



**This PDF is part of the
Philadelphia Water Department Historical Collection
Accession 2004.071.0001
Frederic Graff Jr. Scrapbook, 1854-1857**

**It was downloaded from
www.phillyh2o.org**



Pipes taken up on Second street	416 feet
Flood gates put in of four inch	2
No. of fire plugs put in	7
" " made at the Works	6
" " on hand	4
" " flood gates made at the Works, four of 4 inch	8
" " on hand	8
Whole No. of fire plugs in the city	200
" " flood gates in the city	362
No. of fire plugs repaired and reset	20
" " fire plug boxes renewed	10
Flood gates repaired	10
" " gate boxes renewed	35
The number of ferules taken out of the office is as follows:	
Of one half inch	97
Of four eighth inch	12
Of three fourth inch	7
Of one inch	4
Total	120
At \$2.00 each	\$240 00
For drilling extra holes	9 00

Amount paid Treasurer for same \$249 00

Owing to the annual increase of water thrown up to the reservoirs and consequent increase of deposit, the process of cleansing was commenced in the last of May and finished in June, but the water in the Upper reservoirs during the Summer occasionally became offensive to taste and smell, which made it necessary to clean it a second time, after which an expedient was resorted to for the purpose of keeping it pure, and happily there has been no complaint since.

During the past year an order from Councils requiring further security from fire to the old Engine house has been complied with by taking down the smoke stacks, the wooden structure in front of building, and removal of the pipes round the foundation, filling up the cellars and paving over the same and building up the doors with brick. The partitions all being out the night watch is now able to see through an entire story at once without having to pass from one part of the building to the other.

The persons in charge of the building in conjunction with the Committees appointed for the purpose, feel grateful in being prepared to say that they have ultimately succeeded in having it lit up with gas; this improvement in light will give the Engine a facility heretofore not enjoyed, for during the present winter an incidental repair will have to be made, involving the removal of two of the side pipes from the steam cylinders for the purpose of making new joints, a labour which will be attended with care owing to the contracted arrangement of the port flanges.

As matter of improvement made the remaining steam piston head originally constructed for the use of cast iron packing, and subsequently for cotton rope has been discarded and replaced with a fac simile of the one which has been laboring under the well established advantages of Fulton's composition packing, and they are now both performing to the satisfaction of those in charge.

In view of Prospect street being filled up to the grade and covering part of the ascending main leading from the new Engine house from twelve to fifteen feet deep, which would have made it expensive and difficult to get at for repairs, it became necessary, to avoid such a condition of things, to extend the brick arch twenty four feet further up over the pipe and make it accessible in future from the interior of the building.

The heavy run of August last carried away the north-west corner of the old Basin lot, which had to be repaired by a more permanent extension of the embankment.

In former reports reference has been made to the propriety of arching the main lines leading to and from the old reservoirs, but after having taken a survey of the matter, the cost and other financial conditions considered, rendered further action inexpedient for the present. Yet it is proper to state that for the want of the protection of the arch would afford to this, the important part of the main difficulty has been encountered in the past year.

Average daily supply of water from the Lower Works 375,051 cubic feet, or gallons 2,805,381, or tons 11,720. An increase having arisen from a greater demand made on them by the New Works and the general prosperity of the past year in the manufacturing establishments, they all making full and a great many of them over time in their

operations, to which may be added the number of new and some extraordinary applications for the use of water.

Average daily consumption of fuel for Lower Works 333 bushels.

Average daily supply of water from the Upper Works, 54,869 cubic feet, or gallons 410,420, or tons 1,714.

Average daily consumption of fuel for Upper Works, 68 bushels.

JAMES NELSON, Superintendent.

January 9th, 1854.

Report of the Assessor and Register of Water Rents.

The water rents assessed on the different establishments using the Hydrant Water, amount to forty-one thousand, four hundred and seventy-seven dollars and seventy-five cents, as follows, viz:

1 Gas Works	\$300 00
1 County Jail, &c.	300 00
6 Glass Factories	132 00
2 Public Bath Houses	55 00
6 Chandleries	110 00
3 Iron Mills	500 00
2 Tanneries	100 00
11 Livery Stables	400 00
15 Breweries	600 00
19 Rectifying Distilleries	473 00
19 Foundries	341 00
51 Steam Engines	1,758 00
1 Rail Road Company	1,450 00
260 Hotels, Taverns and Boarding Houses	3,450 00
6753 Dwellings, Offices and Shops	32,508 75
7180 Assessments.	\$41,477 75

F. E. VOLZ,
Assessor and Register.

January 9th, 1854.

13-3 LOCAL AFFAIRS.

Spring Garden.—This flourishing District, on the 23d ult., was 41 years old. The act of incorporation bears date March 23, 1813, ten years subsequent to the incorporation of the Northern Liberties. The first election was held on the first Monday in May following the passage of the act, in the school-house belonging to the District, at Eighth and Buttonwood streets. Twelve persons were elected Commissioners, viz.—John Alberger, Jacob Gardner, Nicholas Grear, John Hankie, Peter Hutz, Lewis Lowry, Henry Miller, Frederick Slater, William Warner, Jos. P. Zebley, Thos. Snyder and David Woelpper. The corporators met on the 8th of that month, in the school house, for organization. Joseph P. Zebley being chosen President, pro tem, and Peter Hutz, Secretary. At that meeting, Messrs. Alberger, Hinkle and Zebley were appointed a Committee to draft a set of rules, and Messrs. Warner, Lowry and Hutz, a Committee to procure a room for the future meetings of the Board. Among the other business transacted at that time, was the election of Mr. Jacob Frick as Secretary, which position he held until January, 1831, when W. J. Baker was elected. On the 10th of May, the corporate seal was ordered and the rules submitted and adopted. On the 13th, a report was received from the assessor, setting forth that the assessed property in the District was \$246,214. George Loudenslager was elected Treasurer, and Philip Alburger, Jr., Door-keeper. At the meeting of the 17th, Robert Brooke was appointed Regulator, and D. J. Sneath elected Superintendent. The salary of the Treasurer was fixed at 2 per centum on all moneys received; salary of Clerk, \$125 per annum; Superintendent, \$360; and Door-keeper \$40. The Treasurer resigned on the 27th of May, when George Myers was elected to fill the vacancy.

The organization of the District was democratic; but soon after, the Whigs gained the ascendancy, and from that period to 1845, the ruling powers were about equally divided between Whigs and Democrats. In 1845, the Natives carried the District, and have been in the majority up to the present time.

The Presidents of the Board of Commissioners were as follows:—Joseph P. Zebley, elected May 7, 1813, and re-elected in 1814, 2 years; David Woelpper, 9 years; Lawrence Shuster, 7; Joseph R. Bolton, 1; John M. Ogden, 1; George W. Riter, 1; Joseph Johns, 2; John M. Ogden, 2; William Warner, 1; Thomas Matlack, 1; Daniel Smith, 1; George W. Ash, 1; John H. Doherty, 3; Robert T. Fry, 2; Hiram Ayres, 1; William Neal, 1; Joseph W. Martin, 1; George W. Donohue, 3; William P. Jenks, elected in 1853, and still in office.

In 1820 the District contained 3495 inhabitants; in 1830, 11,141; and in 1840, 27,884—12,315 white males, 14,132 white females, 665 colored males, and 722 colored females—showing an increase of 21,336 in twenty years, and 16,749 in ten years. In 1850, the inhabitants numbered 58,394—55,398 more than in 1820, 47,763 more than in 1830, and 31,010 more than in 1840. The following table shows the number of inhabitants in each ward, besides other matters of interest:

WARDS.	No. of Dw.	No. of Fa.	WHITE POP.		Tot.	FREE COL.		Tot. Pp.
			M.	F.		M.	F.	
1st Ward,	1007	1148	2862	3523	6385	26	89	1156500
2d Ward,	1187	1164	3067	3506	6933	6	32	390071
3d Ward,	1064	1174	3048	3679	6727	17	48	65792
4th Pre.	918	1035	3019	3009	5627	19	41	695837
4th Ward,	1067	1243	3212	3556	6768	203	281	4597247
5th Ward,	1332	1529	3959	4316	8305	43	50	938398
6th Ward,	1371	1642	4196	4267	8463	135	162	297360
7th Ward,	1243	1574	4225	4105	8330	153	46	1995539

The property of the Corporation consists of one-half interest in the Schuylkill Water works; the Hall, which cost \$54,654 26, and lot 300 feet on Spring Garden street, extending through to Brandywine street 150 feet, and four lots of ground adjoining, west; the Gas works, Coates street, John street and Wood street landings, on the Schuylkill, and seven sections of markets on Spring Garden street, and two on Calowhill street.

The revenue derived from the property this year is \$55,139 22, water rents, \$38,012 89 from gas, \$8,864 market rents; \$375 from landings, and \$660 ground rent for the four lots on Spring Garden street, making a total of \$151,291 81, equal in value, at 6 per cent, to \$2,521,350. The debt of the District, January 1, 1854, was officially reported at \$1,384,759 27, as follows: Funded debt, \$533,350; water loan, \$101,300; temporary loan, \$563,081 87; gas loan, \$197,028 40.

The Board is now composed of 8 Democrats, 7 Whigs and 6 Natives, as follows:—William P. Jenks, Lewis Bittins, John G. Brenner, Robert C. Brodie, Jonathan Bullock, Andrew D. Caldwell, Joseph H. Collins, O. P. Coraman, Josiah P. Fidler, Jos. M. Hall, B. F. Jackson, Jos. S. Kite, R. T. McCarter, J. D. Ninsteele, Thomas Potter, Henry Shuster, Horatio G. Siekel, Henry Stryer, Charles Vanhorn, D. G. Wilson and David Woelpper. The officers are—John N. Henderson, Clerk; Seth Smith, Treasurer; Wm. Hamm, Register of Gas; W. Butler, Police Magistrate; Leonard Myers, Solicitor; P. M. Price, Surveyor; Ed. Roberts, Regulator; Drs. Elliott and Arrott, Vaccine Physicians; E. Lowry, Clerk of the Market; Abraham Myers, Superintendent of Gas; John S. Keyser and B. B. Jenkins, Police Officers; A. A. Widdis, Superintendent of Water; E. Mintzer, Superintendent of District; Samuel Kidd, Captain of Nightly Watch; James P. Frazier, Lieutenant; W. H. Walker, Messenger.

13-4 LOCAL AFFAIRS.

The District of Southwark.—The act erecting the Southern suburbs of the city of Philadelphia into the District of Southwark, was passed March 26th, 1768. Its limits are described as beginning at South street, running thence along the several courses of Passunk road, including the same, to a road called the Moyamensing road, thence along Keeler's lane to Greenwich road, thence east to the Delaware river, and along it and South street to the place of beginning.

Prior to the act of April 13, 1793, incorporating the district, it was under the charge of Supervisors, and of their proceedings no records are known to exist. The first minutes of the Board are dated May 9th, 1794, when the Commissioners met at the house of Catherine Fritz. Of the whereabouts of this house we have no certain knowledge, not having met with the oldest inhabitant that recollects its locality. The members elected were Richard Titterton, Richard Mosley, Caleb Bickam, Joshua Humphreys and Peter Mierck, elected for three years; Wm. Lewis, Wm. Linnard, John Patterson, Wm. Robinson and Samuel Boyce for two years; and Thomas Penrose, Joseph Marsh, John McCulloh, Wm. Clifton and John Kelly, for one year. After a temporary organization, by the selection of Joseph Marsh, Chairman, and Joshua Humphreys, Clerk, the Board adjourned to meet on the 19th of the same month, when Joseph Marsh was elected President of the Board. On the 19th Thomas Annesley was elected Clerk, at the rate of \$36 per annum.

On the 9th of June, 1791, the Board met for the first time in the frame school house, rented from Joshua Penrose, which then stood back of the present site of the Southwark Library, and was thereafter called their Hall. In 1799 an effort was made to procure a lot upon which to erect a hall, but no suitable site offering, or the terms not being satisfactory, the stone building which then stood at the rear of the Third Baptist Church was rented for \$30 per annum from Mr. Mackay, and the necessary alterations made to fit it for a place of meeting. This house was demolished about the time the Church was erected. It stood at the head of what is now known as South's Court. The elections were held there until the erection of the present Hall. It was also here that the Southwark Soup Society first dispensed its charities. The origin of this society seems to have been in the fact that Thomas Penrose, during a season of much distress, rigged up a large iron pot on the then open lot at Almond and Front streets, and made a daily mess of soup, which he gave away to all who applied for it. This same iron pot was subsequently used by the society.

At the meeting of the Board, July 23d, 1810, a lot offered by Paul Beck was taken up, at a ground rent of \$393 32 per annum, and the President was authorized to procure a plan for the construction of a building. This plan for a hall, 40 by 60 feet, and two stories high, was agreed upon, and on July 30th Messrs. McMullin, Doyle, Engle, Thompson, Hutton and Sutherland were appointed the building committee. The new hall was completed by the next spring, and on the 11th of April, 1811, it was occupied by the Board for the first time.

The Presidents of the Board succeeding Joseph Marsh have been Richard Titterton, elected 1795; William Linnard, 1798; William Penrose, 1801; Robert McMullin, —; John Thompson, 1813; Phineas Eldridge, 1816; Robert McMullin, 1817; Charles Penrose, 1821; Joel B. Sutherland, 1823; Thomas D. Grover, 1829; Lemuel Paynter, 1846; George C. Rickards, 1850; Charles C. Wilson, 1852; and Thos. A. Barlow, present incumbent, 1853.

The successors of Thomas Annesley, in the office of Clerk, have been John Workman, elected 1800; John Hutton, 1811; Thoms Doyd, 1823; John Oakford, 1827; R. C. Krider, 1845; and J. D. Bayne, present incumbent, 1850.

The introduction of Schuylkill water into the District was authorized by an Act of Assembly, passed March 28, 1825, and nearly every portion of the District is now supplied, over twenty miles of pipe having been laid within its limits.

The residents are supplied with gas by the Southwark and Moyamensing Gas Company. What effect consolidation will have upon this private chartered company is not yet known. The existing contract with the city for the supply of gas has nearly five years to run. With regard to the finances, the last annual statement shows the loans of the district to amount to \$419,653 13; but, in addition to this, there is a balance of \$17,900 net yet taken of the loan authorized September 8, 1853, and new loans for building culverts and completing the paving of the district, amounting to \$60,000, and \$55,000 for the purchase and improving the new public square. These, added to the funded debt, swells the whole indebtedness of the district to \$519,553 13.

The property of the district consisting of the hall, four parcels of markets, the landings, and a house and lot on Carpenter street, is valued at \$225,354 50. There are outstanding debts due the district, the total of \$55,859 63, excluding the sum of \$12,509 27 due by a former treasurer, and \$1,067 45 registered against the U. S. Navy Yard. The surplus of debts over the credit of the district, by the last annual statement, was \$27,476, but to this must be added the various loans authorized since mentioned above.

The landings owned by the district are as follows: Almond street, leased for \$1400; Davis' landing, \$100; Catharine street, \$165; Queen street, \$100; Christian street, upper side, \$1375; Christian street, lower side, \$1450; Washington, \$635; Prime street, \$600; yielding an income of \$6315.

The present members and officers of the Board are as follows:

Thomas A. Barlow, President; Edm'd M. Bird, Henry Bunker, Wm. Harper, Jr., Daniel Hook, Jesse Johnson, William N. King, Charles F. Mansfield, Samuel W. Martin, John McWhorter, David S. Paul, George C. Rickards, John Thompson, Anthony Tully, John Thompson, William Wood, Jacob Wilkins, Charles C. Wilson. Mr. Tully has been rendered ineligible by receiving an office under the General Government.

Clerk to the Board—J. D. Bayne; Treasurer—John J. Krider; Superintendent of Highways—Alexander Gwin; Principal Regulator—Charles S. Close; Collector of Water Rents—David Euter; Collector of Outstanding Debts—William Mullen; Lieutenant of Police—T. W. McKinley; Police Officer—William Rice.