislature passed April  
21st, 1870, Chapter 333.)

§ 2. The members of the several companies constituting the said corporation, shall hold a meeting on the second Saturday of January in each year at which annual meeting they shall elect a chief engineer as president and two assistant engineers as vice-presidents and each company shall at the same time elect, by separate ballot, one member, who shall hold his office for two years, who, with the chief engineer, two assistants and other directors, shall constitute a board of directors, and shall exercise such powers as are hereafter committed to them. Each company shall be entitled to two directors whose term of office shall expire each alternate year. And the several companies, at some regular meeting, before the next annual meeting, shall elect one of their number as a director to hold his office for one year from the next annual meeting and shall report such election to the present board of directors. (As amended by laws 1901, Chapter 630.)

§ 3. The assistant engineers shall, in the order of their numbers, serve as vice-presidents of said department, one of whom, in the absence of the chief engineer, shall preside at all meetings of the department and board of directors. (As amended by Laws 1901, Chapter 630.)

§ 4. The said Board of Directors shall, within one week after their election or appointment, choose out of their own number a Secretary, Treasurer and Collector. And the first directors shall be Norris M. Woodruff, Chief Engineer, Benjamin F. Hotchkin and E. C. Lewis, Assistant Engineers; and Chas. S. Burt, Cyrenus H. Wright, Nathaniel Farnham, Lotus Ingalls, Wm. H. Sigourney, Chancey Calhoun, Jr., John L. Baker, and Otis L. Wheelock, to hold their respective offices until the first annual meeting to be held agreeably to the provisions of this act, and in case of any vacancy in the office of Chief Engineer, it shall be filled at an annual or special meeting; if at a special meeting, it shall be called by the Secretary of the Board of Directors, under the direction of said Board;

and in case of any vacancy in said Board other than that of Chief Engineer or his Assistants, the same shall be filled by the company in which such vacancy occurs.

§ 5. A majority of said Board shall constitute a quorum, and shall have full power, and it shall be their duty to make and prescribe such laws and regulations not inconsistent with the laws of this state, as they shall deem necessary for the proper management of the affairs and disposition of the funds of said corporation, and shall have power to appoint such meetings of said fire department, other than the annual meeting, as they shall deem advisable. (As amended, Laws 1901, Chapter 630.)

§ 6. A certificate signed by the Chief Engineer and foreman of the company to which any member of this department belonged, and bearing the seal of this corporation, declaring the term and time said member has served as fireman in this corporation, or that the term of service of said member, as required by the laws of this state, has been fully completed, shall be sufficient to entitle him to all the privileges and exemptions secured to firemen by the laws of this State.

§ 7. All provisions of the charter, ordinances and by-laws of the corporation of the city of Watertown in relation to its Fire Department, inconsistent with this act, are hereby repealed, and the Legislature may at any time modify or repeal this act.

§ 8. This act shall take effect immediately. (Laws 1859, Chapter 330.)

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AN ACT to amend an act entitled "An act to incorporate the Fire Department of the City of Watertown," passed April 10th, eighteen hundred and fifty.

Passed April 14, 1859, three-fifths being present. The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

§ 1. An act entitled "An act to incorporate the

Fire Department of the City of Watertown," passed April tenth, eighteen hundred and fifty, is hereby amended by adding thereto the following sections, to wit:

§ 9. The board of directors of said department shall have power to organize new and disband old companies attached to said department and to expel and discharge members for good causes, in their discretion, and to direct that certificates of service shall not be issued to members who are dishonorably discharged or expelled. Said board shall have full power to disband the companies composing the active branch of said fire department, and to organize the members thereof into exempt companies of said fire department, provided, however, that in case of said disbandment of the companies composing the active branch of said department, the directors of said companies shall continue to serve as said directors, and shall continue to be members of said board of directors for the balance of the term for which they shall have respectively been elected. The board of directors shall also have full power to make all members of the active branch of said fire department, who were such members on January first, eighteen hundred and ninety-eight, life members of said department, subject to such conditions, rules and regulations as the said board of directors may for that purpose adopt. (As amended, Laws 1901, Chapter 630.)

§ 10. The members of the Fire Department of the City of Watertown, while in actual service, and all persons who shall hereafter complete a service of five years or over in said department, shall be exempt from taxation to the amount of five hundred dollars assessment, and from poll tax, in addition to the exemptions now enumerated by law. (As amended, Laws 1861, Chapter 135.)

§ 11. The real and personal estate owned, held or possessed by said department, shall be exempt from taxation.

§ 12. The board of directors shall have full power to provide for the payment of a death benefit

of one hundred dollars each to the family of any member of said fire department who shall hereafter die, and to adopt proper by-laws, rules and regulations for that purpose. (As amended, Laws 1901, Chapter 630.)

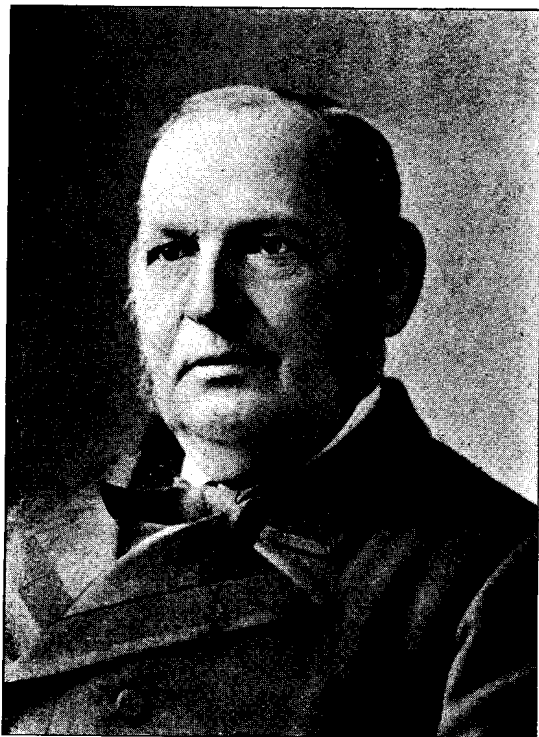
§ 13. (In effect repealed by Laws 1901, Chapter 630.)

§ 14. All acts and parts of acts inconsistent with this act are hereby repealed.

§ 15. This act shall take effect immediately.

§ 16. No appropriation or expenditure from the funds of the department exceeding fifty dollars in amount, except for the payment of such death benefits as shall be ordained by said board of directors, shall be made without the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the board of directors. (Added by Chap. 135, Laws of 1861, as amended, Laws 1901, Chapter 630.)

§ 17. It being understood that the great object of having a fireman's fund is to get it sufficiently large, so that, from the interest and income, firemen who are injured while in discharge of their duties may receive aid and assistance, and, if need be, a respectable burial, therefore, it shall not be lawful for the board of directors to expend, appropriate, or create an indebtedness, except for investment or payment of death benefit as ordained by said board of directors, which shall exceed two-thirds the annual income of the department, without the affirmative vote of at least four-fifths of the board of directors. (Added by Chap. 135, Laws 1861, as amended, Laws 1901, Chapter 630.)



**EX-GOV. ROSWELL P. FLOWER**

(Deceased)

**A FORMER MEMBER OF JEFFERSON HOSE CO., NO. 3**

# Watertown Volunteer Exempt Fire Department.

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## ARTICLE I.

### Officers of the Fire Department.

§ 1. The Board of Directors—The officers of the Fire Department shall be a Chief Engineer, as President, two Assistant Engineers, as Vice-Presidents, numbered first and second, respectively, who shall be chosen at the annual meeting of the Department, and two members from each company belonging to the department; these together shall constitute the Board of Directors.

§ 2. Election of Officers.—At the annual meeting of the Department, the members shall vote for officers by ballot, and in the order as their names shall be called from the department roll, and any member who does not answer to his name, and vote at once, and in the order that his name is called from the department roll by the Secretary, shall not be allowed to vote at such meeting. No person shall be elected unless he shall receive a majority of all the votes cast. The presiding officer shall appoint six tellers to receive and canvass the votes cast at such election, two of whom shall receive and canvass the votes cast for Chief Engineer, two shall receive and canvass the votes cast for First Assistant, and two shall receive and canvass the votes cast for Second Assistant Engineer. The presiding officer shall also ap-

point one teller from each company, who shall receive and canvass the votes cast by the company of which he is a member, for director or directors. At the annual meeting of the department the presiding officer shall immediately after calling the meeting to order, designate what part of the hall or place of meeting each company shall occupy, and it shall be the duties of the members of the several companies to immediately occupy the portion of the hall or place of meeting so designated and to remain seated, except when voting or addressing the presiding officer, or when permitted by such officer to change to another part of the room, and to abstain from all conversation and noise of any kind. No member shall leave the place of meeting until the meeting is declared adjourned by the presiding officer, except he is excused by the presiding officer or by vote of the meeting. And for each and every violation of this by-law, the member so violating shall stand fined the sum of fifty cents, and may be dishonorably discharged upon the vote therefor of a majority of the Board of Directors, present at a regular meeting of such board. Such fines can only be remitted upon the vote of three-fourths of the members of the Board of Directors present at a regular meeting of such board. It shall be the duty of the President and Secretary of each company, to report at once to the Department Secretary the name or names of any member or members of the department violating this by-law, and for a failure on the part of any one of the officers above named to report the name of a member violating any one or more of the provisions of this by-law, such officer shall stand fined the sum of fifty cents. All fines imposed by this by-law shall be collected by the Treasurer of the Department upon the written report signed by the Chief Engineer and Secretary. All fines so collected shall be placed to the credit of the general fund. No person or persons other than members of the department shall be permitted to attend the annual meetings, ex-

ceptioner reporter from each of the newspapers published in the City of Watertown, and persons having cards of admission, signed by the Chief Engineer, Secretary and Treasurer, guests not to exceed twenty-five in all. The Chief Engineer or Presiding Officer shall employ two competent doorkeepers, one of whom may be and shall be a city policeman, if one possibly can be secured, and no person or persons shall be admitted to the hall or place of meeting, except members of the Department, each one of whom must show his badge to the doorkeepers before entering the room, or be vouched for by one of the officers of the company of which he is a member. Reporters of city newspapers and guests to be admitted on presentation of cards as hereinbefore provided for. The doorkeepers to be paid each the sum of \$2.00 for his services, to be audited and paid in the same manner as accounts are now audited and paid.

§ 3. The Chief Engineer shall perform the usual duties and possess the ordinary powers of a President of corporate bodies, and shall give or countersign, when required, a certificate of the appointment, time of service, and discharge of any member of the Fire Department, if such member shall be entitled thereto, and shall take the management and control of the Fire Department when turned out as such at all times and places, and shall have the general power of a Chief Engineer, and give the casting vote on all questions, and shall give notice to the Board of Directors of the time and place of choosing a Secretary and Treasurer.

§ 4. The Assistant Engineers—The Assistant Engineers, as Vice-Presidents, in the order of their numbers, shall possess all the powers and discharge all the duties of the Chief Engineer, in case of his absence, except the signing of certificates, as provided in the above section third of these by-laws.

## ARTICLE II.

## Board of Directors.

§ 1. The Board of Directors shall, at the time and place specified in the notice of the Chief Engineer for that purpose, meet and choose from their number a Secretary and Treasurer, who shall hold their respective offices from the time of their election until the next annual meeting of the department thereafter, and until others are elected to fill the vacancy.

§ 2. It shall be the duty of the Board of Directors at the annual meeting of the Fire Department, appointed by the Charter, on the second Saturday in January in every year, previous to the election of officers for the ensuing year, to exhibit, through their Secretary, a true and correct statement of the situation and condition of the whole Fire Department, the measures which have been adopted, the disposition which has been made of the funds, the number of members belonging to the department, the state of the finances, what sums have been received, and from what source, and what expended, and for what, what debts are due to and from the department, what taxes have been imposed, and to furnish such other information and recommendations as they shall deem advisable for the management and welfare of the department.

§ 3. The Board of Directors shall, by resolution, direct the Secretary to give reasonable public notice of annual and special meetings of the department, in such manner as will be likely to reach its members, and as said board shall prescribe.

§ 4. The regular meetings of the board shall be on the second Monday evening of each month in each year; the hour of meeting shall be 7:30 o'clock p. m., unless the Board should adjourn to some other hour. All meetings shall be with open doors. Special meetings shall be called by the

Secretary, on the written request of the Chief Engineer, or any three members of the Board, by giving each member of the Board verbal notice, or by leaving a written notice at his dwelling house, of the time and place of holding the same, or by depositing such written notice in the Watertown postoffice directed to such member, at least twenty-four hours before the time appointed for such meeting; and the like notice shall be served of an adjourned meeting on all absentees of the next preceeding meeting, and such notices shall state the object of such special or adjourned meeting.

§ 5. Any member of the Board, who, without a reasonable excuse therefor, shall be absent from any regularly adjourned or notified meeting, shall be fined for such absence twenty-five cents for each roll call; and the roll shall be called at the hour specified for each meeting, whether a quorum be present or not, and if a quorum shall not appear within fifteen minutes after the time of meeting the roll may be called the second time, and the meeting adjourned to an extra or next regular meeting.

§ 6. Any member leaving the room during the meeting of the Board, without the permission of the presiding officer, or the Board, shall be fined twenty-five cents.

§ 7. Order of Business.—At all regular meetings of the Board the business shall be proceeded with in the following order, viz:

1. Roll call.
2. Reading minutes.
3. Fines collected.
4. Discharges.
5. Report of committees.
6. Treasurer's report.
7. Miscellaneous business.
8. Roll call.

## ARTICLE III.

## Duties of Officers.

§ 1. The Secretary.—It shall be the duty of the Secretary of the Board to record the proceedings of all meetings of the Board of Directors and of the Department, to register the names of all persons who now are members of the Fire Department of the City of Watertown, stating the time of admission and the company into which admitted, and also, if discharged, whether honorably or dishonorably; to keep a record of all the laws, ordinances and regulations which the Board of Directors may from time to time adopt; to countersign all certificates and all drafts on the Treasurer for bills audited by the Board of Directors, when signed by the Chief Engineer; to give all necessary notices of vacancies in the Board to the Secretary of the company in which such vacancy occurs, or to the Board of Directors if a vacancy occurs in the office of the Chief Engineer or Assistant Engineers; to notify the President or Secretary of each company of all public meetings; to draw up and present at the annual meeting of the Department a report in writing of the state and condition of the whole Department; to keep the corporate seal and furnish a list of names of all firemen belonging to the Department to the assessors of the City of Watertown when called for; to call the roll of the whole Department when directed by the presiding officer; to give notice to the several directors of all extra meetings of the Board; and he shall carry on the correspondence of the Department, and shall at all times when requested, submit his records and doings to the Board for examination; and for every wilful or negligent omission of his duty, may be fined, by a majority vote of said Board of Directors, not to exceed five dollars, and on the question of the imposition of any fine, the ayes and noes shall be entered on the minutes; and he shall receive for his services one hundred dollars a year.

§ 2. The Treasurer.—It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to receive and safely keep all moneys and securities which shall come into his hands belonging to the Department, and to pay over on the written order of the Chief Engineer, countersigned by the Secretary of the Board of Directors, all bills which have been audited and allowed by the Board of Directors, and ordered to be paid; to keep a true and faithful record of the financial matters of the Department; make a written report to the Board of Directors at every regular meeting of the state of the treasury, giving the exact balance of moneys in his hands; and draw up and present, at least four days before the annual meeting of the Department, a report in writing, stating all moneys received and disbursed by him on the orders of the Board of Directors, the balance of money in his hands and a list of the securities owned by the Department and the value of the same, and before entering upon the discharge of his duties, he shall execute to the Department, and file with the Chief Engineer, when approved by said Chief Engineer, the joint and several bond of himself, with at least two sureties, in the penal sum of at least the total value of the money and securities held and belonging to said Department, the amount of which bond shall be fixed by said Board of Directors at its regular meeting in January of each year, conditioned for the proper and faithful discharge of his duties, and for the safe keeping of the securities and money deposited in his hands as such Treasurer belonging to the Department, and for the payment of the money on the order of the Chief Engineer and Secretary as above set forth, and for the delivery of such securities, and the payment of all money in his hands as such Treasurer to his successor in office. And the sureties shall each make a written affidavit subjoined to said bond, that they are each worth the amount of the penalty of the bond over and above all the debts and liabilities which he owes or has incurred and exclusive of property

exempt from levy and sale under an execution, before the bond shall be approved, or if there are more than two sureties, they shall justify so that it shall be equal to two justifying as above. And the Board of Directors shall have power at any time to require a new bond or additional sureties, and in default of its being given to the satisfaction of the Board, they may declare the office of Treasurer vacant and elect a new one. And for every omission of his duty he shall be fined fifty cents, and for neglecting to report, as above provided, for three regular meetings, his office shall be declared vacant, and he shall be ineligible for re-election; and he shall receive for his services the sum of one hundred dollars for each year.

#### ARTICLE IV.

##### Exempt Firemen.

§ 1. Any fireman of this Department, of good moral character, who shall have heretofore completed a service of five years, and any fireman who joined the same prior to January 1, 1898, and was a member thereof on March 15, 1900, shall, on paying to the Treasurer of this Department for the benefit of the Exempt Firemen's Fund, the sum of three dollars, and presenting the Treasurer's receipt therefor to the Secretary of this Department, have his name put upon the roll of exempt firemen, when he shall have been approved by vote of the Board of Directors.

§ 2. The exempt firemen, as aforementioned shall be formed into separate companies. The first fifty-six exempted shall be known as Company "A", the next fifty-six as Company "B," and so on through the alphabet, each fifty-six exempt members being a separate company, and all vacancy, by death or otherwise, shall be filled by the member who shall receive his exemption next after such vacancy occurs.

§ 3. The Board of Directors may grant honorable discharges to such members of the active com-

panies as shall have joined the same subsequent to January 1, 1898, but they shall not be admitted into the exempt branch or made life members of the department.

§ 4. The said exempt companies shall have power to elect a President and such other officers as they may determine; and shall be exempt from all fines for not attending meetings, excepting the meetings of the Board of Directors, and they shall be entitled to all the privileges, benefits and exemption of the Department. They shall hold regular meetings on the first Monday of January, in each year, and may hold such other meetings as they may determine. Meetings may be called by their President or any five members of their company, by giving notice as prescribed in the by-laws of the Department for extra meetings of the Directors. And they shall be entitled to the use of any room or rooms occupied by the Department or any company thereof, when the same does not interfere with other company or Department meetings.

§ 5. The exempt firemen, in this Article specified, shall be entitled to a badge, with the alphabetical letter of the exempt company to which he shall belong, with his private number, and shall also be entitled to a diploma stating the time served by him as a fireman in this department and the company in which he served, and that he is now an exempt fireman, and the exempt company to which he belongs, which diploma, shall be signed by the Chief Engineer and Secretary of the Department under the seal of the department.

§ 6. The Treasurer of this Department shall keep a separate account of all moneys which shall be paid to him or donated for the benefit of the Exempt Fireman's Fund hereby created, and the principal so paid shall not be considered a part of the incomes of the Department, but the same shall be from time to time invested by the Board of Directors upon undoubted security, and the interest thereof shall annually be expended by the Direc-

tors in taking care of and beautifying the fireman's burial ground of this department; but whenever the principal sum of the Exempt Firemen's Fund shall reach the amount of \$5,000, the surplus over and above that amount may be expended or applied in such manner as the Board of Directors may determine.

§ 7. The Secretary of the Department shall keep a correct roll of the exempt firemen, together with the company number of which he was a member, and the letter and private number of the exempt company of each member.

## ARTICLE V.

### Financial.

§ 1. There shall be two funds of the Department; the one the General Fund and the other the Exempt Firemen's Fund. The General Fund shall consist of all moneys of the Department not set apart for the Exempt Firemen's Fund. The Exempt Firemen's Fund shall consist of the moneys provided by Article IV of these by-laws and all moneys that may be donated or appropriated to the same, and shall be held separate and sacredly kept and applied only as in the said Article IV specified and provided.

§ 2. No expenditure of the funds of the Department shall be made for any purpose, unless authorized by a two-thirds vote of all the members present at a regular meeting of the board, and no appropriation or expenditure from the funds of the Department exceeding \$50 in amount except for the payment of death benefits shall be made without the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the Board of Directors.

§ 3. The Board of Directors shall, at the commencement of every year, ascertain what the income of the last preceding year was, and the Board shall not appropriate or expend, exceeding one-third of such ascertained income, for contingent expenses of the then coming year, unless the

Board shall by unanimous vote, at a regular meeting, make an additional appropriation for that purpose, and all balance of income not appropriated for the year and the other one-third shall be added to and form a part of the General Fund.

§ 4. The Board of Directors shall keep the moneys not necessary for immediate use safely invested on interest; but no moneys shall be loaned except on undoubted security, and to no member of the Department, unless upon bond and mortgage on unincumbered real estate, worth at least double the amount loaned.

## ARTICLE VI.

### Miscellaneous.

§ 1. The President of each and every company shall, with his company, on parades be subject to and obey the orders and directions of the Chief Engineer, as given by him or his assistants.

§ 2. The Secretaries of the several companies shall upon the election of any person from their company to fill any vacancy in the Board of Directors, give a certificate to the member so elected; they shall also, upon receiving any order from the Board of Directors, relating to their several companies execute the same, and give notice of extra meetings, and in the notice the object of such call.

§ 3. The several companies composing this Department shall have regular meetings on the first Monday of January, in each year. The hour of meeting shall be 8 o'clock p. m.

§ 4. Should the President or Secretaries of the several companies wilfully refuse or neglect, after having received due notice of the requirements of the Chief Engineer or Board of Directors, to carry the same into execution, as specified, without a reasonable excuse therefor, offered to the Board of Directors, they may be fined not exceeding five dollars to be fixed by the Board of Directors.

§ 5. Every company shall have full power to make and prescribe such laws and regulations for its internal arrangement and organization, for the private government of its members, and the disposal of its funds, as it may deem proper, provided the same do not infringe upon, conflict with nor vary the rules and regulations of the Department, and provided further, that the same shall be approved by the Board of Directors before they shall be of any force.

§ 6. If any member shall personally return his badge and key to the Secretary of the Department, at the time when he shall cease to be a member of this Department, the sum of \$1.50 shall be refunded to him, but in case he returns his badge only the sum of \$1.10 shall be refunded to him, and in case he returns his key only, the sum of forty cents shall be refunded to him; provided, however, that the amount to be paid to any person who joined the Department prior to July 14th, 1879, upon the return of his badge and key shall be no more than \$1.00 and in case he returns his badge only, the sum of sixty cents shall be paid him therefor, and in case he returns his key only, the sum of forty cents shall be paid him therefor.

§ 7. All persons who shall be expelled, or shall lose their standing as members of the Fire Department, shall be deemed to have forfeited all claims to the enjoyment of the funds or privileges of the Department, except they shall be honorably discharged and appointed exempt members.

§ 8. No member shall receive a dishonorable discharge or be expelled, without first being notified of the charges against him and giving him an opportunity to be heard by his company, or the Board of Directors, or a committee from either, personally, or by depositing a written notice in the postoffice, directed to him, stating the charges against him, and appointing the time and place he can be heard, at least one week before the time mentioned, and if he shall refuse or neglect to appear upon the notice, or neglect to send a suffi-

cient excuse for not appearing, the charges shall be considered proven.

§ 9. Any member returned as expelled or dishonorably discharged by any company, and feeling aggrieved, may appeal to the board by filing with the Chief Engineer, within one week after notice of such action, a notice of such appeal with the grounds thereof, and at the next meeting of the board, after the receipt of said notice of appeal, they shall proceed to investigate the same, by committee or otherwise, and the Board may, in their discretion, remit the case back to the company, or render a decision in the case.

§ 10. Any member of the Department shall, upon request, and if entitled thereto, receive from the Chief Engineer and Secretary a certificate of the time he has served as such fireman, under the seal of the Department.

§ 11. The Board of Directors have general power and supervision over the companies and their internal management, and may at any time make such order or take such action as to them may seem best, and they are charged with the management of the Department and its members for its good in all things, whether specified in the by-laws or not.

§ 12. No fine or penalty imposed by these by-laws shall be remitted except upon a two-thirds vote of all the members of the Board of Directors present at a regular meeting.

§ 13. If a member be guilty of improper conduct or an offense against the law of the land or if he shall violate any provision of the Charter, By-Laws or Rules of the Department, he may be reprimanded, suspended or expelled, according to the enormity of the offense in the discretion of the Board of Directors by a two-thirds vote of all the members thereof present at a regular meeting.

§ 14. No member who has been dishonorably discharged or expelled from the Department shall again be received as a member unless it is the

unanimous vote of all the members of the Board of Directors.

§ 15. All fines imposed under these By-Laws shall be collected by the Treasurer upon the warrant of the Chief Engineer and Secretary and credited to the General Fund and for failure to pay a fine duly imposed the member offending may be expelled from the Department upon a two-thirds vote of all the members present at any regular meeting of the Board of Directors.

§ 16. A death benefit of \$100 is hereby ordained payable to the personal representatives of any member of this Fire Department who shall die subsequent to May 1, 1901, and who shall have been in good standing in said Department at the time of his death. Such death benefit shall only be paid upon a majority vote of the Board of Directors present at a regular meeting and upon filing with said Board a petition therefor of such personal representative, stating the time of death of such member and the certificate of the Surrogate of the proper county showing that the petitioner has been duly appointed the personal representative of such deceased member.

§ 17. The Board of Directors shall have full power to alter, amend or revise any laws, rules or regulations set forth and published by them, but only on a vote of two-thirds of the whole Board, except that Articles IV and V shall not be altered, amended or suspended, except by unanimous vote of the Board. Proposed amendments, additions or alterations shall be read at two successive regular meetings of the Board before same shall be voted upon; all amendments, additions and alterations shall as soon as possible be made known to the members of the Department.

## FIRES OF THE PAST.

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The following pen pictures of three large fires of the years gone by, furnished by John L. Hotchkin, Esq., a fireman of many years experience, is introduced, that a record of the same may be preserved for reference, and the information of the young men now composing the department.

We also copy a condensed report from the New York Reformer of the dreadful fire which occurred at the Woolen Factory in this city in 1859.

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### Fire of Knowlton & Rice's Mill.

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The fire of the Paper Mill and adjacent property, with its attendant sad calamity of loss of life, occurred early in the spring of 1848.

The property destroyed consisted of the Woolen Mill of Winslow Pattridge, the Sash and Blind Shop of Philo Johnson, with the Axe Factory of S. Hadcock in the basement, the large frame building upon the present site of the Jefferson Mills, N. & T. Farnham's Tannery, and a Wagon Shop situated on Beebee's Island, upon the present sites of Goun-drill's shop and Lord's Plow Factory, together with the bridge crossing at that point. The only building saved upon the river in the immediate vicinity was the present Union Mill, built of stone. The conflagration occurred in the night and the department was out in force. The companies at the fire were: Neptune Engine Co. No. 1, Hook and Ladder No.

2 and Jefferson No. 3. No. 2 Engine Co had not then been organized.

Valuable service was rendered by a bucket line, from a cistern where the U. & B. R. R. Depot now stands, whereby the Centre House and barns, (that occupied the ground now crossed by R. W. & O. R. R. at the head of Factory street) and the large Paper-Mill storehouse, now standing, was saved.

The leather fire buckets that were then owned by merchants and manufacturers and kept in readiness for fires, were of much value at such times.

The sad event of loss of human life at the fire, cast a gloom over our whole community. Levi Palmer, a wagon maker, and a Mr. Wright, a weaver, both of them among our most worthy and industrious men, were in the second story of the Pattridge Mill, cutting the cloth from the looms, in their efforts to save property. With them was James Delong, Esq., now a resident of this city.

The floors of the mill were oily and highly inflammable. The flames catching the stairway rendered escape in that direction out of the question. The three men seeing their danger came to the front doors and windows of the building and called for ladders. Before one could be procured the flames had reached the front of the room. Palmer and Wright retreated to the rear of the room. Mr. Delong dropped from the door, landing upon a platform of loose boards, with comparative slight injuries.

The others soon appeared at the door and windows enveloped in flames and fell back in full view of hundreds of men who could give them no assistance.

The engines were worked and streams turned for hours upon the ruins where the bodies of the unfortunate men were supposed to be. A few charred remains were all that could be found the next day. Both men left families, and Mr. Palmer was one of the early members of Neptune Engine Co. No. 1.

## The Blaze of 1849.

Written April 9th, 1881.

On Sunday, May 13th, 1849, occurred the "great fire" in Watertown. The driver of the late stage from Utica, who had left two of his passengers on Clinton street, was the first to discover the fire about 2 a. m. on his return to the stage barn on Arsenal street. By this fire the fairest portion of the business part of the town was consumed. The fire broke out in a storage in the rear of where the First National Bank now stands. When the writer on proceeding to the fire soon after the alarm had sounded, had reached the point where the Stone Street church now stands, he witnessed an explosion that sent the burning timbers, fire brands and cinders into the air, and covered the shingle roofs of the American Hotel and Paddock Buildings with sparks and coals. Almost in an instant the wood work of the buildings was in a fierce blaze. The rooms of the hotel were fully occupied by boarders and the situation was perilous in the extreme. It was an hour when all had retired and were in slumber. The landlord, a Mr. Mallery, was aroused from his sleep, and with his clerk, George Higbee, gave the alarm to the boarders by passing through the halls, staving in the doors of the rooms and awakening the sleepers. All were saved, but none too quickly, as the flames were coming through the rear windows, and the inmates had to escape in their night dresses in many instances, some of them having to fight fire in the passage and stairways to save themselves, and it was supposed for some days that one or more persons had been lost in the Hotel.

The fire crossing Court street like a flash, the Wooster Sherman Bank was soon in flames, and a brisk wind starting up drove the flames down the street, firing the Safford, Hayes and Peck Blocks in an instant. The fire, in the meantime had commenced on the Fairbanks Stone Block on the west

side of Court and was coming down on that side of the street. The flames crossed the narrow street, causing a complete arch of fire and smoke, grand to look at, but "fearful to contemplate."

Norris M. Woodruff was at this time Chief of the Fire Department, and upon duty that night, mounted upon his horse, he seemed "everywhere at once," giving imperative orders to everyone to go to work, "man the brakes," save property, and he asked no one to go where he would not lead. When Court street was a lane of fire, and the goods of the merchants were piled in the street, only to burn where they lay, the Chief galloped his horse through the street and over the obstructions, with fire and smoke to the right and left of him and flames overhead.

The new Woodruff Block, similar to the present Iron Block and standing upon the same spot, had only been erected in the summer of 1848, and of a more modern style of architecture, was the finest building in the town. Covered with a tin roof, it was the opinion of many, and hope of all, that the new building would resist the flames, but one fatal defect was in the wooden cornice. The fire from the Sherman Bank roof licked around the corner tower of the fine cornice and set it in a blaze, working under the roof, and soon for want of sufficient water the fire was not only rapidly consuming that fine building, but extending down Public Square. An expression of dismay went through the great crowd when the new block ignited, but the owner, the Chief, seemed to be more energetic than ever, and never did men and women work to save property harder than on that eventful night.

Fanned by the wind, the fire spread in different directions, burning every structure on Court street to the Old County Clerk's Office, yet standing and now used as a grocery. That building was arched with stone with a wooden roof, which was thrown off by some of the residents of the neighborhood, leaving no "food for fire," and by the veering of

the wind towards the river, the conflagration was stayed—at the corner of Jackson street—burning, however, both sides of the street to that point. The Trinity Church that stood upon the site of the present one, was burned. The town clock, located in the tower, struck the hour of four while the spire was enveloped in flames, and within thirty minutes thereafter the steeple fell. The fire also worked up Arsenal street, burning both sides to the point where the Watertown Post Printing Office now stands, consuming another hotel, the Columbia House, standing upon the site of the present Globe. The intermediate space between Arsenal and Court streets were burned over, not a structure escaping. The buildings but one west of Anthony street, and where the Woodruff House stands, were burned. Towards the south the flames did not make much headway, being against the wind. A building had been torn away a few days before, on the spot where stands Messrs. Sterling & Mosher's store. The course of the fire was arrested at that point, but the territory now covered by the Arcade, Arcade street, American barns, Delong's livery barns, and reaching to the residence of Mr. Woodruff, was burned over. The only business blocks that stood in the village after the fire was the block comprising the buildings owned by O. Hungerford, John Clark, Watertown Bank and Lansing & Sherman, and on the opposite side of Washington street and Public Square, Perkins Hotel Block and Franklin Building, with the building on the north side of the Square now occupied by Van Namee Brothers and the furniture stores, Streeter's Block and White's Block. Four banks, nearly every dry goods store, and all the printing offices but one were burned.

Messrs. Buckley & White, stage proprietors, discovering the fire upon its out-break, were enabled to save their horses, harnesses and coaches. Several valuable horses, with one fine horse of Dr. Rosa's, were burned in the American Hotel barn.

One of the popular firms of dry goods merchants who were burned out in the Paddock Buildings, was that of J. & H. Seligman, now the firm of J. & W. Seligman & Co., the millionaire bankers of New York City, and whose name and fame as a "tower of financial strength" is known over the world.

Not many others of the dealers who were "badly burned" now remain. There are still prominent in trade W. W. Herrick, J. C. Sterling, and T. H. Camp, with Messrs. O. & E. L. Paddock, P. Mundy, A. M. Utley and a few others who have since gone out of the mercantile business.

The "water supply" of the village consisted of a cistern sunk upon the spot where stands the drinking fountain at the head of the Park, which was supplied by a lead pipe from a living spring at the corner of Washington and Sterling streets, but the suction pipes of the engine soon drained the "reservoir" dry, the private wells and cisterns near the burning district soon gave out, and upon Court street houses would take fire and burn down with scarcely a pailfull of water to apply during the fire, and before daylight, people in the Square, in "looking aloft" saw what appeared to be sparks of fire flying southward and against the wind; they proved to be great flocks of wild pigeons attracted by the fire, their breasts reflecting the light as they passed over. For several days afterward the adjacent "woods were full of them." The ground upon the Square was covered with all descriptions of goods and merchandise piled in promiscuous heaps. Soon after daylight a rain set in and the owners to prevent damage by another element, had to cover their goods with oil-cloths, etc., and also to station a guard of constables to protect their property from thieves.

No services were held in any of the churches upon that Sabbath. The fire raged until nearly noon, the clergy were all at work saving property. All classes, both men and women, used their efforts

to save their neighbor's property, and the event was one long to be remembered in the annals of Watertown.

The Fire Department of the village in 1848 and on duty at the fire consisted of Norris M. Woodruff, Chief Engineer; Benjamin F. Hotchkiss, First Assistant; E. C. Lewis, Second Assistant. Neptune Engine Company No. 1, Wm. A. Loomis, foreman; Rough and Ready Company No. 2, Nathaniel Farnham, foreman; Jefferson Company No. 3, Wm. Y. Buck, foreman; Hook and Ladder Company No. 1, Samuel Fairbanks, foreman.

The engines were of the side-brake pattern and required much strength of muscle to work them. But they were "worked with a will" and only stopped when all available supply of water was exhausted.

The burnt-out merchants concluded that the "way to resume was to resume," took up with all sorts of accommodations to offer their goods. Stores and shops that had escaped the conflagration were divided and re-partitioned, while upon Court street temporary structures were erected; but few discontinued business, and the rest found temporary quarters somewhere. As soon as the bricks were cool enough to handle, a commencement was made to clear away the debris. Masons and other workmen were procured from Oswego and Rochester. The Paddock Buildings, the American Block, the Iron Block and several on both sides of Court street, were erected during the summer and fall of 1849, while the Arcade and some others were erected the year following, making "lively times" in Watertown during the erection of some of its finest buildings.

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### Fire of Perkins' Hotel.

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In December, 1851, occurred a great conflagration, destroying the buildings then upon the site of the present Washington Hall Block, comprising the

Hotel, a large three story frame building, with the book store and bindery of the old stationery firm of Knowlton & Rice, and stores of other dealers. The fire was first discovered at 12 o'clock noon, just at the hour that people were leaving their work, consequently the members of the fire department were out in full force to combat with the fire, that looked at one time as if it would seize the barns and shops in the rear and sweep Franklin street in its course. The proprietor of the Hotel was Charles Perkins, an elderly man, lying upon a sick bed; he was taken from the burning building upon a mattress to a place of safety; he did not long survive this exposure, dying soon after.

The department then consisted of Hook and Ladder Company No. 1, Samuel Fairbanks, foreman; Neptune Engine Company No. 1, Wm. A. Loomis, foreman; Rough and Ready Engine Company No. 2, Nathaniel Farnham, foreman; Jefferson Engine and Hose Co. No. 3, Thomas Dory, foreman. The engines were of the old brake pattern, and did excellent service on that occasion. The water supply was from the cistern at the head of the present Park in Public Square.

The day was extremely cold, and it was with difficulty that the machines were kept from freezing. The buildings were of wood, with shingle roofs, old and very inflammable, and it required hard and unremitting work to keep the fire within the boundaries of the present Washington Hall building. But it was mastered after several hours work. The difficult feat of the day, however, and one that has hardly been excelled since, was the "cutting out" of the fire at the east end of the hotel, where the Franklin building, owned by J. B. & B. F. Hotchkin and yet standing, and now owned by Gates & Spratt, in which there were no brick partition walls, and stored with combustible goods, was saved by the efforts mainly of Nathaniel Farnham, foreman of No. 2, and Austin Skinner, a veteran fireman of No. 1, the two men clinging to the

slippery shingles, cut with axes, holes in the steep roof for the nozzles, then holding the pipes from the engines extinguished the fire effectually at that point. The next day, one standing upon Washington street, could look into the plastered rooms of each story of the building saved by great pluck and the hardest kind of work.

## Other Fires.

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October 16, 1852, a fire occurred on the west side of Washington street, which consumed all the buildings south of Paddock's Block, viz: Hungerford's Block, Citizens Bank and Sherman's Block, the total loss being about \$14,000.

The burning of Mechanics row was the next large fire that occurred in our city. This was a row of tenements standing on the bank of Black River below the Union Mills, which was burned on Nov. 15, 1852, the total loss being about \$20,000. Hudson Hadcock, a young man 19 years of age, perished in the flames while endeavoring to rescue property.

A peculiarity of the conflagrations about this time was that there were six fires in six consecutive weeks, all on Friday night.

July 23, 1853, the car factory and machine shop of Horace W. Woodruff, on the north bank of the river opposite Beebe's Island, was destroyed by fire with its contents.

On the night of December 11, 1853, a fire consumed the building erected for a tannery, but used as a sash and butter tub factory, on the south side of Beebe's Island, adjoining the bridge, and owned by Messrs. Farnham & Button.

## Fire of Black River Woolen Mill.

From the New York Reformer.

About half past five o'clock Friday afternoon, May 6th, 1859, the bells at Factory Square sounded the dreaded alarm, and in thirty minutes the well-known Woolen Factory in the east end of the village was a mass of ruins.

At the Factory the most heart-rending scenes were being enacted. The fire originated in the "picking room" and an ineffectual effort was made to extinguish it with buckets of water. This was soon desisted from, and Mr. King at once gave the order to start the flooding pump. This was done, and the wheel and pump worked well—but all was ineffectual. Mr. King then started to alarm the operatives, of whom there were 130, scattered through the five stories—the only means of egress from all above the second was down a winding stair. Many of the operatives heard the alarm, and rushed down the stairway and the ladders outside the building in comparative safety. Over a dozen, owing to the great confusion and want of time were not so fortunate, and found themselves completely shut off from egress. Some of these were very badly burned in getting down the ladder after the fire had become a mass of flames in all but the fourth story, but the greater number of them threw themselves from the windows to the hard and stony ground below. We append their names and the injuries received by each:

Miss Angeline Sloan, aged about 21, jumped from the fourth story, was picked up insensible, and died in about half an hour.

John Shepard was an object of excruciating suffering. He was deeply burned on the face, arms, breast and neck, and died on Sunday, about 3 o'clock.

Mrs. Vincent White, (sister to James Elder, so well known as a musician) jumped from the fourth

story and it was thought the pelvis and spine was crushed. This, however, is probably not the case, and some hopes are entertained of her recovery. She is the most seriously injured of any who survive their fall.

Miss Maria Greenwood, aged about 18, jumped from fourth story and was badly injured, but may recover.

Miss Celia Blodgett jumped from the fourth story, and her escape from any other injury than the mere shock, is really wonderful. She rose from the spot without help and walked one-fourth of a mile to her home.

James M. Griffin escaped from the weavers' room down a ladder, with his child, 7 years of age, between his legs. He was deeply burned on his left arm. His child was saved, with a slight burn on her right leg.

Mr. and Mrs. Marshall were both very badly burned on the face, breast and neck. Both will recover.

Thomas Farrar, badly burned on the left arm, but probably not so bad as to lose its use.

Mrs. Elizabeth French, aged about 26, jumped from the fourth story, very badly burned and ribs broken. Will hardly recover.

Mary Harris, broken ankle; jumped from third story. Is doing well.

Mary A. Huntley, aged about 24, burned very badly, but will probably recover.

Mrs. Hannah Rogers, aged about 23 years, badly burned, but is doing well and will recover.

Thomas Osburn, burned deeply in the face, neck and arms. Has his senses, and is doing well.

Miss Simms jumped three stories; is burned some and very much strained. She is getting along very well.

Express messengers were sent to the village for medical aid, and to the credit of the profession, every physician who heard of the calamity, and could leave his patients, hastened to the scene of

the catastrophe, and did what the highest medical skill and the most assiduous attentions could do to alleviate the excruciating sufferings of the injured and dying. Our citizens manifested the liveliest interest and deepest feeling for the sufferers, and did all that could be done to make them comfortable.

The most probable conjecture as to the origin of the fire is that it originated by a piece of iron or stone passing through the picker, and igniting the linty combustible. Once started it spread too rapidly for human efforts to extinguish.

The Factory is in ruins, and more than a hundred and fifty operatives thrown suddenly out of employment; many families with disabled members to care for.

The building was the property of the old Black River Woolen Company, and was rented to Messrs. Elting, King & Co., at \$1,650 per year. Building and machinery were worth at least \$35,000.

Our firemen did all that men could do. The water works do not extend any further east than High street, and the hose carts were consequently useless. This fire has brought to light the fact that we have but one fire engine in the village capable of being worked. The Chief Engineer tells us that another can be repaired for about \$100.

Contributions were taken up in all the churches for the aid of the destitute and suffering, and many liberal offerings were made by others.

Watertown is a place of noble charities. Nearly all appear ready to lend their aid and money in the efforts that are being made to succor the distressed. To mention names would be doing violence to the feelings of those who work the hardest and give the most. "Verily, they have their reward."

## OLD DAYS OF FIRE FIGHTING.

### Incidents of Two of Watertown's Big Fires.

**An Excursion Which Was Not Postponed Because the Company Had Been at Work All Night.**

The following letter, received by Hon. Ross C. Scott, the veteran secretary of the Watertown Fire Department, from John L. Hotchkiss, will be of interest to all the older residents and to the firemen of the present day as well:

Chicago, Aug. 2, 1895.

I have read in the Watertown Daily Times of the recent death, at an advanced age, of William Harrison Sigourney, and also the record of his public and business life there published. As a most public-spirited citizen, and his long-time connection with the Watertown Fire Department, I have thought that an allusion to the fact would no more than be in keeping with his honorable and useful life.

Mr. Sigourney was one of the very early members of the Jefferson Engine Co., No. 3, Captain William Y. Buck, foreman. The engine house, frame, was located where the present brick structure stands on Stone street. The only member of that company surviving that I can now recall is George Smith, of the Jefferson County Savings Bank.

This company being so centrally located enabled it to be early at fires when occurring in the business section of the town, and usually rendered most effective service.

At the great fire of May 13, 1849, having its origin in a storehouse but a few yards from the company quarters, No. 3 was the first company to lay the hose. Mr. Sigourney's place of business was burned at that fire.

This was some years before the introduction of a system of water works, and the only available supply for fire protection was a cistern in the Public

Square, where the present drinking fountain now stands, where the old engine of the side brake pattern was located, and when all of the muscle of the members of the company was severely taxed in fighting the fire in the American building and the Paddock store. The cistern was soon pumped dry and then the fire had its own way, burning nearly the whole business part of the town.

In after years Mr. Sigourney became the foreman of the company, comprising a more sturdy lot of men than ever manned the brakes or handled the pipe in any city or town in the country. Having witnessed fires in New York city under the old volunteer system and in this city, with its paid department and equipment of fire steamers, I can fairly say that I have seen no more effective work in the saving of property than I have seen performed by the Watertown Fire Department of former years, with their primitive apparatus then in vogue.

The "big four" of Foreman Sigourney's company were the two brothers, Tom and Jim Dory, Horace Dodge, and Jack Farley. The three first named were stalwart young blacksmiths, while Farley, the only one left, is now a resident of Chicago, and loves to recount the old times when running with his old fire company.

On the evening of September 23, 1850, a fire started in a dwelling house on Sterling street, where the different companies assembled. It was burned to the ground from lack of water, but a burning brand, wafted upon the wind over to the lower end of Public Square gave the fire department work enough for that night.

The fire brand lodged in the tall steeple of the Universalist church, a massive stone structure standing upon a hill over where the present church of that denomination stands. The church was burned to the ground, leaving nothing but the stone walls standing. The firemen quickly changed their base to fight the new terror that again menaced with destruction the business section of the

village. The only outfit to work with was the brake engines, and Black River was the nearest supply. The Neptune No. 1 was stationed at the bridge at the Union mill, with its suction in the flume, and with the lines of hose supplied the Jefferson 3 pipemen on the hill.

There was a narrow space of but a few feet between the church and the residence of A. J. Peck. That was necessary to preserve the dwellings upon the south side of State street.

The pipemen, Dodge and the Dory boys of No. 3, had their position between the buildings. The flames from the big church windows fanned them in their faces, but they seemed to be veritable salamanders. They were all blacksmiths, accustomed to heat, and to maintain their positions wet coffee sacks had to be thrown over their heads and shoulders. The shingle and siding of the dwelling were burned and charred through, but by their perseverance and exposure the adjoining property was unburned and "Fort Peck" was saved to the world. In the erection of the Smith block the old house was demolished and the hill graded down.

The Jefferson Company were to go to Oswego upon an excursion the next day following the fire. Their machine was "polished up" for the occasion.

It would have seemed that after an all night's fight with fire the trip would have been deferred, but the apparatus was reburnished and the company made the excursion by the way of Sackets Harbor and the lake, this being before the advent of the W., R & Cape Vincent R. R.

Perhaps I have here detailed more than is applicable in a communication relating to William H. Sigourney and his times in Watertown, but his connection with the department was a close one. He was a great favorite with his company, an efficient foreman, a fireman of judgment and discretion and a most popular man in all the walks of life. I have known him about as long as I can remember.

J. L. H.



# **IN MEMORY OF THE FIRE HEROES.**

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## **THE MONUMENT UNVEILED.**

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### **Formal Dedication of the Watertown Fire Department's Memorial in Brookside Cemetery.**

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[From the Watertown Times, Monday, June 22, 1891.]

After 30 years the burying place belonging to the Watertown Fire Department is now graced by an enduring memorial, by which the heroic services of its members are to be commemorated through all future time. The monument purchased by the Department was unveiled Saturday afternoon with appropriate ceremonies, participated in by men of honored names who were in the early stages of their proud careers when serving in the ranks of this department.

In the morning a committee of members of Central Hose and Steamer Company No. 2 visited the cemetery with a generous supply of flowers and decorated the graves of deceased members of that company; also a committee from the Board of Directors placed wreaths on the graves in the firemen's lot.

The line formed on Stone street and shortly after two o'clock it moved through Arcade to Arsenal, to Public Square, and along Washington to Brookside, where the ceremonies took place.

The exempts were out in large numbers and the active companies had few absentees. The Watertown City and Garland City bands furnished the music. The actives commanded admiration by their handsome uniforms and good marching, while the gray hairs of many of the exempts

aroused the feelings of veneration which the sight of veterans in line always awakens. The speakers, clergy, members of the common council, the press, and those who were unable to march occupied a long line of carriages. The parade was witnessed by a large crowd, and many civilians rode in the busses to the cemetery.

### SKETCH OF THE MOVEMENT.

May 28, 1860, which was shortly after Brookside had been laid out, the fire department of the city of Watertown took measures which secured for them in that beautiful "city of the dead" fourteen lots, numbering from 34 to 47 inclusive, in section "A," containing 4,706 feet. It was at that time the purpose and intention to procure a suitable memorial to be erected on that plot to those who might desire burial within its sacred border, but as the years rolled by the work was not accomplished until 1890 it was revived again. There had been an effort made previously to secure the firemen's monument, but the movement was not carried to a successful issue. The late Justus Chase offered the resolution early last year that resulted in the letting of the contract by a committee consisting of the Chief Engineer, C. E. McClare, the Secretary of the Department, Ross C. Scott, the Treasurer, Edgar C. Emerson and Foster M. Ferrin.

That committee recommended the plan, which is now executed. The directors accepted it, continued the efficient committee and authorized the purchase at \$1,650. The contract was signed August 11, 1890, and the work was completed about three weeks ago.

### THE MEMORIAL.

The monument has a height of sixteen and one-half feet of pure Barre granite, beautifully finished and engraved. Its first base is five feet eight inches square, having a height of eighteen inches. The second base is four feet eight inches square, and has a height of fifteen inches. The die has

a height of five feet three inches, and is four feet square. The base of the figure is two feet four inches square, and the height of the figure, which is of heroic proportions, is eight feet, six inches. The figure holds a nozzle and section of pipe. The monument is composed partly of dark and partly of light granite. On the face of the die, which is highly polished, is inscribed: "Wartertown Fire Department," while on the second base are the figures "1891." The back of the die is plain. On each side are beautiful carvings, representing the hook and ladder, the axe, a coil of rope and olive leaf. It is a work of which its contractor, George Van Vleck, feels justly proud, and with which the members of the fire department are eminently satisfied.

#### SOME HISTORICAL FACTS.

Fred Emerson and Foster M. Ferrin were honorably discharged from the active branch by the Board of Directors, and made life members of Company A. Company A was formed in January, 1862, and the first five members were Fred Emerson, Foster M. Ferrin, A. M. Utley, J. L. Hotchkin and John Griffin. John C. Lewis was a clerk in Sing Sing, N. Y., and returned on a visit in March, 1862, and was then made a member of Co. A. and was No. 6 of that company. Co. A's first directors on the board were John L. Hotchkin for one year and A. N. Wilson for two years.

The lot was bought by the fire department of the cemetery association in 1860. The names of the men buried on the lot are Elkanah S. Cadman, died September 5, 1862, Peter Hobson died July 1st, 1865, Michael Callahan, died March 14th, 1874.

The monument and all expenses connected with it were paid for by the fire department without any aid from the public.

#### THE COMMITTEE.

Following is the committee of arrangements: Charles E. McClare, Chief Engineer; Ross C. Scott,

Secretary; Edgar C. Emerson, Treasurer; Foster M. Ferrin, Co. A, Exempts; Hon. Roswell P. Flower, Co. A, Exempts; William H. Cole, Co. B, Exempts; Edward M. Gates, Co. B, Exempts; Thomas C. Chittenden, Co. C, Exempts; George L. Davis, Co. C, Exempts; Miles Guest, Co. D, Exempts; Hon. Charles R. Skinner, Co. D, Exempts; Silas L. George, Co. E, Exempts; William E. Hart, Co. E, Exempts; James M. Dorsey, foreman Star Hose Company, No. 4; George H. Sharlow, John Hancock Hook and Ladder Co.

The program was as follows:

Mayor Wilbur F. Porter, Presiding.

Unveiling Monument by Foster M. Ferrin, of Co. A  
Watertown City Band playing American Hymn.  
Prayer.....Rev. Clark O. Maltby, of Co. B.  
Music—America.....Watertown City Band  
All joining in singing, directed by C. Wm. Clark, of  
Co. A, and Richard A. Clark, of Co. D.

Remarks,

Hon. Wilbur F. Porter, of Exempt Branch  
Address .....Hon. Chas. R. Skinner, of Co. D.  
Music—Medley American Airs.....  
.....Watertown City Band  
Poem.....George Adams, of Co. A.  
Reading of Letters.....Secretary Ross C. Scott  
Music—Auld Lang Syne.....Garland City Band  
Address.....Hon. Roswell P. Flower, of Co. A.  
Music—Old Hundred.....Garland City Band  
All joining in singing.

Benediction.

### THE PROCESSION.

The procession as formed was of great length, and for a distance on Washington street there were two lines of carriages moving forward at once toward the beautiful cemetery, where preparations had been made for the exercises. The line was throughout in perfect order, and the active firemen in uniform marched with the precision of old soldiers. At Clinton street several carryalls

that had been provided for those who were unable to proceed on foot, were filled, and the fires' opposing forces moved on again.

### A BEAUTIFUL SPOT.

The cemetery was entered from the old road, near the gate of which the noble monument stood veiled with the stars and stripes gracefully draped about the sculptured marble. Around it was a graveled path, with approaches inclined towards the speakers' platform that had been erected in a lovely spot underneath graceful evergreens and beside one of those charming crystal artificial lakes of water which adorn the last resting place of Watertown's honored dead.

### THE CEREMONIES.

The exempt and active firemen slowly approached the shaft of marble, ranging themselves around it with uncovered heads. The City band came forward and played America, while the glorious veil fell at the touch of the oldest living fireman among them, Foster M. Ferrin. Then as the echoes of the beautiful hymn were wafted back from surrounding hills on the calm, cool air, the assembled multitude was seated in view of the chiseled shaft of granite which they had been instrumental in erecting over the mounds of three of their honored deceased members, to receive a few of the grand thoughts and utterances of some of the most prominent among those of them who are now living.

Rev. Mr. Maltby, not being able to reach Watertown, Rev. C. E. Maxfield offered the prayer, and Rev. Dr. Olin pronounced the benediction. Otherwise every number on the program was presented by a member of the department.

The prayer by Rev. C. E. Maxfield in the absence of Rev. C. O. Maltby, of Co. B, was an eloquent and impressive appeal. All joined in singing "America," under the leadership of C. Wm. Clark,

of Co. A, and Richard A. Clark, of Co. D, and listened with attention to the brief, eloquent remarks of Hon. W. F. Porter.

### MAYOR PORTERS REMARKS.

The presiding officer was Hon. Wilbur F. Porter, mayor of the city, who presided with that ease and spoke with that eloquence for which he is noted. It is due to him to accord due credit for the very satisfactory progress of the exercises. Mr. Porter said:

“Members of the Fire Department of the City of Watertown, Ladies and Gentlemen:

The part that I have to take in these most interesting ceremonies is but slight. I have ventured to come before you, knowing that so far as these brave firemen were concerned, that I would face friends and men with whom I have associated for years. Knowing this, I have ventured to stand before you on this occasion without any preparation or thought as to what I would say. The occasion itself is of that importance and of that significance, and looking up yonder to that beautiful monument which you have erected, is of itself enough to inspire the feeble with strength. This day sees the realization of a long-treasured wish on the part of the fire department. This day will ever be remembered by you as a memorial day of your department. The flowers which you have scattered upon the graves of your fallen comrades will wither and fade, the breeze will waft their perfume away, but yonder, yonder stands your monument, as enduring as all time to perpetuate the memory of your fallen comrades, as a credit and glory to your department. We stand here today, our hearts beating in unison, not with the agitation caused by a dire calamity, but with mingled feelings of sorrow and joy—sorrow for the fallen dead, and joy for this day to erect to their memory this beautiful monument. It is as inspiring to behold as it ever has been—the

unison and good feeling between the exempt and active branches of the fire department. You have sprung from a small body of men to a noble and effective organization. Your services as firemen have been and are appreciated. You not only have discharged your duty as firemen, but you have discharged your duty as citizens of our country. You have been engaged in all of the industries of our city. You have helped to raise and build it up. You have furnished from your ranks statesmen of national and state reputation. You have furnished for the bench eminent and distinguished judges; you have furnished artisans in all the trades, and in all the professions, and, higher than and above all that, when the country was in peril and frenzied hands of treason were reaching up to tear down our flag, you furnished men from your ranks to go forth to do battle for it and to save it. All glory to such a body of men. And Mr. Foster M. Ferrin, on this occasion I congratulate you that for your services both as an active and as an exempt you have received the high honor of unveiling on this occasion this beautiful monument. You have deserved that distinction. And now I must close. The lateness of the hour at which we arrived here will not permit me to say what the spirit might move me to say. I have the great and distinguished honor to present to you on this occasion one of your own members, Hon. Charles R. Skinner, who will now address you." (Applause.)

#### MR. SKINNER'S ADDRESS.

Hon. Charles R. Skinner then delivered the following address:

"Mr. Chairman, Fellow Firemen, Ladies and Gentlemen:

"The undying love of the living for the lost is ever seeking to manifest itself in tender evidences of remembrance. This is the strongest proof of

the eternity of human love. It may be the grassy mound so eloquent in its rounded silence—the carefully tended flowers, whose perfume is a blessed memory—the clinging vine which is typical of affection, the modest block of stone on which a loved name is traced, or it may be the stately shaft sending its white arms toward the blue dome over our heads, all, all, pointing upward to the heavenly home, which our faith and our hope are constantly building for us.

“In all ages it has been the ambition of genius to perpetuate in enduring marble the great conceptions of great minds. The chisel of great sculptors has sought to reproduce in stone the forms which have given delight to life. They have done everything to marble except to make it breathe. They have given to great ideas all the forms of life except life itself.

“Standing on this sacred spot, amid blessed memories of those who once gave delight and hope to our lives—filled with emotions which cannot be expressed—where the atmosphere itself suggests the great mystery which has been solved by those who sleep, where the flowers and the fields tell us in their blossoming the ever hopeful story of immortal life, where the present clasps hands with the past in the gifts which have come, and looks to the sunlight of hope in the beyond, here in this silent city, whose boundaries will never grow less, surrounded by the evidence of loving care for those who sleep beneath the green sod, we come with all those sweet memories to unveil this stately and beautiful evidence of our thoughtfulness and veneration for those who have done their work like noblemen and who here rest from their labors.

“It suggests many thoughts. It is another proof that whatever the Watertown Fire Department undertakes it carries out successfully. It calls to mind the history of our good city, and of the department itself. There is a feeling of sadness going through our natures as we think of the past

and what this monument signifies—of sadness at the losses which must come to us all, but there is a feeling of glorious pride that we can today display to the world this testimonial of affection and honor, to those whose deeds are not written on stone, but on the one book which keeps a record of well-spent and honorable lives.

“It certainly seems pardonable at such a time as this to indulge in reminiscences—to allow free play to memory in its inclination to recall many of the incidents connected with the history of the department. And its history is in a large sense closely interwoven with the history of our progressive, prosperous city.

“We recall the great fires which have swept over our city within the half century—we read again the story told of the work of the flames, and how death was added to the danger—we remember how our city has grown in spite of it all, how she has outlived the ravages of fire, and how from black and shapeless ruins she has built stronger and better her houses and business places.

“Our fire department has stood for more than half a century as one of the historic associations of the city, and in the list of thousands of good men whose names have been borne on the rolls, we find that it has been truly a representative body—a source of pride to our people. In all its work it has aimed to make a fireman feel that he could always be a gentleman. It has been firm, but generous; it has striven to make a man a good fireman, and thereby it has inspired him with ambition to become a good citizen. There never has been a time when a fireman need be ashamed to say that he was a member of the Watertown Fire Department. In its ranks have been found some of our foremost citizens—our lawyers, our physicians, our judges, our district attorneys, mayors, postmasters, aldermen, supervisors, surrogates and school commissioners, and it numbers today a representative in congress, who though representing

a metropolitan district never forgets to bring his heart to Watertown with him, and to give a kind word of encouragement to the boys. Beyond this it claims representatives in all the busy trades; but if I am not wrong the solid worth of the department has been and is, represented by the mechanic and industrious workingman.

"You have all been made familiar with the duties of a fireman. They have been voluntary, but they have been faithfully performed. I have never known a Watertown fireman to flinch in the face of danger. I have never known a coward in command either of a company or of department. The rewards which come to a fireman are not represented in dollars and cents, but in the thought that he has done his full duty, in the consciousness that he has helped to save a life, or to rescue a home from destruction or to prevent the loss of property. It comes again as a fact that the department has always been held in high regard by the people of the whole city. It comes in the good fellowship which is shared by honorable men who learn to know each other and in the pleasant associations which have been formed, never to be broken, and whose influence we feel all through our daily lives. The older we grow the closer grows our attachment to the friends who shared dangers and pleasures with us.

"In all the history of man, monuments have been erected in commemoration of great events, great deeds and great men. They are part of the history of nations, and yet the world is full of heroes for whom no special monument may ever rise. Men who fight fire may be as heroic as those who fight for love of country. They risk their lives to save others; they are unselfish; they are philanthropists. Not all may become heroes, but all may be heroic. It is always heroic to do one's duty well. And he who perils his own life to save others from a fearful disaster—or to save from destruction the homes and firesides—is like the faithful engineer

who goes down to death with his hand on the throttle, that all others may be saved, is as much a hero in the sight of God as he who leads great armies to victory, or as he who is foremost in the solution of great questions in literature or art, in law or in politics.

"We call to mind today many things connected with the life of this department which are pleasant to remember. We remember that it has been incorporated for more than fifty years, though existing in a small way ever since the city was founded. We recall the fact that more than thirty years ago the department purchased this lot in this beautiful Brookside, as a resting place for those who might claim no other burial place when death overtook them. And is it not an evidence of the prosperity of our city to know that only three have found such a resting place in the shadow of this monument? We recall what a record the department has made for itself; not a scandal or a shadow has ever been upon its management. It has prospered, because its affairs have always been carefully, conservatively managed. Its large funds drawn mainly from foreign insurance companies, have been faithfully collected, profitably invested, and carefully but generously expended. The department in the course of its life has not only purchased this lot, and now as the fruition of so many hopes has erected this beautiful and stately shaft, but it has done much for the city. It has built two engine houses, purchased one steamer, and has a half interest in another. You named one steamer after one of the pleasantest cities in the world, and it is an open question whether you did not name the other after the next governor of this commonwealth, and a member of the Watertown fire department. (Great applause.)

"We recall today many honorable names connected with the life of this department—and in this procession which marches past us in our memories today we can see the form of that man

against whom no lip could utter a word of blame—that man, noble and strong, who spent his life in our city and stood out amongst its most honorable residents. I refer to that good fireman, that good citizen, that good friend, that good man, Frederick Emerson. For 11 years, your history tells us, he marched at the head of this department, and in the list of those who followed him you will find the names of the men who were pledged for our city's prosperity—honorable men, every one. And as I do not believe that we should wait till our friends pass over on the other side before we speak good words of them, and therefore my lips gladly today express what I believe to be the sense of the feeling of every member of the Watertown fire department when I say 'all honor' to that genial, happy, faithful friend of the Watertown fire department, who has served you for 25 years as secretary, Ross C. Scott. (Hearty applause.) It long ago came to pass that there could not be a fire without Scott. If one was proposed and he was absent it had to be postponed, (laughter) and it is said on many occasions he has called the roll of the department from A to Z in his sleep, without making a skip. (Laughter.) I believe, (although it is not on the program) he intends today to do it for you blindfolded. (Laughter.)

"Another man and honored citizen of Watertown and a native of Jefferson county, has served this department for the past 13 years as its efficient treasurer, Edgar C. Emerson. (Applause.) And in all its life this department has been favored in being served by such men.

"There is a peculiar fascination in the life of a fireman not easily resisted. The greater the dangers, the greater the fascination. 'Once a fireman, always a fireman.' If this be not strictly so, it is true that the spirit of a true fireman never quite burns out. The alarm is never heard that the old excitement does not return, and gray-haired though we be, we reach for the hat and trumpet,

and grow young again in the sights and sounds which have grown so familiar.

"And if this feeling is so strong in men, so have we seen it strong in faithful animals, which contribute to the efficiency of the service. Who has not watched with deepest interest the life and animation of the splendid fire horses which draw our steamers? Fearless in the face of any danger—showing almost human intelligence—they do everything except talk, and are never fined for failure to report. I desire to read the following poem of 'Flash,' the fireman's story, which tells of this faithfulness in animals:

### "FLASH," THE FIREMAN'S STORY.

"Flash" was a white-foot sorrel, an' run on Number Three;  
Not much stable manners—an average horse to see;  
Notional in his methods—strong in loves an hates;  
Not very much respected, or popular 'mongst his mates.

Dull an' moody an' sleepy, an' "off" on quiet days;  
Full o' turbulent, sour looks, an' small, sarcastic ways;  
Scowled an' bit at his partner, an' banged the stable floor—  
With other means intended to designate life a bore.

But when, be't day or night time, he heard the alarm bell ring  
He'd rush for his place in the harness with a regular tiger spring;  
An' watch with nervous shivers, the clasp of buckle an' band,  
Until t'was plainly evident he'd like to lend a hand.

An' when the word was given away he would rush and tear,  
As if a thousand witches were rumplin' up his hair.  
An' craze the other horses with his magnetic charm,  
Till every hoof-beat sounded a regular fire-alarm.

Never a horse a jockey would notice and admire  
Like Flash in front of his engine a runnin' to a fire;  
Never a horse so lazy, so dawdlin' an' so slack,  
As Flash upon his return trip, a-drawin' the engine back.

Now when the different horses get tender-footed an'  
 old,  
 They're no use in our business; so Flash was finally  
 sold  
 To quite a respectable milkman, who found it not so  
 fine  
 A-bossin' one o' God's creatures outside it's natural  
 line.

Seems as if I could see Flash a-mopin' along here now,  
 Feelin' that he was simply assistant to a cow;  
 But sometimes he'd imagine he heard the alarm bell's  
 din,  
 An' jump an' rear for a season before they could hold  
 him in.

An' once, in spite o' his master, he strolled in 'mongst  
 us chaps,  
 To talk with the other horses, of former fires, perhaps;  
 Whereat the milkman kicked him; whereat us boys to  
 please,  
 He begged that horse's pardon upon his bended knees.

But one day, for a big fire, as we was makin' a dash,  
 Both o' the horses we had on somewhat resemblin'  
 Flash,  
 Yellin' an' ringin' and rushin' with excellent voice an'  
 heart,  
 We passed the poor old fellow, a tuggin' away at his  
 cart.

If ever I see an old horse grow upward into a new,  
 If ever I see a milkman whose traps behind him flew,  
 'Twas that old hoss, a-rearin' an' racin' down the  
 track,  
 An' that respectable milkman a-tryin' to hold him  
 back.

Away he rushed like a cyclone for the head o' "Num-  
 ber Three,"  
 Gained the lead an' kept it, an' steered his journey  
 free;  
 Dodgin' wagons and horses an' still on the keenest  
 "silk,"  
 An' furnishin' all that neighborhood with good, re-  
 spectable milk.

Crowd a-yellin' an' runnin' an' vainly hollerin'  
 "Whoa!"  
 Milkman bracin' and sawin' with never a bit o' show;  
 Firemen laughin' and chucklin' an' shoutin' "Good!  
 go in!"  
 Hoss a-gettin' down to it an' sweepin' along like sin.

Finally came where the fire was, halted with a "thud,"  
Sent the respectable milkman head over heels in mud;  
Watched till he see the engines properly workin' there,  
After which he relinquished all interest in the affair.

Moped an' wilted and dawdled, "faded away" once  
more,  
Took up his old occupation—considerin' life a bore;  
Laid down in his harness, an'—sorry I am to say—  
The milkman he had drawn there took his dead body  
away.

That's the whole o' my story; I've seen more'n once or  
twice,  
That poor dead animal's actions is full o' human ad-  
vice;  
An' if you ask what Flash taught, I'll simply answer  
then,  
That poor old horse was a symbol of some intelligent  
men.

An' if, as some consider, there's animals in the sky,  
I think the poor old fellow is gettin' another try;  
But if he should sniff the big fire that plagues the  
abode o' sin  
It'll take the strongest angel to hold the old fellow in.

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"This monument will stand long after others  
have come to take our places, and to gather as we  
do in this silent city. It will stand then as it  
stands now, a monument to your thoughtfulness, a  
testimonial to the wise, clean management of the  
affairs of the Watertown Fire Department, an evi-  
dence of its generosity, a tribute to its dead, an  
honor to the living, reminding us all that the way  
to be true to the memory of the dead is to do our  
duty to the living; to our fellow men; our duty as  
citizens.

"There is only one thing that will outlive marble  
or granite, or any other thing wrought by the hand  
of man—and that is an upright, noble character.  
That will live forever, and every fireman must  
build it for himself." (Applause.)

The address of Mr. Skinner was an eloquent ef-  
fort, eliciting frequent and positive signs of hearty  
approval and appreciation from the large number  
of attentive and interested hearers. It was an ad-  
dress worthy of the high commendatory remarks

which were made concerning it by all who were within hearing distance of his voice.

The City band rendered a medley of American airs effectively.

### THE POEM.

Following is the poem written for this event by Mr. George Adams of this city, a member of the exempts, and read by him at this point in the service:

Friends, Firemen, Citizens! We come not here  
 To tell of exploits more than all severe;  
 To brag, nor boast of records of the past,  
 Nor nail conceited banner to the mast;  
 We are not here to claim the noted name  
 That follows up that armed warrior's fame,  
 Who fights, that glory to his nation's flag  
 May sound o'er every plain and mountain crag;  
 We do not come with glittering armor-on  
 To shine resplendent in the noonday sun;  
 But in more humble manner, with full flow  
 Of hearts and blood in social friendship's glow  
 Toward all classes; not our own alone—  
 Our way is cosmopolitan in tone.  
 I would not say the warrior's course is wrong;  
 I would not say, not honor him in song;  
 But blood and conquest have no charm for me,  
 For "God is Love"—all men should brothers be;  
 This is the Fireman's part, to help in need;  
 To take that declaration for his creed;  
 To be a brother both in name and deed.  
 He does leave bed when airs are warm or chill;  
 Leave lathe and anvil, planer, bench and drill,  
 And workshop, store, the office or the mill—  
 Aye—meal-untasted; when the loud bells boom  
 Alarm of Fire, to turn impending doom;  
 To do, to act, to move, to work, to save,  
 So, "Semper Paratus!" his motto brave.  
 'Tis night, perhaps; all rest in slumber deep;  
 No sound is heard; in dreams no dangers creep  
 To wake one form, except, perhaps, in there  
 Where night lamp burns, by bed of some sick fair,  
 Or child, or man, close watched by nurse's care.  
 Or where old age the restless moanings keep  
 In fitful movements, as they wake or sleep.  
 But hark! now distant cries disturb the air—  
 The night watch starts—a dog barks from his lair.  
 Hark! now the bell's weird deep-toned sounding roll  
 Booms forth its warning to each fireman's soul!  
 They hear! They start! Consuming fire has burst  
 To spread his ravages with quenchless thirst.  
 Lo, in the west his breath is seen to rise,

And now with flame he paints the clouded skies;  
Then to the rescue, bounding forth, men fly,  
While to the air they fling their warning cry;  
Now see, they come from south and from the north,  
From east, from west, still onward rushing forth.  
With engines, hose carts, ladders, madly on,  
To check the demon's dire consuming run.  
Now there—the stream is on—quench, quench the pile;  
And now a ladder raise—quick, quick; the while  
At window high, a face is seen to show  
Out from the smoke, above the fiery glow—  
A human being, frantic with affright,  
Is stifling in the smoke's o'erpowering might.  
Now to the saving! Where's the daring heart  
To scale the wall and play the noble part?  
Where he, who braving danger, risks his life  
To save a fellow from the burning strife?  
Ah, Firemen offer! One brave fellow's found  
To mount 'fore ladder's firmly set to ground  
And, eager, rises, as he sees her fall  
To save her life or lose his own, his all;  
But see! They're out! The fire is now controlled,  
On list of lives "All Saved" is now enrolled;  
Some injured, strained and bruised and burned;  
But by the contest—what rich honor earned!  
Should one perchance in such a skirmish fall  
Bereft of parents, brothers, sisters, all,  
We'd kindly lay him here in funeral role,  
Commend to God his bold and dauntless soul.  
But not in granite shafts is true worth found;  
Nor in fine words that lure us with their sound;  
'Tis not in loud assertions weak and frail;  
'Tis not in blood with long and rich entail;  
'Tis not in wealth, embossed with shining gold;  
Nor in learned legends, mystical and old;  
'Tis not by these we can our lives enroll  
As those all rich in nobleness of soul;  
But 'tis in deeds of kindness, each to each,  
In doing good to all within our reach;  
And he, who from the flames hears suffering call  
And saves a life does better than them all.  
Not all who serve within our ranks can lie  
Round this memorial—and—there is the tie  
Of fathers, mothers, and those other friends,  
Who make homes lovely till the living ends,  
And sits enthroned in loving hearts that feel  
A firm affection, true as truest steel,  
And gathers 'round us in a genial wave  
To keep us near them, even in the grave;  
But still its beauty glow will spread around  
And reach each nook and every rising mound,  
So in these sacred regions of the dead  
We place this token where it shall be read  
By generations yet unborn, unknown,  
To teach them memories never are outgrown.

It has no gaudy tale from other lands;  
 Carved in rich granite there a fireman stands  
 At post of honor, pipe within his hands.  
 We leave it here to grace this lovely spot,  
 That men of noble deeds may never be forgot.

### THE LETTERS.

Secretary Scott read the following letters from absent firemen and friends:

Addison, N. Y., June 17th, 1891.

W. H. Cole, Silas George and E. C. Emerson, committee, Watertown, N. Y.:

My Dear Sirs—Many thanks for your kind favor inviting me to participate in the unveiling of the firemen's monument by the Watertown department. It would afford me great pleasure to pay this tribute to the dead heroes, but I regret I cannot arrange my business so as to accept.

With many thanks for your kind remembrance, believe me

Yours fraternally,

FRANK M. BAKER.

New York, June 18th, 1891.

Mr. W. H. Cole, Watertown, N. Y.:

Dear Sir—I beg to acknowledge receipt of your favor of the 16th inst. It is a matter of great personal regret that I am unable to be personally with you at the time and place mentioned. The sentiments that are inspired by the ceremonies such as you anticipate celebrating at Brookside cemetery on Saturday, June 20th, are twofold in character. The one of sorrow as we bow our head and in reverence mourn the loss of our comrades. The other one of pride and manhood as we call to mind the deeds and the record of heroic service that are not effaced in death, but are perpetuated in symbolic stone as a perpetual reminder to future generations that among the fire service is begotten a friendship and a fraternity that is not severed, even though some are called to that long sleep that knows no waking, save in eternity.

Yours very truly,

THOS. A. RAYMOND.

Brooklyn, N. Y., June 17, 1891.

W. H. Cole and others:

Dear Sir: Your kind invitation to be present at the unveiling of the firemen's monument received. In reply will say that much as it would gratify me to be with you, to greet my old friends and comrades, must forego that pleasure on account of failing health.

Truly yours,

W. H. SIGOURNEY.

Dayton, Ohio, June 16th, 1891.

Ross C. Scott, Esq.:

Dear Sir—Your very kind invitation of the 13th inst., asking me to be with you at the unveiling of the firemen's monument was duly received. In reply would say that I would only be too glad to avail myself of the opportunity, would circumstances admit. I am pleased to know the department has erected a monument to its departed dead, which to my mind is a very commendable and very worthy deed. I remain

Yours respectfully,

JOHN L. McCARTY.

Chicago, Ill., June 16, 1891.

Ross C. Scott, Esq., Secretary Watertown Fire Department:

Dear Sir—Your favor of the 15th inst., with an invitation to be present at Watertown the 20th inst. upon the occasion of the unveiling of the firemen's monument at Brookside cemetery, has been received. Nothing would please me more than to visit you at the time and witness the ceremony to be performed, and also to visit the spot where my kindred peacefully rest by the side of the running brook. But the distance and other matters will not permit me, as at the date you mention, I expect to be in Wisconsin.

You request that if unable to attend that I give some "reminiscences of old days." and am hereby reminded of the recent demise of an old friend and former companion, Fred Emerson, who for so

many years had performed his full duty as chief of the Watertown fire department. I attended his first election to that position in 1854, and we thereafter served together until the formation of the exempt company, of which he was the presiding officer and myself a member. Mr. Emerson, in his service to the village of Watertown, as respectively clerk and chief engineer of the Watertown fire department, without fee or reward only in the grateful reflection of good deeds well done, was always faithful in the performance of his duty, expecting the same fidelity from the department officials that were with him. He will not soon be forgotten. It has been my duty on two occasions to attend the funeral ceremonies of firemen who were interred in the department lot. The first one Peter Hobson. This veteran fireman, a lonely bachelor Scotchman, whose only family as far as known was his fire company. I remember when we were both workers upon Beebee's Island in 1850; at that time Peter was an active member of the Rough and Ready Engine Company, Nathaniel Farnham, Foreman. After the disbandment of that company Peter joined the Hook and Ladder. It was "Hobson's choice," and at his last illness he made the request that when borne to the cemetery it be upon the hook and ladder truck for his hearse, but Peter was taken to his last resting place in the usual way. The oldest fireman now living whose name is still borne upon the rolls of the department, and also a veteran of the war, is A. I. Cratzenberg, who was a member of my company, Neptune No. 1, in 1859-60, and a member at the time of his enlistment, the first of the war. We used to "man the brakes" together, but Cratzenberg would have to now work the brake with a single arm; the other one was left in Virginia. Mr. Cratzenberg first joined the Neptune Engine Company in 1835. After the lapse of 56 years the only other members surviving are Alanson P. Sigourney, Franklin Burt, of Ogdensburg. Charles Burt and

Solon Kimball, the latter of Milwaukee. John G. Harbottle and Alex. I. Button of that company, have recently died. Levi Palmer, of the same company, lost his life at a fire in 1848, while saving the property of others. There are other survivors of the early fire department of Watertown, but not upon the present rolls, of them Myron Beebee, who joined in 1832, nearly sixty years ago, and I think the last remaining of the company attached to the Jefferson cotton mill.

The Cataract Engine Company, its machine I remember a cumbersome box of an affair, with four long handled cranks upon each side that was marked by a sort of "turn of the grindstone movement." Of the twenty-six members of that company, of which my father was one, there are now left but four living, Wm. Y. Buck, Milton Delong, J. W. Peck and George Smith. But reminiscences will elongate this communication too far. In 1852 I saw in Greenwood cemetery, standing upon the New York Volunteer Department lot near Ocean Hill, viewing the monument and statue of the fireman and child, with its appropriate mottoes and inscription, and remember that I wondered then, would the Watertown firemen ever receive such a tribute erected to their memory. After so many years it has come to pass that a testimonial is to be dedicated, and here I wish to congratulate you and your department that it has secured a testimonial for all time. It is a graceful tribute to a class of men, of whom many of them die away from their old homes and kindred, some of them perhaps in indigent circumstances in life, and who may have no burial places of their own, but where, as in this instance they are reverently placed among their fellows. When we remember the burial and graves on Mount Nebo, "the place of sepulture that is unknown to any one even to this day," then we say that this beautiful ground in the city of the dead, owned by the fire department,

will never be forgotten, but rather will be always cherished and cared for. Yours truly,

J. L. HOTCHKIN, Co. A.

The Garland City Band played "Auld Lang Syne," and then the audience listened to Hon. Roswell P. Flower, of Co. A, who spoke as follows:

### MR. FLOWER'S SPEECH.

Mr. President, Brother Firemen, Ladies and Gentlemen:

"The reverence of man for things sublime and sacred, his admiration for deeds heroic and illustrious, his gratitude for acts of charity and benevolence, his respect for virtue and integrity, his pity for the destitute and unfortunate, from the earliest ages to this very moment, have so strongly appealed to his higher nature, that all along the path of time he has erected imperishable monuments that they shall be honored and their memory cherished in the generations yet to come.

"The old world is full of monuments to its brave soldiers, to its great inventors, to its poets, orators, and statesmen. I remember, while in Turin, seeing a monument to Count Cavour, an eminent Italian statesman—a marble statue, and beneath it a bronze figure representing Fame writing the name 'Cavour.' It is right that these monuments should be erected to convey to posterity the remembrance of great deeds and noble actions. In Egypt, buried beneath the earth are found these landmarks, commemorating great events of history and achievements of pre-historic man, surmounted by monuments of a later era. They, too, crumbled and decayed, and beside them the ruins of a still later generation, and near by the pitched tent of a wandering tribe of Arabs. As the strata of the earth tell to the geologist their story of formation and decay in the history of the physical world, so these time-beaten monuments throw open to the historian a hidden volume of the history of

man, reciting his advance from a state of barbarity to a higher civilization.

"In the hurly-burly of the ever present we may not realize that we are dedicating here today one of these imperishable landmarks. On the third of this month our citizens unveiled a monument to the memory of those who fought in defense of the Union. Today we have met to dedicate a monument to the memory of those who peril their lives in defense of the property and lives of others against the ravages of the most unmerciful of the destroying elements.

"The similarity of the firemen and the soldiers while in action leads to the thoughts I shall utter on this occasion. The soldier encounters the perils of war to defend our country and our government, and though he dies in the midst of strife, his body unmarked by headstone, is still sought out by fame and a grateful people erects to his memory such monuments as that which adorns our Square. The poets have immortalized him in death, for

"To the hero, when his sword  
Has won the battle for the free,  
Thy voice sounds like a prophet's word,  
And in the hallowed tones are heard  
The thanks of millions yet to be!"

"But he who perils his life in defense of our homes and lives, without hope of reward—his only incentive the love he bears his fellow men, goes unsung by fame. And while of the former it has been said,

"Few, few shall part where many meet,  
The snow shall be their winding sheet,  
And every turf beneath their feet,  
Shall be a soldier's sepulchre."

No less of the latter may it well be said:

"Few, few shall part where they shall meet,  
The Flame shall be their winding sheet,  
And glowing coals beneath their feet,  
Shall be a fireman's sepulchre."

"The former lives in the hearts of his countrymen; the latter lives in the hearts of his neighbors.

"The popular fancy of a symbol for heroism and bravery has ever been the soldier enhanced no doubt from the fact that his occupation carries him into the field of patriotism. But I hold that as a symbol of human heroism, the 'fire-laddy' is the soldier's superior. When the soldier faces battle he becomes an instrument guided by authority. He goes where he is told and may borrow firmness and staying power from concentration of many to a single purpose. The fireman faces his treacherous and relentless adversary in no rank and file. For moral courage he must depend upon himself alone, for his acts are individual. No officer can order him to death, and in the fact that what he dares to do is volunteered arises his superiority. To save the life of a human being at the risk of losing his own, furnishes the firemen the highest human impulse and its execution is the work of greatest bravery.

"It is peculiarly fitting therefore, that the Watertown fire department should erect this beautiful monument to the memory of its departed heroes—who died, perhaps, not in actual contest with the flames, but who held themselves ever ready, should duty call, to sacrifice their lives. In the past they may have been and in the future they still may be, unable to own a lot in this beautiful 'City of the Silent,' but the department, from its little well kept savings, places them at death alongside of those who in life knew no want. This beautiful monument so elegantly finished, so completely a work of art, will be an enduring one. It will stand here a sentinel to guard, and over the graves of heroes, whose noble spirits entitle them to such a resting place, will, from rising to setting sun cast its shifting shadow through generations yet to come.

"Fellow firemen, I cannot forego the opportunity of saying a few words to you on this occasion. We have a great many things to be thankful for.

as our minister has told us in his eloquent prayer. We should be thankful we have a lot in this beautiful cemetery in which to bury our dead. I remember while in Germany a few years ago, having asked questions in regard to their cemeteries, and I found that in most of them they did not own the place where their dead were buried, and that the land was leased for ten years, after which the bones were removed and ground up to renew the earth again, except a payment additional be then made. In Paris, France, in Palais Lois Chaise, graves are dug to a depth of 70 feet and one upon the other the dead are piled. And yet, year by year, bodies there have to be taken away, so that they have none of those privileges we have here in this beautiful land of America. Where else in the world could these brave firemen, Cadman, Callahan, and that friend of mine, Hobson, be laid side by side with the wealthiest here? These graves level us all.

"You ought to be thankful for another thing, that you live in the country and breathe God's pure air. It is said of those in the country that they know everybody's business except their own. But I know that in the city when a man dies his friends have to advertise it in the newspapers or no one will find it out. They never find out when a neighbor or friend is ill and give him those little attentions which help to make the sick bed easier, as was done once in my case when a mechanic left the R. W. & O. shops in this city one afternoon and went out and shot a woodcock to tempt my appetite and win me back to health. In the big city they don't find out when you are sick and send around a little delicacy. People get lonesome down there. But you who live in this beautiful city should remember these things in thanks to God.

"I cannot allow this occasion to pass without mentioning Fred Emerson, Foster M. Ferrin, A. M. Utley, J. L. Hotchkin and John Griffin, and a few of the men who were the first members of the old

exempt Company A. My memory takes me back to 1855, when John Carpenter was a fireman on 'Rough and Ready' Engine. He afterwards was chief of the fire department.

"The first time I went to a fire was up to Fay Morgan's house, two miles from the city. It was a cold winter's day and we all got 'blowed' and we had—"

Ross C. Scott—"Never mind what we had." (Laughter.)

Mr. Flower continued: "Well, there was not a man who went out there but had trouble with his lungs all winter. We pumped away at that machine. We were boys then, and we were able to pump it. The next fire was at the Watertown railroad shops. We had several firemen of the old company with us then. I do not see them here today. They sleep near here. The oldest member of exempt company in 1862, who is with us here today, is Foster M. Ferrin. Among the first directors of that company were John L. Hotchkin and A. N. Wilson, who wore a hat big enough to break down the skull of the smaller of us young boys. But he got there with his engine, and when he came up the street to a fire the boys had to get out of the road. Since I was here in April we have lost four of our old members of the Watertown Fire Department. Thomas Barber, Justus Chase, Fred Emerson and C. H. Van Brackle. The latter was secretary, I think, when Fred Emerson was chief. And I cannot let this opportunity pass without expressing the hope that they have a happy resting place. They were taken from earth when the bright warm suns of early spring were kissing the cold cheek of icy winter to bring forth the buds and the flowers; so let us hope that the Almighty kissed their cold lips and brought them forth to a happy resurrection.

"Fellow firemen, we are all moving towards this silent city. Let me exhort all of you, as our eloquent friend, Brother Skinner, has said, to do our

duty in whatever station of life we may act, so that when we are called to sleep in this silent city of the dead, the world and our conscience may say that we have fought a good fight and met our foe bravely here on earth, and battled well with the world's temptations. Then ever shall we be exempt from the fires hereafter." (Applause.)

All joined in singing the Doxology, accompanied by the Garland City Band. Rev. R. A. Olin pronounced the benediction, and the enjoyable and memorable exercises were over. The firemen returned to the city in the order of their arrival, having taken part in an important event in the history of the Watertown Fire Department.

