

Bethania? Little Rockfish? Two Towns of Yore

01/31/15 439 W - + 11 - 4

This week's research into [public and private laws of North Carolina](#) yields a pair of fire companies that this historian's never heard of:

Bethania

Located in Stokes County

Free white males of the authorized to form and "enroll themselves" into a "fire engine company." No more than forty members. Five year period of enrollment. Captain of company charged with caring for apparatus, equipment, and "house prepared for that purpose." Town commissioners authorized to purchase fire engine and equipment, via annual tax "not exceeding one dollar on every white taxable poll" nor "more than fifty cents on every hundred dollars of real estate." Fire wardens and company officers also authorized to "order any house or houses to be pulled down, blown up, or otherwise destroyed" to stop the progress of a fire. Plus other language related to laws, rules, regulations, by-laws, etc. Authorized by General Assembly on January 3, 1839.

Franklin Fire Company

Little Rockfish

Cumberland County

Alonzo R. Ketcham, Roderick McRae, and Daniel Patterson appointed commissioners for the organization of the Little Rockfish Franklin Fire Company within six months. No more than twenty members. When there are least ten members, the fire company "shall be deemed and taken to be a corporation." Immediately after organization, "it shall be the duty of said Company to provide and keep in readiness at all times for us, such hooks, ladders, buckets, hose and such other articles and implements as many be necessary and useful in the extinguishment of houses on fire." Members are exempt from service in militia exercises. Plus other language related to laws, rules, regulations, by-laws, etc. Authorized by General Assembly on January 24, 1843.

Where the heck are these places?

Bethania, says [this Wikipedia article](#), was the first planned Moravian settlement in the state. It's the only remaining, continuously active Moravian village in the south. The only known "existing Germanic-type Linear Agricultural village" in the south. And the oldest municipality in Forsyth County (which appears to have been carved from Stokes County). The town was chartered in 1838/39 and most recently incorporated in 1995.

Little Rockfish was precursor to the town of Hope Mills. Also called "Rockfish Village," it developed around the Rockfish Manufacturing Company, which was located on Little Rockfish Creek. [This Fayetteville Observer story](#) by Roy Parker Jr., from December 1990, tells about the history. The cornerstone was laid in 1839 and started production at a small scale later that year. The factory operated for a quarter century until Union soliders destroyed the structure on March 10, 1865.

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preferred)
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Cities with High-Pressure Water Systems?

01/31/15 655 W - + 10 - 7

Therecent massive fire in Jersey had me thinking about high pressure water systems of yore. How many cities had or still have them? Either fixed or mobile? Here are collected responses from the question as posted to this [firehouse.com forums thread](#):

Atlantic City

Created as cooperative effort between city and larger hotels. Each of the fire pumps of the larger hotels was connected to a system with common piping and street hydrants maintained by the city. As those huge "ordinary construction" hotels (masonry bearing wall with wood floor and roof support structures) were demolished, the system went with them. Far smaller fire pumpers were required for fire resistive construction, and they starved the system for pumping capacity. Thus it became impractical to maintain the system. Source: Tom Horne.

Baltimore

<http://www.firehydrant.org/pictures/baltimore.html>

<http://doubledogged.blogspot.com/2007/02/being-in-baltimore-city-fire-department.html>

Berkely, CA

Recently purchased high-volume mobile pump system, with two 6000 GPM pumps using six miles of twelve-inch supply hose. Source: "Here and There."

<http://www.berkeleyside.com/2010/10/21/fire-equipment-can-shoot-water-from-bay-to-hills>

<http://www.hytransfiresystem.com>

Boston

<http://www.bostonfirehistory.org/activefirehousehighpressure.html>

Cleveland

<http://tinyurl.com/n8t8cnf> (Google Books excerpt)

Detroit

High-pressure pumping station was built at the foot of Randolph in 1921. The high-pressure hydrants operated at approximately 150 pounds of pressure, while regular hydrants were 55 to 65 pounds of pressure. The system was removed from service in 1956.

"The building was erected in 1921 at a cost of \$145,057, plus an additional \$167,325 for constructing the wharf. The High Pressure System went in service in 1922 along with the related hydrant system being completed in the downtown high value area and along the waterfront. Shown are the 6 Dean Hill Multi-Stage Pumps used to supply the system. Each powered by 700 h.p. motors and could deliver 2,500 gallons per minute at 300 lbs pressure. Due to restrictions by the Health Department and Civic Center, freeway, and urban renewal construction, the High Pressure System was placed out of service in the month of March, 1956."

Four stations had the necessary equipment to use the HP system:

Engine 1, HP Co 1, Wayne at Larned

Engine 9, HP Co 2, Larned & Riopelle

Engine 8, HP Co 3, Sixth & Bagley

Engine 7, HP Co 4, Concord near E Jefferson

<http://www.atdetroit.net/forum/messages/5/80015.html?1173935391>

Milwaukee

<http://landmarkhunter.com/178478-milwaukee-fire-department-high-pressure-pumping/>

http://books.google.com/books/about/The_Design_and_Construction_of_the_High.html?id=WMcyAAAAMAAJ

New Jersey

NEPTUNE system.

New York City

Coney Island and Others

<http://nycfire.net/forums/index.php?topic=33401.0>

Plus the FDNY Super Pumper System

Oakland, CA

City built a pumping station next to Lake Merritt to protect the downtown after the 1906 earthquake. The system was disrupted when BART (local rail transit) was constructed in the 1970s and it was never returned to service. Following the Oakland Hills fire of 1991, they bought some hose wagons similar to those used in San Francisco. Each carried a mile of LDH and portable hydrants. They still have four in service. Source: "Here and There."

<http://www.firehydrant.org/info/oakpwss1.html>

<http://www.thelakechalet.com/aboutus> (core pumping station building now a restaurant)

https://www.flickr.com/photos/anomalous_a/5127425963/ (plaque image)

Philadelphia

System out of service and no longer used. Many of the hydrants are still in place, and only removed as Water Department is working in the area. Or, in most cases, struck and knocked over by a vehicle. The High Pressure Pumping Station building has also be demolished, probably shortly after the below article was written. Trivia: There were intake manifolds on the bulkhead adjacent to the pumping station, so PDF marine companies could supplement the system if the pumping station failed. Source: "FWDbuff."

<http://hiddencityphila.org/2011/09/hero-of-the-waterfront-2>

<http://hiddencityphila.org/2012/03/not-your-ordinary-fire-plugs>

San Francisco

<http://www.sfmuseum.org/hist1/hpfs.html>

Toledo, OH

<http://www.toledofiremuseum.com/alarmoffice/alarmoffice.htm> (single line of reference)

Winnepeg

<http://winnipegdowntownplaces.blogspot.com/2012/07/109-james-avenue-high-pressure-pumping.html>

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Comment moderation is enabled on this site. This means that your comment will not be visible on this site until it has been approved by an editor.

To prevent spam we require you to answer this silly question

What are the FIRST TWO LETTERS of the word 'fire'?

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