

INTRODUCTION

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This book is a collection of information about the History of the Winchester Fire Companies and other fire related articles and facts. This is by no means the complete study on the history of the Winchester Fire Departments. I hope future information and credible facts will come forward and be added as they become available.

I wish to thank Fire Chief Allen Baldwin for giving me opportunity to start this project. Thanks to all the Fire Department Office Staff for putting up with my phone calls and interruptions to their busy work schedule. Thanks to all the Volunteer Station Officers and members who have had a lot of this information ready. Thanks to the Career Staff who have found information and books to verify facts of the fire department. Thanks to my family who supported hours of book reading and trips to the Handley Library and Archives. Thanks to Ben and Tylor for putting this info into the "Cloud".

With this book I will concentrate on the history of the early Winchester Fire Companies, their many locations and how they evolved to present day 2015 Volunteer/Career Companies.

A short historical account about the Water Supply to the City of Winchester will be included for future generations to see how water was delivered before Electricity and modern plumbing.

Due to the wars, lost records and time, some of this history may remain a secret. Creditable information forgotten in attics, closets or basements will be found and added to the history of the Winchester Fire Companies. Hopefully this book will excite some who have this "Lost Information", and present it as lost history found.

Ms. Rebecca Ebert and Mr. Jerry Holsworth of the Handley Library Archives have combined this information to make it easier for future generations to examine. I hope with this search of Fire Department history, more information can be added easily and the history not lost to time.

This is a collection of research from history books, newspaper articles, fire company minutes, and most recent eye witness accounts of facts concerning the Fire Companies of Winchester

This book is in a mix-match order and of different type and letter head. I did this to show the different ways of how the history was saved over the centuries. The first was hand written notes and minutes of meetings. Only one copy was available to read. With printing presses, many copies could be made and distributed too many readers. As time pasted type writers, black and white photos, color photos, computers, I phones, smart phones and the "Data Cloud" have been used to share information. I have not seen this "Data Cloud" but am told it is up there!

Information was collected from historic books, documents and photos. Modern online internet has allowed the stations to post their own web-sites. With this modern tool, their history and day to day pictures and info can be added instantly. Some personal letters, company minutes and correspondences that may be of interest to "Fire Buffs" is also added.

The Handley Library Archives now has a file for all City of Winchester Fire Companies to research and donate Items of interest for future generations to enjoy.

Nathan S. Newlin

Historian: City of Winchester Fire and Rescue

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Page 1 of 2

Following is the list of authorities to which reference will be made in the course of this writing. These authorities will be cited in parentheses in the body of the account whenever it is thought necessary to confirm statements of facts.

Published Works

1A. The History of Christ Church: Frederick Parish, Winchester, 1745-2000 by Katharine L. Brown, Nancy Sorrells, J. Susanne Simmons. Lot's Wife Publishing, Staunton VA 2001

2A. The Story of Winchester in Virginia: the Oldest Town in the Shenandoah Valley, Strasburg, VA: Shenandoah Publishing Co., 1925
By: Frederic Oren Morton

3A. What I Know About Winchester: Recollections of William Greenway Russell 1800-1891 Volume II Winchester- Frederick County Historical Society Papers

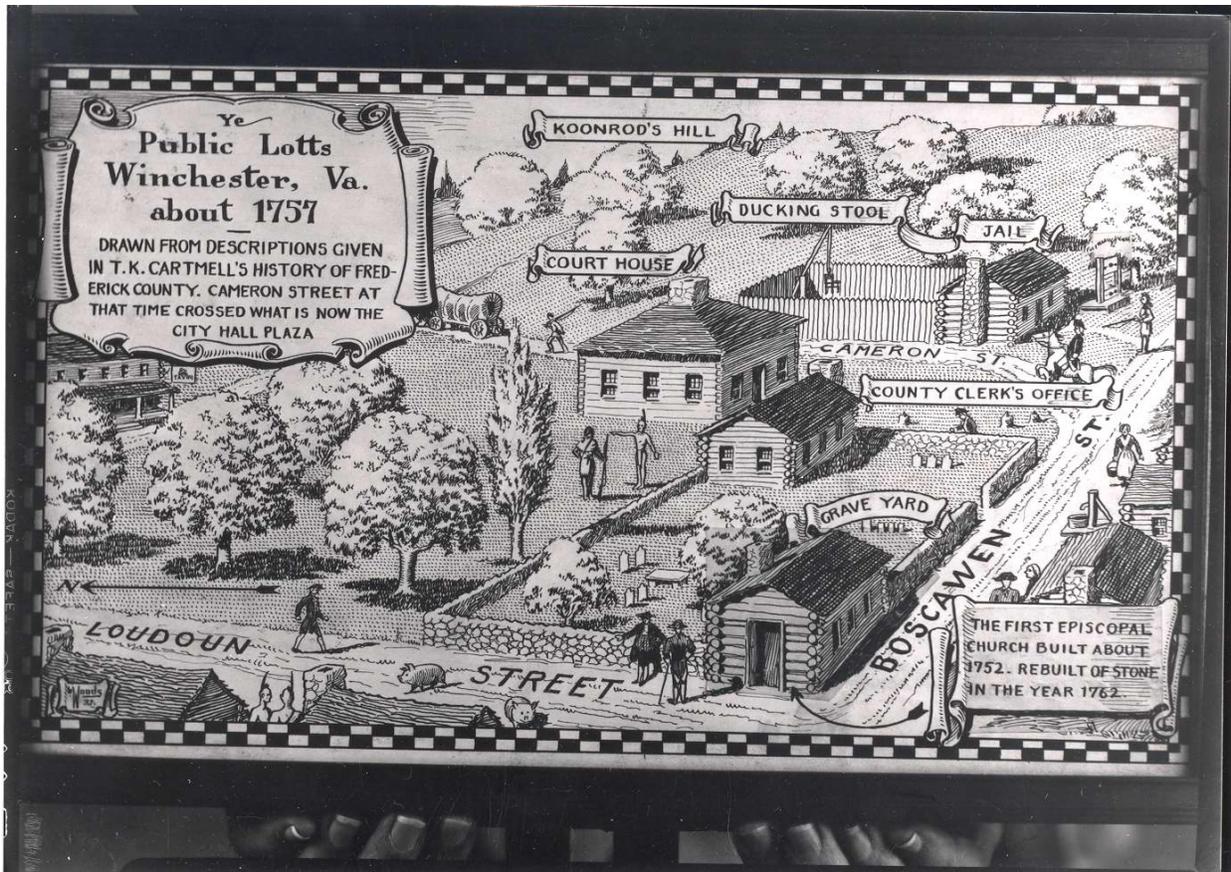
4A. Winchester, Virginia Streets-Churches-Schools by Garland R. Quarles Published by Winchester- Frederick County Historical Society Winchester, Virginia 1996

5A. Souvenir of the Winchester Fire Department, Winchester Va. By Davidson Bros., Photographers, Winchester, Va. July 7, 1897 (A thread bound pamphlet)

6A. Frederick County, Virginia: From the Frontier to the Future: A Pictorial History:
By Rebecca A. Ebert and Teresa Lazazzera

7A. Images of the Past: A photographic review of Winchester and Frederick County VA., By Foreman, Michael, Miller, Virginia, and Nester, Reed; & Thorne, Charles. Winchester-Frederick County Historical Society, 1980

8A. Winchester, Virginia and its Beginnings, 1743-1814 by Katherine (Glass) Green; Strasburg, VA: Shenandoah Publishing Company 1925



LOCATIONS OF CITY OF WINCHESTER FIRE COMPANIES

<u>Company Name</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Reference</u>
* <u>First Fire Company</u>	Court Square	prior to 1788	2A, pg.109-110
	Court Square	City Council ord. 1825	1A. pg.64
	Fronting Water Street next to the churchyard,	removed 1829	2A, pg. 138
* <u>Second Fire Company</u>	Court Square	rebuilt 1829	2A, pg. 138
	("Watch Tower Building" Court Square	removed 1844	2A, pg. 138)

Page 2 of 5

12 feet by 21 feet built between the wall of the old jail and the tobacco warehouse, leaving an alley 12 feet broad, running from Water Street to Market Square.

A question of ownership of the “public lots” from Lord Fairfax estate was put to rest on June 2, 1801. Washington D.C. resident Mr. James M. Marshall and wife Hetty conveyed all the “public lots”, except the church lot to the Frederick County Justices and the Winchester Mayor and Aldermen.

The deed stated “Said public square of ground contains four lots and each lot is 119 feet in front and 189 feet, 9 inches deep, and the said square is bounded by Loudoun Street on the westward, by lots 19 and 26 on the northward, by Cameron Street on the eastward, and by Boscawen Street on the southward, on which said public square stand a court house, market house, two Jails, **two engine houses**, a black smith shop, and the Protestant Episcopal Church and Churchyard (which part of the said ground on which the Church stands and the yard annexed thereto inclosed by a stone wall is expressly excepted out of the conveyance”.)

16A, pg. 17

*** Third Fire Company** Court Square permit 1832 used until 1849 2A, pg. 138

(“Golden Temple” nicknamed “Solomon’s Temple,” removed about 1850 and the yellow painted bricks used to build engine house west of Lutheran Church)

Corporation Office: This was the building sometimes called the “Golden Temple”. It stood at the southeast corner of Loudoun St. and Rouss Ave. It fronted 23 ft. on Loudoun St. and 41 ft. on Rouss Ave. In 1832, the Town Council obtained permission from the County Court to erect this building, allegedly for the purpose of housing the *fire engine* and the office of the Clerk of the *Corporation Court*. After it was completed, it was apparently used for other purposes by the town authorities, among them being as a hatter’s shop, eating house, and bar room. To this the County Court objected and finally, after much controversy, the building, which was of yellow brick, was removed in 1849 (See Cartmell—Pages 144 and 145) 3A, pg. 87

Future Fire Companies were built outside of the Court Square.

***Incert**

City of Winchester Records and News articles are still being found on the Organization of the Winchester Fire Companies

There is an article from May 20, 1789, in The Virginia Gazette or The Winchester Advertiser “The members of the Union Fire Company are notified that their meeting stands adjourned to the last Saturday in the present month, then to assemble at the Market House”.

Prior to the early 1830’s there are records of a “ Fire Engine” housed at different locations in the Court Square area, but no “ Organized Fire Company” in our town to take charge thereof.

In the Feb., 1833 publication from the Winchester Republican a “Citizen” calls our citizens together for the purpose of “ORGANIZING A FIRE COMPANY”

Winchester, VA, July 3d, 1885.

To the officers and members of the Union Fire Co:

Gentlemen-We the undersigned, a committee, appointed by your honorable body, to search the records, &c., on the origin and history of the Union Fire Company, and any other matters pertinent thereto, beg leave to report, that matters hereinafter stated, are taken from *actual records*, and from that these records reveal, it is very conclusive, and *cannot be successfully controverted*, that *prior* to the organization of the Union Fire Company, Feb, 16th, 1833, there *did not exist any regular*, organized fire company in our town, which records *clearly* demonstrates. It is also *very evident*, that the Union Engine was here a *long time* before there was a company organized to take charge thereof.

(Query !)

The following is taken from the Winchester *Republican* of Feb., 1833, calling our citizens together for the purpose of organizing "A Fire Company" in our town:

For The Republican.

[1833]

WINCHESTER FIRE COMPANY.

It has often been a matter of surprise, that in a flourishing town like this, with a population of nearly 4,000, and property, merchandise, funds in bank, &c., to the amount of millions, such culpable negligence has been shown in adopting those measures which are clearly required by a due regard to the preservation of life and property. On of the most important and urgent of these, is the organizing a proper and consentaneous action in case of fires. This carelessness and apathy is the more blamable, as we have every advantage for such emergencies—an abundance of water flowing in every part of the town, and a very superior engine lately provided at considerable expense by the counsel, which, without some system of working and

managing, will be only partially useful. This is a matter which intimately concerns every individual among us. Who knows at what moment a destructive fire may break out in a closely built part of our town, which may defy all our efforts, with our miserable mode of acting at such times, to get under and extinguish?—and we may have to report to the public prints that another southern town has met with the disastrous fate of Raleigh and Fayetteville—an event which would blast perhaps forever all those bright hopes which now warm the heart of the patriotic citizen as he contemplates the future happy prospects of his town and country from those splendid public improvements now about to commence. Fire is at all times one of the grandest and awfully interesting scenes that can be contemplated, even in cities, where they possess every advantage of powerful fire engines, hose, and skillful, disciplined firemen. But how much are its horrors multiplied, when a population like ours, totally unaccustomed to, and unprepared for such an event, is aroused from their slumbers at the dead hour of night by the appalling cry of fire? The terror, confusion and consternation, are well known to all of us, as well as the ill-directed, ineffectual efforts, which must ever be the case where such a state of things exists : and in fact the lives of those brave and heroic citizens who are found ready to do their duty, (and to give the people their due, as much courage and boldness is evidenced here as in any city or town), are continually in danger from each others efforts. The remedy for all these evils is the formation of a regular, well disciplined fire co. A respectable meeting was held on Saturday evening last at the town hall, and preparatory measures taken for this purpose. This evening a full attendance is expected, as it is presumed that in a matter which so closely concerns the whole body of the people, no man, having any claim to the proper feelings of man, will be absent when his duties require him to be present, and to volunteer his services if they are required. No owner of property, at least, can in justice or honor be absent from such a meeting; for no one has a right to expect that his fellow-citizens will enroll themselves to undergo fatigue and danger to protect his property, whilst he is remaining comfortably with the females by his fire-side. There are bold, active men, in the prime of manhood, who will volunteer to man the engines, and act as axe-men, ladder-men and hosemen: it is as little as others, who own property, can do, to encourage this undertaking by their presence, and contributions if required.

A CITIZEN.

FIRE COMPANY LOCATIONS

***Union Fire Company** 32 W. Boscawen St. Around 1850 until 1923-1924

2A, pg.110, 4A, pg.132 also 16A, pg.35

(Incorporated to Charley Rouss Fire Company May 20, 1896 @ 3 South Braddock

***Rouss Fire Company** 3 S. Braddock St.

Truck/Extrication and EMS First Responder services to citizens of Winchester and Frederick County Va. (2015)

*** Friendship Fire Company**

25 west Cork St.

Location used until 1892

12-14-18 E. Cork Street -

1892 until 1955 2A, pg.111

501 South Cameron

1955 until 1976

.

Site reference 4A, pg. 127

627 North Pleasant Valley Road

Provides Fire and EMS services to City of Winchester and Frederick Co. Va. (2015)

***Winchester Volunteer Rescue Squad / Millwood Station**

25E. Gerrard St.	Jan.1958	WVRS/ History/JAH
Moved to 517 Millwood Ave		September 3, 1961
Moved to 600 Millwood Ave		1979
Moved to 250 Costello Drive		Jan.17,2004

Present station provides Fire and EMS services to the citizens of Frederick County Va. and City of Winchester (2015)

Updated November 9, 2015



69-696 wfchs

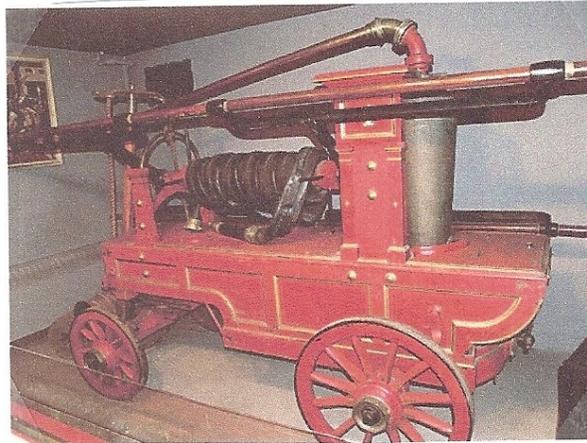
Market House at 15 North Cameron Street, Winchester, Va. Building demolished in 1899 to make way for new Rouse City Hall.



69-1224 wfchs

Market House at 15 North Cameron Street, Winchester, Va. Cyanotype. Rear View showing the hitching yard. Building demolished in 1899 to make way for new Rouss City Hall. Date estimated as c. 1898.

Possibly like one of the first hand pumpers in Winchester Va.



Flickrriver: Photography of Bryan Correira's FDNY 1820's Hand Pumper with leather hose and gooseneck nozzle.

<http://www.flickriver.com> website title-photographer

Viewed July 2015

History of the Water Supply for Winchester Va.

The water supply starts at the water source. The springs around Colonel James Wood Amherst Street home which flowed through the early down town was that source. This is the "Town Run" of Winchester.

A document between The Honorable Thomas Lord Fairfax and Colonel James Wood in 1753 on the subject of sinking or laying pipes to convey water from the "Federal Springs" to the town inhabitants is mentioned. (8A, pg.36&37)

In 1808 a central water supply system was installed with the Town Springs as its source. This was one of the first municipal water systems in the country. The pipes were made of logs connected by iron couplings. (4A pg.21, an 1864 sketch of The Springs by James E Taylor 4A pg.23) Gravity was first used to supply water from the springs to the down town. The authorities of the "Corporation" contracted with Dr. Brown to have water brought in wooden pipes. He brought with him machinery for boring the logs; he had a horse-power for its construction (3A.pg129)

In addition to the springs, four public wells were formerly in use and guarded carefully. About 1808 water was brought into town from the "Tidball" springs. These wooden pipes were bored by horse-power. Every joint was secured by an iron ring sharpened at each end, and against these the pipes were forced. For further security there was also an outer ring. There appears to be some authority for the statement that Winchester is the pioneer town in the United States to install water works. A petition to the legislature, dated December 13, 1828, says it has been found necessary to substitute for wooden tubes, iron pipes from 1 ½ to 6 inches in diameter.

A description of the City of Winchester around 1827 says tanneries abounded, contributing a peculiar smell with their piles of bark and vats of tannic acid to cure animal skins. With animals running through the muddy streets, the smells of the tanneries, and the foul water running from the log pipes that brought water into town was quite different than today. (1A. pg64)

A description in 1833 states the city is very fortunate as to fires, and that there are many hydrants. (2A. pg.112)

In 1846 Common Council appropriated \$40 for constructing gates in the town run in Cameron, Loudoun, Braddock & Washington Streets to afford a supply of water in case of fire.

In 1868 the Committee on Fire Apparatus was instructed to place in Town Run, at suitable points boxes for the purpose of affording a supply of water to the suction engines. (14A. Pg100)

The " Gas Company" was organized in 1853 and in May 1889 it began lighting the streets. (2A.pg.109)

About 1890, at an expense of \$60,000, one-half of which was met by the city, the Hollingsworth Spring was purchased, and the water distributed from the reservoir.

A City benefactor named Charles Broadway Rouss gave substantial gifts for the provision for a new water supply for the city from Rouss Spring also called Shawnee Springs. (8A, Pg. 79).

Because of hazards from a city land fill close to these springs the Water Plant near Middletown Va. was constructed. The Water Plant draws water from the Shenandoah River up to its water treatment plant. Treated water is than pumped through large pipes from Middletown Va. through Stephens City Va. into Winchester Va. and beyond.

As of 2015 pipe lines branch well north of Winchester on Rt. 11 close to the West Virginia line. West of Winchester on Rt. 50, water has been taken to the assisted living community on National Lutheran Church Drive. The new Round Hill Fire and Rescue Company is nearing completion next to this community center.

On Rt. 7 East of the city is the Reclamation Plant. It processes all the waste water and empties “clean water” into the Opequon Creek at the Clarke County line.

Updated September 27, 2015



The first pipe line for a public water system in the United States was laid in 1808 from the Town Spring. The pipes were made of logs connected by iron couplings. The Spring is shown here from an 1864 sketch by James E. Taylor.

Fire Stations

THAT HAVE SERVED THE

CITY OF WINCHESTER VIRGINIA

FRIENDSHIP FIRE COMPANY #1
627 North Pleasant Valley Road
Winchester Va.



Photo by Emily Newlin 2015



Title	25 W. Cork St.
Accession Number	133-1 wfchs
Collection	William and Virginia Miller Collection
Object Name	Print, Photographic
Description	Friendship Fire Company at original building on 25 West Cork Street, Winchester. Fire Company at this location until 1892. This phot shows the building converted into a house with bay window in place of garage door. Building torn down in 1973.
Photographer	Miller, Virginia
Date	1973



Accession Number 106-54 wfchs

Collection C Fred Barr Collection

Object Name Print, Photographic

Description 12, 14, 18 East Cork Street, Winchester, Va. Building known as Friendship Fire Hall with first motorized truck. Friendship Fire Company was in this building until 1955. Easter Harris and Brother Sutton Harris at building on the right.

Date 1929

FRIENDSHIP FIRE CO'S "NEW ENGINE HOUSE"

SECRETARY'S REPORT TO AND INCLUDING JULY 16, 1892.

Cash paid E. M. Barr for brick.....	647.71
: : Haines & Graber for marble.....	295.00
: : W. L. & M. Co on account.....	115.50
: : O. P. Grove for roof and spouting etc.....	130.15
: : brick and stone work.....	234.98
: : labor for brick and stone work.....	115.05
: : carpenter work.....	196.23
: : on lot (1st payment).....	88.33
: : for plans.....	28.92
: : : iron cornish.....	33.32
: : : iron colum.....	18.45
: : : four car loads sand.....	22.00
: : : freight on two car loads of sand.....	12.60
: : : hauling sand.....	11.50
: : : nails.....	12.73
: : : fancy brick for tower.....	9.10
: : : recording deed for lot.....	3.00
: : : powder for blasting.....	1.52

Total \$1969.09

" " " E. M. Duffendaffer for errors

Amount received by treasurer to date.....	\$2240.50	75
: paid as per above.....	1080.09	
Balance on hand	\$2271.21	

Due Glaize for lumber, as per contract.	\$325.00
: W. L. & M. Co : work.....	405.50
On hand.	\$730.50
	271.21

Balance to be raised..... \$459.29

Respectfully submitted

J. E. Lammie
Secretary

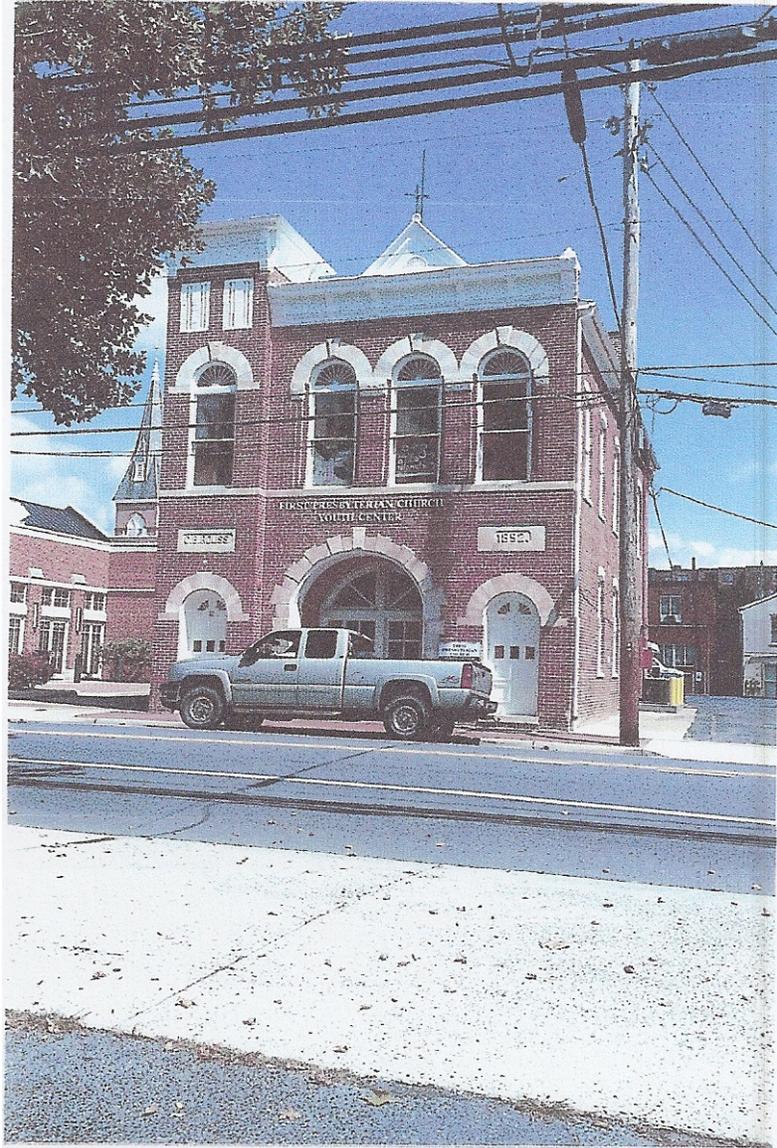
* Mr Barrs account was \$681.21
he donated 2m brick, Capt Kurtz 2m,
and I. H. Faulkner jr 1m making \$33.50



Old Friendship Fire Company

501 South Cameron Street

Photo by Emily Newlin 2015



Old Friendship Fire Co.
12-14-18 East Cork Street
Photo by Emily Newlin 2015

ROBERT S. RYAN, PRESIDENT

MILTON HARRIS, ATTORNEY

Organized 1831

Motorized 1919

FRIENDSHIP FIRE COMPANY, No. 1, Inc.

"The Boys Who Render Service"

ROBERT A. GEANIOUS, SECRETARY

WINCHESTER, VIRGINIA

GEORGE E. COOK, TREASURER

April 7th 1955

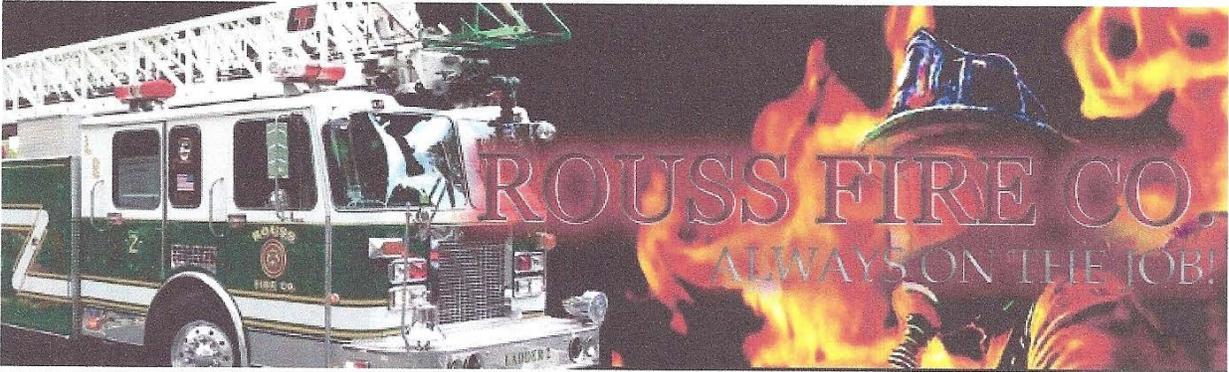
The building committee of Friendship Fire Company, No. 1, Inc. consisting of Orin Ritter, Robert Ryan, Lewis Bell offers the following resolutions.

No. 1 - Whereas, this year the Co. is interested in building a new fire house the above committee was appointed to look into the possibility of doing same, the committee having found a suitable site on the corner of South Cameron and Leicester Streets property of Lee J. Massey reported to Company at the March meeting and secured permission to negotiate a loan from the Farmers And Merchants National Bank upon contact with the bank we found out in order to secure a loan that the members would have to be notified by mail. The above having been done the committee would like to resolve - That the president and secretary be given instructions to secure a loan in the amount of \$16,000.00 the amount necessary ~~to purchase the said property of which the price is \$20,000.00~~ the Treasurer and draw out of the treasurer the amount of \$4000.00 in order to purchase the said property of which the amount is

~~\$20,000.00~~

No. 2 - Also that the building comm. be given power to advertise our present property owned by the company such as the fire house at 12 east cork, and house at 14 east cork and house at 136 south cameron St. for sale and report back to the co. at the May Meeting the bids received for the co. to take action.

R Orin Ritter
Lewis bell
Robert Ryan
Building comm.



Date: 24 August 2015

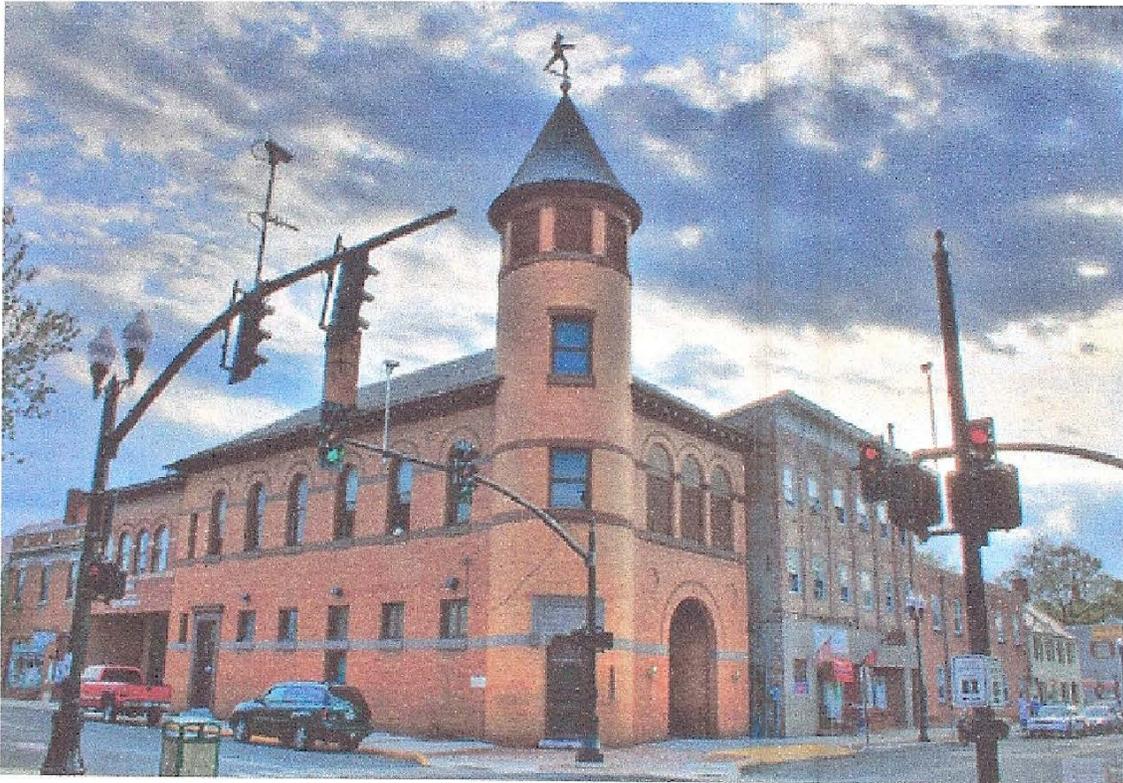


Photo by Emily Newlin 2015

Rouss Fire Company



The history of the Rouss Fire Company of Winchester actually involves the history of three separate companies. First was the Union Fire Company, which later became the Charley Rouss Fire Company; the Rouss Hook and Ladder Company; and finally the Charley Rouss Fire Company, Inc. which was the combined organization of these two former groups. In a separate article we will deal at length with the history of the Rouss Hook and Ladder Company and in this article we propose to concern ourselves mainly with the old Union Fire Company and the present Charley Rouss Fire Company, which evolved from it.

The exact date of the organization of the Union Fire Company is unknown, but it has been definitely established that the company existed prior to May 20, 1789, for it was on that date that a notice appeared in the local newspaper, THE VIRGINIA GAZETTE or THE WINCHESTER ADVERTISER as follows: "The members of the Union Fire Company are notified that their meeting stands adjourned to the last Saturday in the present month, then to assemble at the Market House". It therefore appears beyond reasonable doubt that the Union Fire Company was the first fire company in Winchester and vicinity. This fact has since been recorded in the Common Law Books of the Corporation Court of the City of Winchester thus adding legal significance to the fact that this company was organized prior to May 20, 1789.

There are no records, however, of the early days of the Union Fire Company. We do know however that the engine house was located on the public square in Winchester. After a prolonged controversy between the Common Council and the County Court relative to their respective rights in the Public Square, a resolution was adopted by the City Council on October 28, 1848 appointing a committee to look out for sites for the engine houses. With the action taken by the City Council on December 7, 1848, the fire departments were completely divorced from the Public Square. The site chosen for the Union Fire Company was on the North side of Water Street between Indian Alley and Braddock Street. It was purchased by the City from the trustees of the Lutheran Church by deed of date December 6, 1848 (deed book 9, page 201 of the Corporation Court). This site is where the Lutheran Church Sunday School now stands.

At a meeting held January 23, 1858 in the Town Hall, Mr. Henry Kinzel announced that all the books and papers of the Company had been destroyed by fire. This fact is recorded in the minutes of the company, and it can justifiably be assumed that along with this destruction of books and records were the minutes of the meetings. (PLEASE NOTE: Contrary to news articles printed in 2008 and 2009, there is no evidence that the fire hall was destroyed by fire).

The first written record which is available is merely a brief statement which appeared in THE WINCHESTER REPUBLICAN in 1833, February Issue. This article contained little of importance but merely mentioned the company.

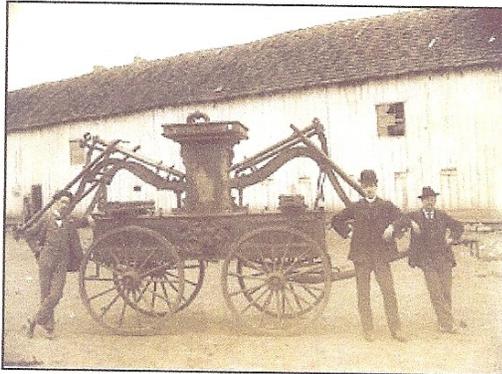
There were long periods of time in the early days of the company after 1833 when no records were kept. For instance, there are no written minutes between April 3, 1858 and March 1, 1861. There was a meeting held in March 1861 at the "Engine House", but no significant business was transacted. Again there were no minutes from April 13, 1861 to July 29, 1865. Since these were the days immediately before and during the War between the the States it can be assumed that, if meetings were held, everyone was too busy to make any records, or perhaps they did not feel the necessity for any such records. One other possibility is that the records have long since been destroyed.

The next significant happening was on January 4, 1889 when the name was changed to the Union Steam Fire Company No. 2. Steam had previously been instituted on September 27, 1888, but the name was not actually changed until January of the following year.

It is interesting to note that during this period the Company was the sponsor of a very flourishing organization, THE UNION CORNET BAND. Actually the band was organized on January 10, 1882 and was a very integral part of the fire company,

Rouss Fire Company

especially during parades and special meetings. There is no record, however, of the fire company ever participating to any great financial extent in the work of the band.



At the regular meeting held on February 1, 1894, Mr. M. T. Reed, who was then a lieutenant in the fire company, proposed that February 11 be set aside each year as a day of celebration and demonstrate in a manner which would keep alive the memory of Charles Broadway Rouss, who had been so very much interested in the fire company and who, on numerous occasions, had made substantial contributions to its work. This proposal was unanimously passed by the company and on February 11, 1894 the first celebration was

held. According to the record the program for this occasion was as follows: MUSIC: Union Fire Company Cornet Band, ADDRESS: Captain John J. Williams, READING: Miss Kate McVicar, PRESENTATION of RESOLUTIONS: Judge William M. Atkins.

It is interesting to note that each year since that time celebrations have been held to honor Mr. Rouss. For a number of years these celebrations have taken the form of a banquet for the members and friends of the company.

At the meeting of the company held on January 1, 1895 a committee was appointed to begin making plans for a new home for the company. On March 1 of this same year they reported they had an option on the lot at the corner of Braddock and Water Streets, but for some unknown reason they "decided" to purchase the Union Bank property on the North side of Water Street between Main and Braddock Streets - 2 doors west of their present Engine House. Before this sale was consummated, however, the company changed their mind and on June 24, 1895 agreed to purchase the Atkinson lot on the corner of Braddock and Water Streets. This site was Officially purchased on July 19, 1895.

About this same time the company began thinking in terms of a new building to go on the lot which another committee was attempting to secure. Therefore, on March 22, 1895 a building committee was appointed by the Captain of the Company. The City Council appropriated \$3,000 toward a new home and the old engine house was sold for \$5,000. On April 9, 1895 Charles Broadway Rouss donated \$5,000 toward a new home for the company. As a token of appreciation for this generous gift, the company decided that the building would be named THE ROUSS ENGINE HOUSE OF UNION STEAM FIRE COMPANY No. 2.

The year 1895 was also the year that the company decided it would enter the field of reel racing. On March 8 of that year they agreed to purchase a racing reel from the American Fire Engine Company of Seneca Falls, New York. The reel arrived on May 13, 1895 and on July 4 of the same year the reel team established a world's record of 38 and 2/3 seconds. This record was established at the Winchester Fair Grounds when the Union Steam Company team won over a number of other reel teams from Frederick and Hagerstown, Maryland, Martinsburg, West VA, and Winchester, VA. This world's record was officially established and reported in THE FIREMEN'S STANDARD, of Boston, MA on August 1, 1895. The members of the reel team at that time were as follows: E. E. Stone, W. B. Gibson, Herman Noakes, German Smith Jr, Edward Baker, E. C. Hottle, Charles F. Pingley, Lewis Baker, Hunter Kern, Harry Sigafosse, G. Frank Baker, William Noonan, H. L. Wood, John H. Snyder, and John O. Kern.

Work progressed satisfactorily on the new Rouss Hall and on November 11, 1895 over 4,000 people gathered for the corner stone laying. According to an article from THE ITEM (which was a local newspaper at that time) the program lasted from 1430 hrs until 1700 hrs. There was band music and numerous speeches; the principal speaker, however, was Hon. R. T. Barton. No where in the record can be found the exact date the Hall was completed, but it is recorded that on October 1, 1897 at the regular company meeting the building committee was dismissed with thanks for the excellent work they had done. It was also reported at that time the cost of the new Hall was \$14, 953.28.

As time went on wisdom of incorporating the company became apparent and on May 20, 1896 the company formed a corporation.

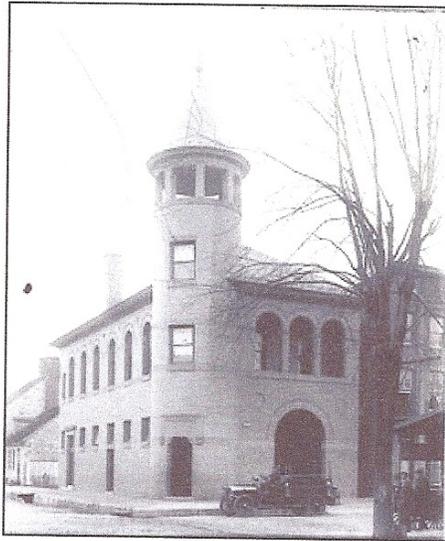
During the succeeding years Mr. Rouss continued to make substantial financial contributions to the company and so on March 10, 1899 the company decided to honor him by changing the name to THE CHARLEY ROUSS FIRE COMPANY, INC.. Mr. Rouss died at 0600 hrs on March 3, 1902 in New York City, just one week less than three years after the company had decided to call themselves by his name. With the passing of Mr.

Rouss Fire Company

Rouss the company lost a very loyal and devoted friend and one whose generosity had made possible the rapid expansion of the company.

Up until June 15, 1904 Winchester had been fortunate in not having a fire which raged out of control for a long period of time. However, on that date the Virginia Woolen Mill was destroyed by fire with an estimated loss of about \$60,000. So far as is known, this was the most expensive fire in the history of the city up until that time.

It should be recorded as part of the history of this organization that on July 4, 1902 the CUMBERLAND VALLEY FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION convened in the City Hall in Winchester. This was the organizational meeting of this group and the members of the Rouss Fire Company played an important part in this first meeting.



The next significant happening in the company's history was on May 3, 1907 when they decided to buy an Auto Hose Wagon at a cost not to exceed \$3,500. The wagon was purchased from the Howe Manufacturing Company and arrived on December 17, 1907. It was accepted two days later and was the first triple combination auto fire truck in service in the United States. It is interesting to note that on April 5, 1909 this truck was called to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Reese B. Carter who lived nine miles from Winchester. The truck made the trip in 35 minutes which was too late to be of service. Lost in this particular fire was the infant child of Mr. and Mrs. Carter.

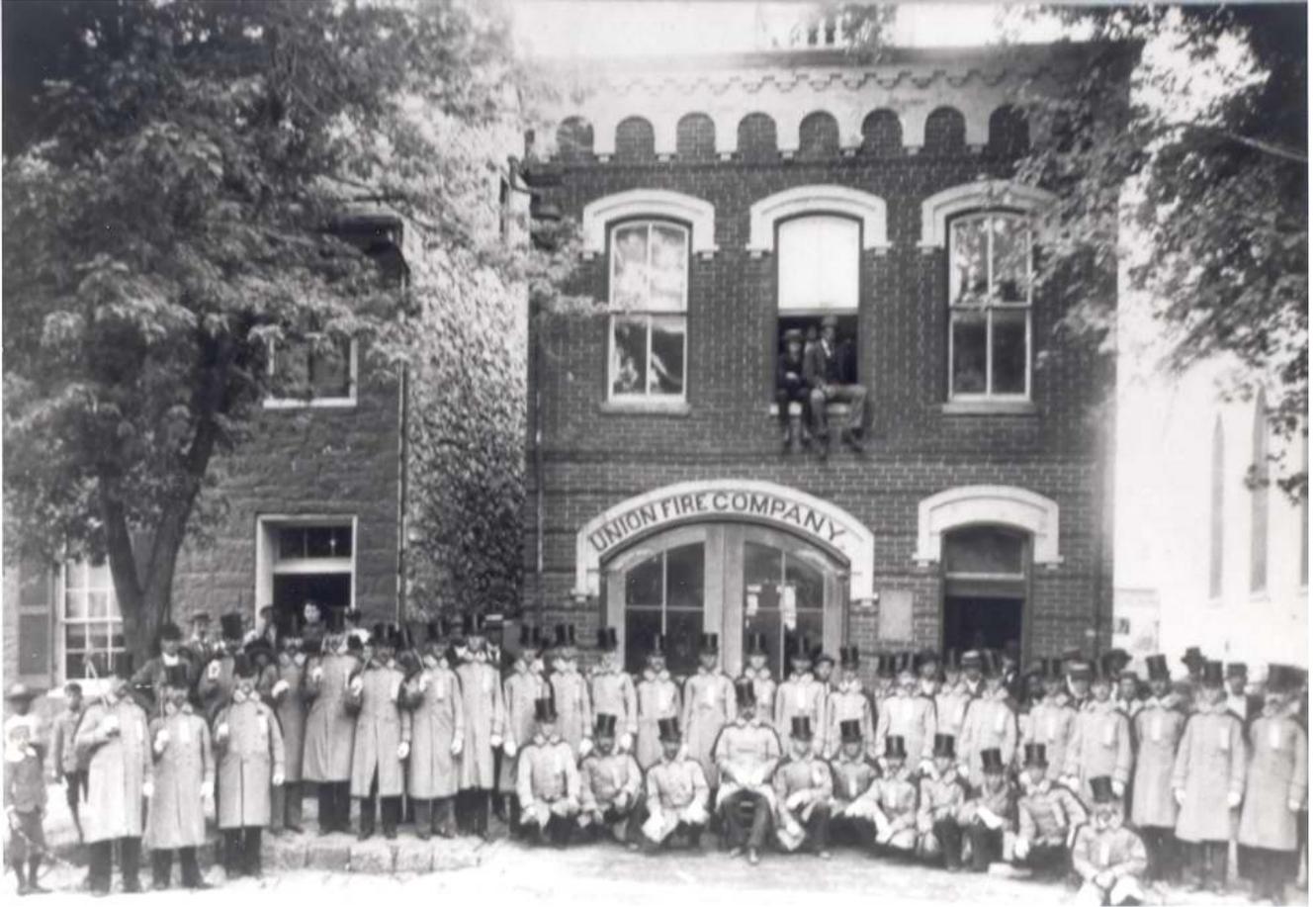
During the next few years the company went along in a more or less routine fashion adding constantly to its membership and participating in numerous civic events, parades, etc.

The next outstanding happening came on September 5, 1916 when a new Seagrave Pumper was purchased at a cost of \$6,500. This was a 325 gallon per minute pumper and was "the last word" in fire fighting equipment.

We shall not record in this history the events leading up to the merger with the Rouss Hook and Ladder Company since that information is included in the history of the Hook and Ladder Company. We will simply mention that the late in 1916 and during the year of 1917 the details of the merger of these two companies took place which, we believe, has added much to the efficiency of the total Winchester Fire Department.

The year 1923 was marked by two outstanding happenings. The first of these was the purchase of a Seagrave ladder truck on June 5, 1923 at a cost of \$9,450. This provided Winchester with a very modern and up-to-date piece of firefighting equipment and was a much needed addition to the city. The other significant happening of the year was a \$75,000 fire on Christmas night at the National Fruit Product Company.

The year 1926 was also a year in which new equipment was added to the Company. Although the equipment did not actually arrive until March 15, 1927, it was on September 10, 1926 that the company decided to purchase a new pumper. At that time a committee was appointed, and in December 1926 an order was placed for a 1000 gallon per minute Seagrave Pumper at a cost of \$13,500.



39-105 thl

Union Fire Company

At 30 West Boscawen Street



1459-3 thl

Rouss Fire Company-Hook and Ladder Company

At 30 West Boscawen Street

Early 1900s



106-67 wfchs

Rouss Fire Hall at 3 South Braddock Street

Around 1926



Formerly Known as
Sarah Zane Fire Company
301 N. Loudoun St.
Winchester, Va
Photo by Emily Newlin 2015

Sarah Zane

Fire Company

The Friends of Hopewell Monthly Meeting and the people of Winchester have reason to remember with gratitude Sarah Zane of Philadelphia, a frequent visitor to Winchester before the death of her brother, General Isaac Zane Jr. After his decease in 1795 she for a time resided in Winchester, engaged in settling his estate. A gift of \$1000 from Ms. Sarah Zane to the citizens of Winchester was the start of the Sarah Zane Fire Company. The gift to purchase a fire engine and hose to be kept in best repair were with her affection and gratitude.

Following Sarah Zane's bequest to the citizens of Winchester, a volunteer fire company was formed there and called by her name, and a hand engine built by Joseph Share & Sons of Baltimore, Md., was purchased which did good service for over thirty years. 15A. pg. 189. The hand engine is carefully preserved in the Rouss Fire Company at 3 South Braddock Street as of November 2015.



69-362 wfchs

Sarah Zane Fire Company on North Loudoun Street, with horse-drawn fire wagon.
23 men in uniform, one boy, one lady, two horses, assorted flags, partial view of
fire hall #301,303, 305 North Loudoun Street. Old Sarah Zane fire hall, 1879-1936.

Date estimated as c. 1910, possibly June 6th



106-180 wfchs

301 North Loudoun

Sara Zane Fire Company

1879-1936



Millwood Station
Volunteer Fire and Rescue
250 Costello Drive
Winchester, Va.
Photo by Emily Newlin 2015

Station 21

Millwood Station Volunteer Fire and Rescue



History:

Started in January of 1958 as the Winchester Volunteer Rescue Squad, the future Millwood Station started out as the primary EMS transport station for Winchester, Frederick County and some areas in West Virginia. As the organization continued to grow, in September of 1961 they purchased a house at 517 Millwood Avenue that would serve as their station for the next 19 years. In 1976, the Winchester Volunteer Rescue Squad upgraded their status to an Advanced Life Support agency, having some of the first shock-trauma, cardiac-tech, and paramedic level providers in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Due to the 1979 construction of Pleasant Valley Road, the organization was forced to build a new station at 600 Millwood Avenue, at a cost of \$644,000.

After some hard decisions concerning the future of Winchester Rescue, on April 1st, 1998, the station became an affiliate of the Frederick County Fire and Rescue Department, and adopted its present name, Millwood Station Volunteer Fire and Rescue, Inc. Station 21. Groundbreaking took place in April of 2003, on a new fire station located at 250 Costello Drive, and was completed in January of 2004. The new facility has a large bay area, offices, kitchen, bunk rooms, and a separate bingo/banquet building. The station is staffed by volunteers and career personnel 24 hours-a-day, 7 days-a-week.

The station's apparatus includes:

- 2 ALS (Advanced Life Support) ambulances
- A Fire Engine
- A Rescue Engine to assist with Vehicle Accident Extrication

Contact Information

250 Costello Drive
P.O. Box 3037
Winchester, Virginia 22602/22604
Phone: (540) 667-1535
Fax: (540) 665-0827



600 Millwood Ave.

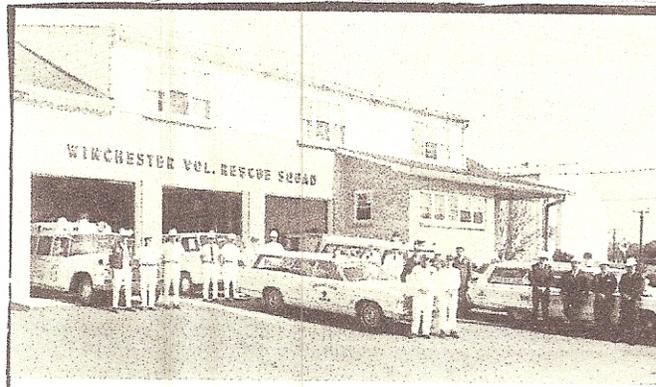
Was at the corner of Millwood Ave and South Pleasant Valley Rd.

The Halpin-Harrison Hall of The Shenandoah University was built in its place.

East Gerrard St.
Dairy Office
Building used
as First Squad
building.
Newton
Shingleton let
WVRS use the
upstairs as
office space.
Squad Trucks
were parked in
the Alleyway.



517 Millwood Ave



State aid comes to Winchester for the Apple Blossom Festival 1968.

WVRS at 600 Millwood Ave
Rear parking lot looking west
at the Old Squad building 517
Millwood Ave is to the right.
Early 1980s





2210 Valor Drive

Winchester, Va.

Photo by Emily Newlin 2015

From: Comcast <stylinemt@comcast.net>
Subject: History
Date: November 11, 2014 at 4:30:18 PM EST
To: Karl Leidke <Karl.Liedke@MWAA.com>

In early 1953 a group of residents of Frederick County met to initiate plans to organize a volunteer fire company to serve the area. Out of this and other meetings held in the Shawnee District grew Shawnee Volunteer Fire Company, Established May 1953. The first pumper was ordered and put in service December 1953. This was housed in the Old Paper Mill at the intersection of Featherbed Lane and Paper Mill Road. In October 1955 three lots were acquired in Pineville as a location for the fire hall. Ground was broken in April 1955, and the original building was completed May 1957.

In 1971, with the annexation of part of the Shawnee district of Frederick County into the City of Winchester the fire department became a member of the Winchester Fire Dept. With the continued need for more space, an addition was built by September 1971. After 48 yrs in the original building on Roosevelt Blvd, Shawnee Volunteer Fire dept moved to its new station located at 2239 Valor Drive, in October 2003.

Samantha Hart
Shawnee Vol Fire and Rescue Department
Secretary
EMS Captain



2333 Roosevelt Blvd.

Winchester, Va.

Old Shawnee Volunteer Fire & Rescue Department

Photo by Emily Newlin 2015



South End Fire Company
17 West End Monmouth Street
Photo by Emily Newlin 2015



History

<http://www.southendfire.com/history.php>

The South End Fire Company, youngest of the present four city fire companies was organized in the year 1895. It was in the fall of 1895, after a serious fire at the property of William Hillyard, whose property was located on the corner of Market and Germain Streets, that it was concluded to organize a fire company in the southern section of the city, to be known as the South End Fire Company. So the company was organized November 3, 1895 with Robert W. Haymaker, Captain and Joseph Rainsberger, Secretary.

A committee of six, with George W. Grim as spokesman, appeared before the city council and asked that body for a hose reel and 500 feet of hose. The council refused the request at that meeting. The following month, the Fire Committee, after several conferences with the officers of the newly organized company, offered them two second hand reels and 500 feet of hose.

The South End Fire Company accepted this offer and on December 3, 1895, the City Council in session passed a resolution giving the South End Fire Company the second hand firefighting equipment.

The hose reels were kept in a shed on West Monmouth Street and the first Company meetings were held in the storeroom of Mr. George W. Grim located on the corner of Main and Monmouth Streets.

In 1897 the Company received an appropriation from the city for a building. About \$100 was paid for the lot on West Monmouth Street and about \$500 for a building, consisting of a reel room and a small meeting room in the back. It was completed and occupied September 27, 1897. This facility sufficed until 1907 when the original building was enlarged to accommodate the growing membership.

From the time of their organization, until 1921, the men of the South End Fire Company voluntarily raced on foot through the streets of Winchester, pulling the

cumbersome reel with its heavy load of fire hose, fair weather or foul, day or night, whenever the call.

A campaign was launched in 1921 to raise funds to purchase a combination chemical and hose apparatus, backed by many prominent citizens, including Mayor W. W. Glass. William Gochenour was named chief driver for the Company after delivery of the new truck. In March 1922 the new apparatus was received by the South End Fire Company, paid in full. In May 1922 a big Firemen's Parade was held by the entire Winchester Fire Department in celebration of the complete motorization of the Fire Department.

In 1930 the old one story building was torn down and a new modern brick building was erected providing the Company with a truck room, recreation room, and driver's room on the first floor, and the entire second floor was a meeting hall.

In 1933 the truck was moved from its half-ton chassis to a one and half-ton chassis and a pump mounted on the equipment, putting the South End Fire Company on an equal basis with the other city Fire Companies. This truck and equipment was used until 1939. It was then sold to Stephens City and the Company in turn purchased a new modern Seagrave truck, which remained in service until 1974.

The material expansion of the Company was halted during the long dark years of World War Two, during this time, however, the Company actively supported all Civil Defense projects, invested practically all of its funds into War Bonds, and in spite of the absence of almost all of its young men, who were serving in the armed forces, the Company maintained an effective firefighting unit serving both Winchester and Frederick County.

After the war the Company began improving its equipment to more modern standards. A very notable change took place in 1948 when a full time second driver was added to each of the four city Fire Companies. Until this time William Gochenour had been responsible for getting the equipment to the fires at any time of the day or night, 365 days a year since the time of his appointment in 1922. Melvin Renner became the first driver to be hired since 1922.

On August 26, 1949 the Company was officially incorporated. Also during that year the four city Companies by mutual cooperation raised funds to purchase a Mulliken Portable Iron Lung, the only one of its kind in this area. The South End members raised their share of this fund by forming a dollar club among themselves and were joined by many prominent citizens in this, which proved later to be indeed a lifesaving project.

On April 6, 1950 the Company purchased a new Willy's Jeep, which was equipped for firefighting purposes and had proved to be a very useful and capable addition to the Company's firefighting equipment.

During the year 1951 the members of the Company began discussing plans for expanding, the South End Fire Company was again suffering growing pains and on February 16, 1952 the Company purchased the property of the late Charles Henry located on the corner of Main and Pall Mall Streets. Opposition to the location of the lot purchased by the Company finally won out and on October 23, 1954 the Company purchased the Quantz property located on Monmouth Street where the new fire hall now stands. Another significant event that also took place in 1952 was when the four city Companies installed a modern two way radio system on all the fire trucks. The South End Fire Company was chosen as headquarters for this new radio system. Cooperation of the four city Companies through the Winchester Volunteer Firemen's Executive Association raised the money required for the radio system. On March 7, 1955 the Company viewed the first basic plans of a new fire hall planned for construction on the Monmouth Street lot. The Company sold the Henry lot on June 24, 1955 having determined this lot unsuitable.

On December 31, 1955 William Gochenour officially resigned as driver for the South End Fire Company, having served in that capacity for 33 years. Mr. Gochenour had accepted the position as Fire Inspector for the city of Winchester heading a newly created Bureau of Fire Prevention.

On February 25, 1957 at a Special Meeting of the membership, the membership, by both voice and proxy vote, agreed to build a new fire hall on the West Monmouth Street lot and empowered the Executive committee of the Company to proceed. Orin Ritter was named general contractor for the job, with the Winchester Electric Company and the Mervel Adams Plumbing Firm as subcontractors. The new fire hall, constructed almost entirely of concrete, brick, and steel represents a major achievement in the progress of the South End Fire Company.

On January 8, 1962 the Company authorized the Executive Committee, Mr. Harry Rainsberger, Jr., and the two Company drivers to serve as a new Truck Committee. A special meeting of the company was called on April 11, 1962 to vote on the truck committee's recommendation to purchase a 1,000 gpm Seagrave pumper. The vote by voice and proxy was in favor of the purchase. The contract with Seagrave was signed on April 18, 1962 and the new truck was delivered on October 19, 1962.



1284-3 wfchs

Wood Shed where South End Hose Company kept hose reel until Fire Hall was built.

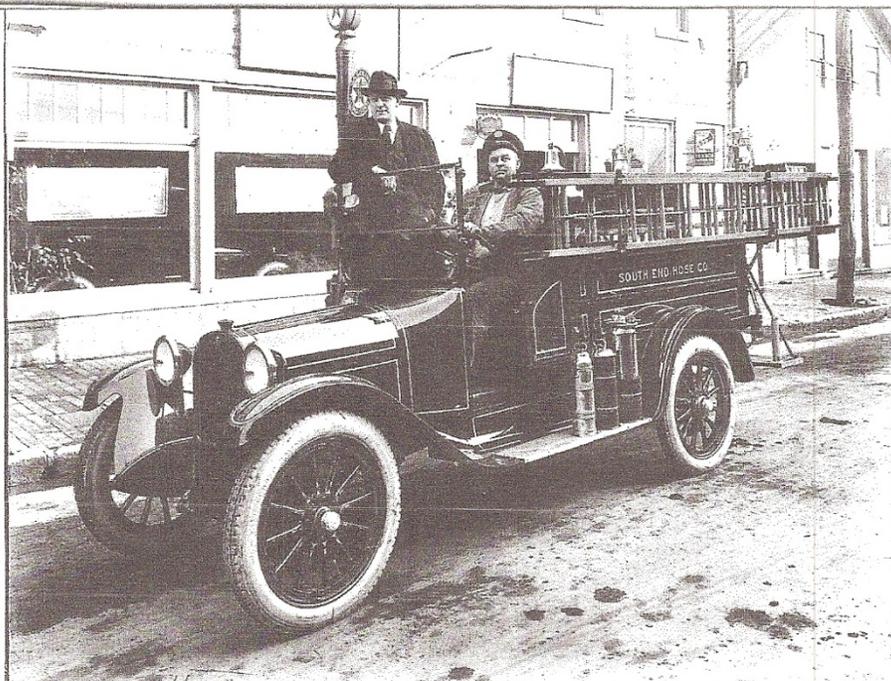
Around 1890



Title South End Hose Co
Accession number 1284-4 wfchs
Collection South End Fire Company Records
Object Name Print, Photographic
Description South End Hose Company hand-pulled hose reel. Fundraising drive for motorized equipment, sign "Must we pull this forever?" Unidentified man, building in background is firehall at 14 West Monmouth Street as it was in early 20th century. Date estimated as c. 1920.
Photographer Unknown
Date c. 1920
Year Range from 1918
Year Range to 1922
Search Terms men
firefighters
firefighting equipment
fire companies
hose reels



Title 14 W. Monmouth Street
Accession number 1284-7 wfchs
Collection South End Fire Company Records
Object Name Print, Photographic
Description 14 W. Monmouth Street, Winchester, Va. South End Hose Company with fire truck. Driver identified as William N. Gochenour. Building erected in 1897 and doors altered for 1922 Dodge Bros. Fire Truck.
Photographer Barr, C. Frederick
Date c. 1925
Year Range from 1922
Year Range to 1927
People Gochenour, William N.
Search Terms fire station



Title South End Hose Co truck

Accession number 106-20 wfchs

Collection C Fred Barr Collection

Object Name Print, Photographic

Description South End Hose Company new motorized fire truck. Driver identified as William N. Gochenour. Man standing by may be J.I Howard Cather. 212, 214, 216 North Cameron in the background (demolished c. 1957). Date estimated as c. 1928.

Photographer Barr, C. Frederick

Date c. 1928

Year Range from 1925

Year Range to 1929

People Gochenour, William N.
Cather, J. Howard

Search Terms fire trucks
firefighting equipment
men
firefighters
1920s
early 20th century



Old South End Fire Company

14 West Monmouth St

Winchester, Va.

Photo by Emily Newlin 2015

Offices

FOR THE CITY OF WINCHESTER FIRE AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT

In the early 1960's the first city Fire Inspector's Office was in the Rouss Office Building at 117 West Boscawen Street. Fire Warden Gochenour was paid by the City of Winchester after retiring as a paid driver from South End Fire Company. Mr. Dyke a former driver from Rouss Fire Company followed Mr. Gochenour in the Fire Warden position. At this time period the Volunteer Company's paid the drivers from their bank accounts and not from the City Budget.

A Fire Department office building at the corner of South Braddock and Wolfe Street was in place in 1971.

Around April 1973 the Fire and Police Department Offices moved into the office building at 126 North Cameron Street. Previously the building was the office and garage for the Potomac Edison Power Company which moved to Valley Avenue in Kernstown Va. This building was torn down to make room for the new George Washington Hotel parking lot and garage.

While still occupying 126 N. Cameron Street, the Public Safety Building ground breaking ceremony at 231 E. Piccadilly Street was held in 2001. The Public Safety Building was named in honor of Winchester Police Sergeant Ricky Lee Timbrook. Officer Timbrook was shot behind 301-303 E. Piccadilly St. October 30, 1999 while conducting a foot pursuit. The building at 301-303 E. Piccadilly St. was later torn down and a public park is now at that location, which is across the street from the Timbrook Public Safety Building.

The Timbrook Public Safety Building sits on the ground formally used by the Virginia Woolen Mill listed at 117-119 East Lane.

Both the 126 N. Cameron Street and 231 E. Piccadilly Street locations were previous private homes and lots that saw heavy Civil War fighting. These locations were used as hospitals and burial sites following these battles 16A pg.44.

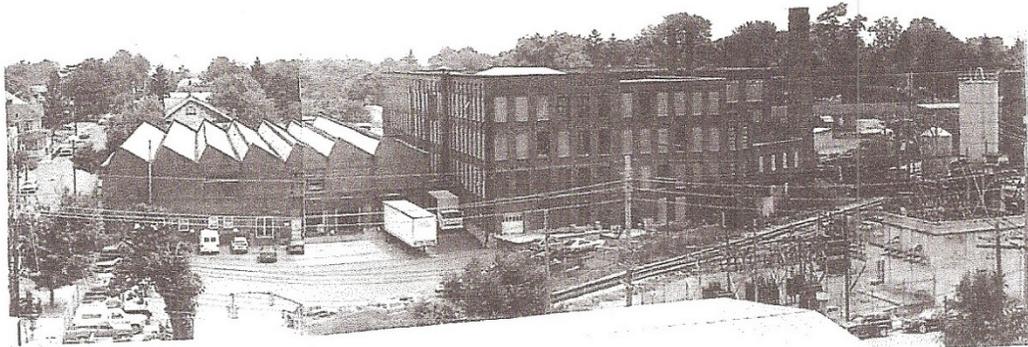


Timbrook Public Safety Building

231 East Piccadilly St

Winchester, Va.

Around 2004



Title 117-119 East Lane
Accession number 1168-6 wfchs
Collection Wilbur S Johnston Collection
Object Name Print, Photographic
Description Panorama aerial view of Virginia Woolen Mill in Winchester, Va. taken from the George Washington Hotel. American Woodmark was the lessor at the time. Date given as 8/1/1987.

On January 31, 1816 Conrad Kremer gave the Methodist Church Lot #81 in the Fairfax Addition. It became a graveyard. In 1922, it was sold to Virginia Woolen Company. (16A.pg44)

Around 2004 the Timbrook Public Safety Building was built on the site.



G.D Pitcock 2002

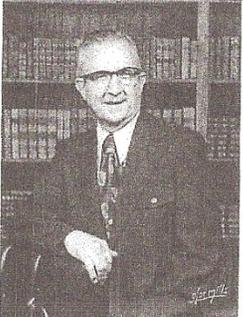
Print of Public Safety Building

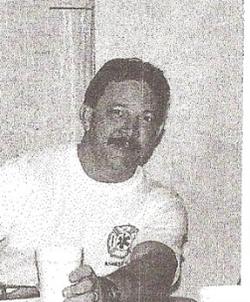
At 126 North Cameron St

Winchester, Va.

Fire Chiefs Of The City of Winchester

9/5/1939	Taylor L. Barr of Sarah Zane elected Fire Chief; 9/6/1939 Winchester Star article, J. William Stryker of Friendship was retired by council for a younger man. Stryker succeeded C. les Barr, father of Taylor L. Barr. Star has a picture of Stryker.	
10/6/1942	Taylor L. Barr, Fire Chief, granted leave of absence for duration of WWII; William Argenbright elected acting chief to serve during Barr's absence.	
12/18/1945	William Aregenbright elected Fire Chief	
5/7/1946	William Argenbright resigns as Fire Chief; will serve until January 1, 1947 under certain conditions. Suggests duties of Fire Chief be set forth by ordinance.	
1/7/1947	Argenbright appears before council, still serving as Fire Chief	
9/9/1957	Taylor Barr elected Fire Chief	
9/12/1961	Taylor Barr Resigns as Fire Chief effective 11/14/1961. 9/12/61 Winchester Star article, Mr. Barr cited that his increasing work load warrants this decision. He is also the Commissioner of Revenue	

10/10/1961	Bernard F. Groves, Jr. of Rouss elected as Fire Chief. 10/11/61 Winchester Star article shows a picture of Mr. Groves.	
9/9/1970	Bernard F. Groves, Jr. resigns; John J. Hawse appointed Fire Chief. 9/9/70 Winchester Star article states Mr. Hawse was the assistant Chief.	

<p>5/19/1975</p>	<p>Harold Gene Dailey appointed Fire Chief. 5/19/75 Winchester Star article states Mr. Dailey is the first full time Fire Chief. Mr. Dailey 44, was the volunteer Chief of Fairfax City with 25 years of service and 3rd Battalion Chief of Fairfax County.</p>	
<p>1980</p>	<p>Lynn Miller appointed Fire Chief</p>	
<p>10/1/2005</p>	<p>Frank Wright appointed Fire Chief in place of retiring Lynn Miller. 9/30/2005 Winchester Star article depicting Mr. Wright's service</p>	
<p>5/28/2010</p>	<p>Frank Wright retires. Captain Gary Ganoe is appointed Interim Fire Chief by City Manager Jim O'Connor. Article in 5/27/2010 Winchester Star</p>	

8/3/2010	Scott Cullers selected as Fire Chief. Begins appointment on 8/11/2010. Article in 8/3 Winchester Star	
2/20/2013	Scott Cullers vacates his post	
2/23/2013	Scott Cullers announces his retirement from the department. Article in 1/26/2013 Winchester Star. Effective 2/23/2013	
2/25/2013	Frank Wright designated as Interim Chief by City Manager Dale Iman. Article in the Winchester Star 2/26/2013	
6/4/2013	Allen Baldwin announced as the new Fire Chief by City Manager Dale Iman. Article in the Winchester Star 6/4/2013	
6/24/2013	Allen Baldwin begins as Fire Chief.	

City of
Winchester's
Late 1800's
Horse and Man
Power
Equipment



69-178 wfchs

Friendship firefighting equipment 1904

Beside Rouss City Hall Winchester

PROPOSAL FOR FURNISHING FIRE APPARATUS

—MADE BY—

CHARLES T. HOLLOWAY,

MANUFACTURER OF

Holloway Chemical Fire Apparatus, Hook and Ladder Trucks, Hose Carriages, &c.

424, 426 & 428 EAST SARATOGA STREET.

Baltimore, Md., Nov 11th 1891,

To the Hon. M. M. Atkinson, C. M. Anderson, and Geo. S. Kuntz
of the Fire Comm. of City Council, Winchester, Va.

GENTLEMEN: We hereby propose and agree to manufacture for your City and
ship the same within thirty days after receipt of your acceptance of this proposition,

2 of our two wheel hose carriage
said hose carriage to be built in accordance with the following specifications as
regards equipment, material, finish, etc., to wit:

Best quality Warner wheels 64" high, spokes 1 3/4"
Felloes 1 3/4" Tires 1 3/4" wide, 3/8" thick, Bolted and
clipped, painted light green and striped, wheels
~~made by~~ Brass hub bands,
Steel Axles 1 3/4" - Iron frame made of best quality
refined iron - iron tongue - lever on end of
tongue - hand holder on tongue - spool on rear
for hose to roll over, tool box, rope reel on frame
for drag rope, - Spool for carrying hose, made as fol-
lows, Iron hub, iron spokes, iron ring on outside
of spokes, head of reel on inside covered with wood
wood riveted to iron spokes, spool painted green
striped etc, to wind up hose on handles on out-
side ^{of} of iron ring of spool, the word "Friendship"
on tool box

for the sum of Two hundred and Ten
Dollars (\$ 210⁰⁰), payable 10 days after receipt of



283-21 wfchs

Rouss Fire Company Hose Reel

Parked at Boscawen and Braddock Streets

Around 1908

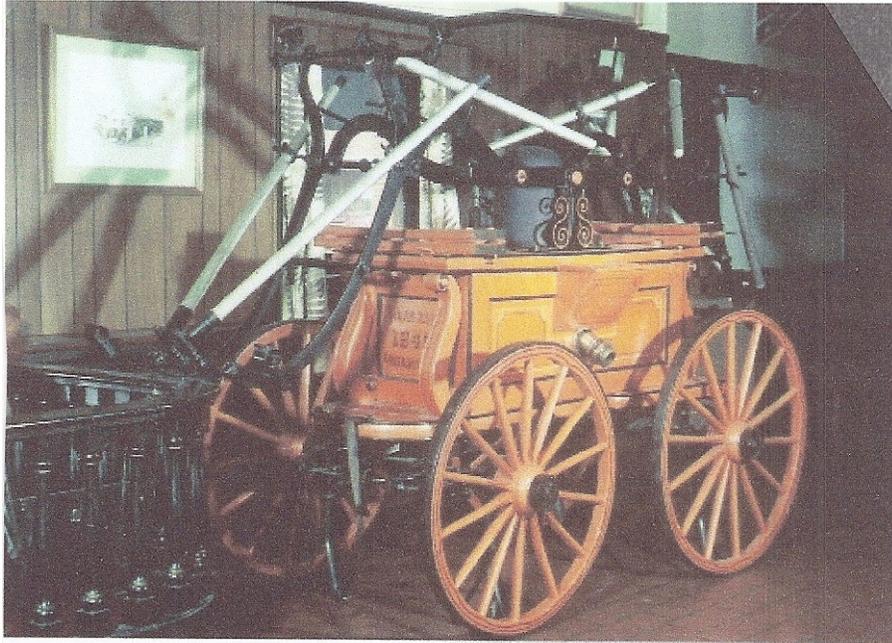


69-207 wfchs

Sarah Zane Fire Company responding to a call on North Loudoun.

Around 1908

ANTIQUE APPARATUS



1840 Sarah Zane Hand Pumper

Built by Jos. Share & Sons

Baltimore, Md.

Housed at Rouss Fire Company

2015



1284-4 wfchs

South End Hose Company hand-pulled hose reel

14 West Monmouth St

Around 1920