

*Organized
Dec. 10, 1896*

1896

Highwood
Volunteer
Fire
Association

1921

*Incorporated
Aug. 12, 1897*

MEMBERS OF THE ORIGINAL ASSOCIATION

George Allen	Chas. Flight	George C. Rogers
Harry D. Alling	S. A. Flight	Thomas Rogers
James Allstrom	George Gorham	Frank Rogers
John Allstrom	Chas. F. Groves	Burton L. Sage
Herbert Allstrom	J. J. Hindinger	E. D. Sanford
Willis Benham	John M. Hindinger	John J. Shea
B. B. Broadbent	Neil Lawson	John P. Smith
Frank Butler	Chas. P. Loller	E. A. Sperry
George Burton	James Malone	Fred C. Visel
John F. Callahan	John Mautte	Frank A. Warner
A. Joseph Greiser	Thos. R. O'Connell	Hubert E. Warner
Samuel Dennison	Chas. T. Pellert	Wm. H. Wood
William Dicks	Wm. C. Perkins	Henry Woodcock
Phillip Doeppensmith	James Rogers	George Yardley, Sr.

In October 1897 the property on which our present building stands was bought of the late Dr. Winchell and a plan formulated to build a suitable Fire Headquarters and the following committee was appointed to procure money to buy bricks for the new building: George C. Rogers, Wm. C. Perkins, A. J. Greaser, J. M. Hindinger and T. R. O'Connell, and well did they work with the numbered cards in imitation of a brick with this slogan: "for every pin you stick you buy a brick," but with all the hard work of digging the cellar and building the cellar foundation and securing estimates for one of the finest buildings that could be built for the purposes intended it is as the old saying "The best laid plans of mice and men gang aft a gley" and the project with too little financial support was laid aside for a future generation to develop.

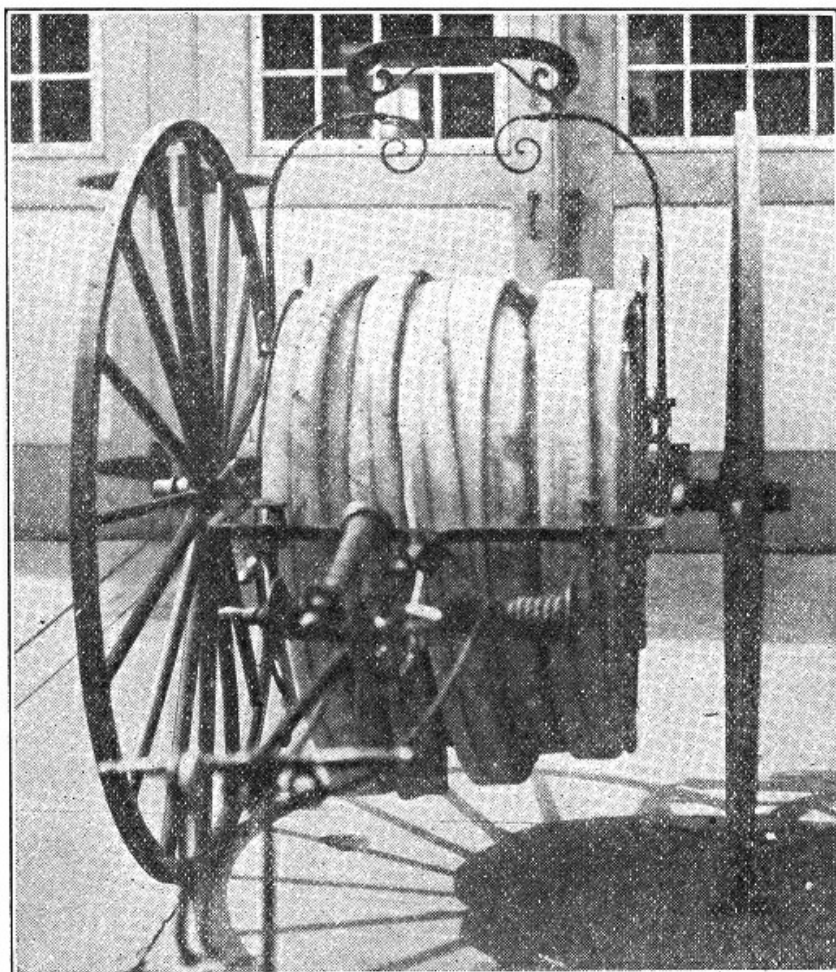
But still with but one purpose in view these unconquerable volunteers fought on getting their water main in the streets and their fire hydrants on the corners and on September 18th, 1898, came the memorial day of the installation into active service Hamdens first fire apparatus, as pictured here with the following officers and men to serve with it.

A temporary hose house was built at the corner of Dixwell Ave. and Dudley St., on the property of J. F. Callahan and apparatus was housed there til 1899 when the Assn. bought the old New Lebanon Mission building and land on Morse street which gave them a much needed fire alarm bell and a large hall and meeting room which for some years was to be known as "The Highwood Firemen's Hall" and many were the dances, socials and fairs held therein.

From 1902 to 1907 the organization barely existed the members having lost interest and lacking support of the citizens until July of 1907 we again held an open meeting in the hall which stimulated and rejuvenated the Assn. by bringing in new members and reinstating some of the old which brought forth the support and recognition of the town and gave us our first town appropriation from the town.

In 1905 our first improvised hook and ladder was equipped by Walter T. Kenyon, but he did not meet with much success and commendation and during the winter of 1907 and 1908 the members of the Assn., under J. J. Hindinger and D. F. Howe, built Hamden's

THE TOWN'S FIRST FIRE APPARATUS



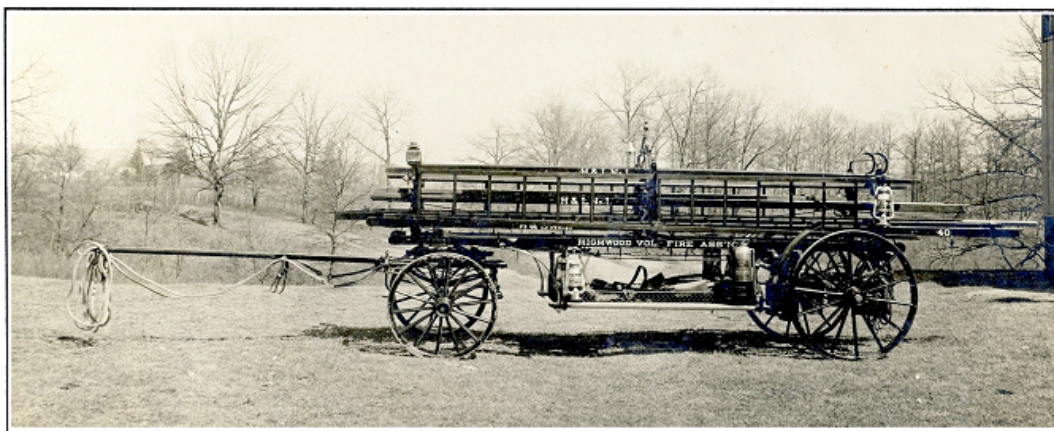
HIGHWOOD PIONEER HOSE COMPANY.

Forman A. J. Grieser	1st Asst. Foreman John Doeppensmith
2nd Asst. Foreman J. J. Hindinger	Clerk Chas. Flight
Dennis E. Keeley	F. H. Rogers
Wm. Meehan	Chas. T. Pellert
H. D. Alling	Thos. Loller
John J. Allstrom	J. M. Hindinger
Chas. F. Groves	John E. Wade
F. W. Butler	Samuel Dennison
Chas. P. Loller	James Rogers
J. J. Hindinger	Henry Hamilton
James Heffron	Thos. Rogers
Chas. Flight	T. F. O'Connell
George H. Yardley	Herbert Allstrom.
F. C. Visel	

first hook and ladder truck and a prouder company of men could nowhere be found when on March 12th, 1898, the apparatus was put in commission with J. J. Hindinger as Captain.

At this time the Assn., having two regular fire companies, organized the Highwood Volunteer Fire Dept., with Chas. P. Loller as Chief and David F. Howe as Asst. Chief. The installation of this new hook and ladder truck gave the Assn. more new life and

THE TOWN'S FIRST AND ONLY HOOK & LADDER.



HOOK and LADDER.

Capt. Joseph A. Marcks; 1st Lieut. Arthur Norman;
2nd Lieut. Frank McMullen.

members and the old good times and festivals were revived. During the summer of 1909 the present fire headquarters was erected as a monument to the diligence and perseverance of the members of this association, it having been built by them in their spare time and through the generous contribution of a tower by S. A. Flight and financial contributions from citizens, the bell tower was erected with a steel bell which became cracked and was replaced by the present bronze bell by our worthy tax collector and brother fireman, Walter T. Kenyon.

Our reorganized Ladies' Auxiliary at this time comes in for praise for their noble assistance in revitalizing the Association by their many suppers, etc.

Continual progress was being made and owing to the increase in new buildings being erected it was deemed advisable to apply to the town for more modern apparatus and in February 1918, we had the pleasure of installing our present modern chemical and hose apparatus, it being Hamden's first owned fire apparatus and in keeping up the progressiveness of the association and ever having the thought of serving the citizens of our town in need and in the quickest possible time with and in conjunction of the Humphrey and Whitneyville Fire Companies, it is our pleasure to say that with the installation of our modern Fire alarm telegraph system the Town of Hamden possesses a fire fighting force in equipment and trained men today second to none of any town its size in the State of Connecticut. Such was the aim and achievement of the Assn.

Today we rejoice in presenting to the members, ex-members and citizens of the Town of Hamden, through the funds raised by giving our first monster carnival in October 1920, an organization free and unencumbered, a goal worth working 25 years to gain and with the honor of being the means and way of serving the citizens of Hamden, ever watchful of their welfare.

Highwood Volunteer Fire Association

ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

President, M. J. Whalen
Vice-President, C. Symon Recording Sec'y, T. S. Fennelly.
Treasurer, A. Norman Financial Secretary, J. Norman.

DEPT. OFFICERS.

CHAS. P. LOLLER, Chief. D. F. HOWE, Asst. Chief.

HOSE CO. No. 1.

Capt. Julius A. Norman; 1st Lieut. George E. O'Connell;
2nd Lieut. James O'Connell.



ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP.

Harry D. Alling
John Allstrom
George A. Aylwen
Frank Ball
Joseph J. Barry
Jesse A. Beaney
Thomas Bolcer
Charles Bowman
Lawrence S. Cashman
Valentine Dombrosio
James F. Dwyer
Timothy Fennelley
Herbert Gorham
Raymond J. Hickey
Stephen Dindinger
David F. Howe
Joseph Jordan
Walter B. Kenyon
Russell E. Leete
Charles P. Loller

Frank P. Loller
Thomas Loller
Royce D. Malone
Joseph A. Marcks
Adelbert Mautte
Herbert B. Meyers
Harry McCaulley, Jr.
Edward J. McMullen
Frank McMullen
Arthur F. Norman
Julius A. Norman
Daniel J. O'Connell
Frank X. O'Connell
George E. O'Connell
James O'Connell
Harold O'Connell
Walter O'Connell
Robert H. Phillippe
Chester Phillippe
Christopher Phillippe

Samuel B. Pinney
Charles Remsen
Albert Rewett
Roland Rewett
Edward D. Sanford
Thomas C. Scott
James J. Shea
Charles V. Symon
William H. Symon
Charles E. Visel
Harry Visel
Walter C. Welch
Edward L. Welch Jr
William H. Wood
Timothy F. Wilson
Michael J. Whalen
Edward L. Welch
Charles Wade
Oliver Ryan
Michael J. Yardley

TRUSTEES.

Walter T. Kenyon.

Joseph Barry.

Charles P. Loller.

Jesse A. Beaney.

Julius A. Norman.

PAST PRESIDENTS.

John M. Hindinger	.	.	.	1896 - 1902.
John H. Davis	.	.	.	1902 - 1903.
Walter T. Kenyon	.	.	.	1903 - 1904.
Dennis E. Keeley	.	.	.	1904 - 1911.
J. J. Barry	.	.	.	1911 - 1913.
A. O. Bailey	.	.	.	1913 - 1915.
Chas. T. Pellert	.	.	.	1915 - 1920.
M. J. Whalen	.	.	.	1920 -

HONORARY MEMBERS.

Frank H. Travis.

Chas. Anderson.

Wm. C. Perkins.

Andrew Ure.

Wm. Hindinger.

George Allen.

Philip Doeppensmith.

A. O. Bailey.

John Doeppensmith.

John M. Hindinger.

Denniss E. Keeley.

Frank Koenigsburg.

E. A. Sperry.

Louis J. Mautte.

VETERANS OF THE WORLD WAR.

Harry Visel.

Herbert Meyers.

Dwight Russell.

Fred Hawthorne.

Charles Black.

Chas. V. Symons.

Henry Kelley.

William Symons.

Howard Preston.

Hugh McKiernan.

Louis Van Buren.

Louis Rewett.

George Woods.

Roland Rewett.

Henry Schmitt.

Royce Malone.

IN MEMORIAM.

Wm. Visel.

John Meehen.

Frank J. Gorham.

B. L. Sage.

James Rogers.

Albert Kittler.

Wm. Dicks.

Wesley Williams.

Patrick Callahan.

Wm. Lucas.

George Moore.

George Yardley.

Wm. Keeley.

Edward Carey.

Michael Sullivan.

Luke Flood.

George H. Yardley.

Chas. T. Pellert.

Clifton Kelsey.

*Dwight Russell

*Died in the Service, World War.

A BRIEF HISTORY

In the fall of 1896, a group of young men composed of Wm. Dicks, Harry D. Alling, F. C. Visel, Wm. D. Howe, Chas. A. Flight, J. J. Allstrom, David F. Howe met informally in the barber shop of Wm. Dicks and talked over the need of a Fire Company in Highwood and the advisability of organizing one, and after holding two preliminary meetings of Citizens at the Star Cycle Club which was then located at 29 Prospect Street, a large open meeting was held at Visel's Hall and on December 10th, 1896, the Highwood Volunteer Fire Association was duly organized with John M. Hinderling as President, William Perkins as Vice-President, Henry Woodcock as Secretary, and E. A. Sperry as Treasurer.


Meetings of the Association were held at Visel's Hall until March 1897, when arrangements were made to take over the rooms and furnishings of the Star Cycle Club. At this time committees were at work giving fairs and dances to raise funds for the organization. In accord with the aim of the Association to give fire protection as soon as possible about April 1st, 1898, a committee was appointed to investigate the installation of fire hydrants in Highwood which with the first step in procuring fire protection in the town. About this time the duties of our Secretary became so great, it was deemed advisable to appoint an Assistant Secretary and Charles T. Pellert was chosen and to him, in a large measure, is credit due for the business-like manner in which the records of the Association were kept in the early days of the Association.

It is well to recall some of the various means of raising funds for carrying on the work. One of which an article appearing in the minutes of a meeting held April 8th, 1897, reads, "Voted, that the members bring in whatever trading stamps that they can procure in order to procure many useful articles for our Rooms." This shows some of the spirit and thought of the early members of the Association; which has and is being carried out all through the life of the Association, even to the present day.

Too much praise cannot be given to the Ladies' Auxiliary under President Mrs. E. A. Sperry for the ways and means devised to assist in raising funds and hearty co-operation and assistance at the numerous dances, fairs, socials and suppers. Well is it remembered when we first came into the limelight when on August 26th, 1897, we gave our first annual excursion on the Steamer John H. Starin to Glen Island and some of us are today still recalling that wonderful event.

During the summer a large lawn party was held in the big tent which was bought of the Kickapoo Indian Medicine Co., and so many of you will recall the annual excursions and lawn parties that were the big features in the social life of the community.

It is well to state at this time that the Association was growing in leaps and bounds through the indefatigable work of its members of whom the following must be named to insure their names to be handed down to posterity as espousers of the cause for the benefit of the Town of Hamden.

MACK & NOEL  *221 State Street, New Haven, Conn.*